Divine Guidance and the Divine Decrees

Prior to the post-canon period of the Church Age, God did communicate divine policy to man by means other than the Bible. These extra biblical means of communication included dreams, visions, dialogues, natural phenomena, teaching angels, and theophanies. No such techniques are any longer necessary since we have available to us the completed canon of Scripture and all the assets necessary to benefit from its leadership and guidance.

It should be noted that divine discipline can communicate the idea of divine displeasure but only if the mentality correlates personal pain and suffering with one's decision-making process. But this only alerts the individual that he is outside the will of God. The only way to know positively what His will is for your life is to learn Bible doctrine. There can be no positive guidance from God without knowledge of His Word.

C. Divine Will and the Divine Decrees

God has chosen to make His will a part of the Divine Decrees. Knowledge of the decrees reveals His will. Here is the definition of the divine decrees:

> *The decree of God is His eternal, holy, wise, and sovereign purpose, comprehending at once all things that ever were or will be in their courses, conditions, successions, and relations, and determining their certain futurition.*

Purpose: "*To bring many sons into glory*" in both angelic and human history. Comprehending: By means of the divine attribute of omniscience, the source of the decrees.

Courses: Sequence of events, i.e., the day-by day occurrences which demand thought, decision, and action.

Conditions: Specific circumstances and exigencies which occur requiring volitional involvement.

Successions: The interaction with others that leads to certain decisions.

Relations: The correlation of events including "*cause and effect,*" influences, and affects. Determining: Refers to divine volition which determines what is eternally decreed.

Futurition: All that is in the decrees are divinely willed to certainly occur.