



Is er meer tussen hemel en tentamen?

## **Cursus aantekeningen**

Weekend 3

**// Hoe leidt God ons en wat doe ik met de rest van mijn leven?**

# How Does God Guide Me?

## Introduction

Decisions, eg: marriage, job, home, money, giving, holidays, use of time, possessions, etc

### 1. God promises to guide

- (Psalm 32:8)
- (John 10:3, 4, 27)

### 2. God has a good plan for our lives

- (Jeremiah 29:11)
- (Romans 12:2)
- (John 10:10, 15)

### 3. We need to consult God before making major decisions

- (Isaiah 30:1, 2)
- Jesus is the supreme example
  - (Luke 4:1)
  - (John 5:19)

### 4. Our attitude needs to be one of humility

- (Psalm 25:9, 14)
- 'I am the Lord's servant and I am willing to do whatever he wants'

(Luke 1:38, Living Bible)

### 1. Commanding Scripture

### 2. Compelling Spirit

Need for testing (1 John 4:1)

- Is it loving? (1 John 4:16)
- Is it in line with the Bible?
- Is it strengthening, encouraging and comforting?

(1 Corinthians 14:3)

- Does it bring the peace of God? (Colossians 3:15)

### 3. Common sense

### 4. Counsel of saints

## 5. Circumstantial signs

### Conclusion

- Don't be in a hurry
- We all make mistakes – God forgives (Joel 2:25)
- (Romans 8:28)

### Recommended reading

#### Listening to God

Joyce Huggett

Hodder & Stoughton

ISBN 9780340864258

#### Making the Most of My Life?

(Romans 12:1–21)

##### 1. What should we do?

#### Break with the past

- 'Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world' (v.2)

- 'Do not let the world around you squeeze you into its mould'

(v.2 J.B. Phillips)

#### Make a new start

- 'Let God transform you inwardly by a complete change' (NEB)

– sincere love (v.9)

– enthusiasm for the Lord (v.11)

– harmonious relationships (vv.9–21)

##### 2. How do we do it?

- 'Present your bodies...'

#### Act of will

– ears

– eyes

– mouths

– hands

- sexuality
- time
- ambitions (Matthew 6:33)
- money
- '...as living sacrifices'
- it will involve sacrifice
- it may involve suffering

### 3. Why should we do it?

- What God has planned for our future
    - 'his good, pleasing and perfect will' (v.2)
  - What God has done for us
- 'in view of God's mercy'

### Conclusion

- Leave the past behind
  - Jesus offers us a new start
- Sacrifice
  - Jesus made the ultimate sacrifice
  - following him may involve suffering, but God is with us
  - we can trust God with our future

### Recommended reading

#### Challenging Lifestyle

Nicky Gumbel

Kingsway

ISBN 9781898838081

Life in Christ

Raniero Cantalamessa

The Liturgical Press

ISBN 9780814627990

### Introduction

Outpouring of the Spirit in Acts:

5 Categories:

1. Longing (Pentecost - Acts 2:2-4)
2. Receptive (Samaria - Acts 8:14-23)
3. Hostile (Paul - Acts 8:1, 3; 9:1-2)
4. Uninformed (Ephesus - Acts 19:1-6)
5. Unlikely (Gentiles - Acts 10:44-47)

What happened to Cornelius and his household when the Spirit came upon them?

(Acts 10:44-46)

## **They experienced the power of the Holy Spirit**

*'...the Holy Spirit came on all who heard the message. The circumcised believers...were astonished'* (Acts 10:44, 45)

- Experience is different for everyone
  - (Acts 8:16)
  - (Romans 5:5)
  - (Ephesians 3:14-19)
- Fruit of the Spirit

## **They were released in praise**

*'For they heard them...praising God'* (Acts 10:46)

- Fear of emotion
- All relationships should involve emotions
- Private versus public
- Emotion versus emotionalism

## **They received a new language [Hd B]**

*'For they heard them speaking in tongues'* (Acts 10:46)

1. Not all Christians speak in tongues
  - Not necessarily a sign of being filled with the Spirit
  - There are no first or second-class Christians
  - It is not the most important gift
2. What is the gift of tongues?
  - Human or angelic language (1 Corinthians 13:1)

- A form of prayer (1 Corinthians 14:2)
- Builds up individual
- Transcends language barrier (1 Corinthians 14:14)
- Speaker in full control

### 3. Why is it helpful?

- Praise/worship
- Praying for oneself
- Praying for others

### 4. Does the New Testament approve?

(1 Corinthians 14)

- Context: excessive public use
- Nevertheless... (vv.5, 18, 39)
- Private versus public

### 5. How do we receive this gift?

- '*Eagerly desire*' (1 Corinthians 14:1)
- Ask God
- Co-operate with the Spirit
- Believe
- Persevere

## Conclusion

Three common hindrances (Luke 11:9–13)

1. Doubt (v.9, 10)
2. Fear (v.11–13)
3. Inadequacy (v.13)

## Recommended reading

*The Mystery of Pentecost*

Raniero Cantalamessa

Liturgical Press

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