

**“Letting God guide us”** part 2

Jonah 1:1-17

The issue of God’s guidance in our lives continues to be of the utmost concern for any sincere child of God. As Christians we know that we can never fully be at peace with God or ourselves until we are living in agreement with God’s will and purpose for our lives. There are times when God patiently guides us step by step in order to build our faith and teach us to trust in Him. At times like these, we must rely on God every step of the way because we really don’t know where He is leading us until we get there. There are also those times though, like in Jonah’s life, when God tells us exactly what He wants us to do and it is undeniable. God certainly does not have a problem communicating effectively to us. The issue is whether or not we will listen to Him and obey what He has said.

We must always remember that when God guides us, He always has purpose behind the moves He wants us to make. He knows the larger picture, He knows the future, and He knows what will be accomplished. God knows how every happening in our lives will work together for our good. God knows what He is doing! When we do not obey God’s guidance in our lives, there are often consequences that we could have avoided if we had only done what God wanted us to do. The story of Jonah shows us some very powerful lessons regarding the issue of God’s guidance in our lives. In light of Jonah’s story, notice the following;

**-God’s guidance is often conditional upon our obedience**

Our ability to receive God’s guidance in our lives is often hindered by our own self-will and self-assertion. In other words, God’s words can more easily connect with a heart that has a disposition toward wanting to obey God rather than a heart that resists and rebels against God as the norm. When we choose to obey, we receive God’s guidance joyfully and we celebrate that God has spoken to us. If we tend to resist God, then we immediately try to find out what’s wrong with what God says in order to justify our rebelliousness. Jonah immediately objected to God’s guidance because of his own prejudice against Ninevah, and then disobeyed God.

**-God’s guidance does not contradict His character or His Word**

What God asked Jonah to do was not unreasonable. God wanted him to preach to them so that they would repent and get closer to God. While Jonah did not agree with it, it was very much in keeping with the character of God who desires all people to be reconciled to Him regardless of who they are or what they have done. God loves the world and the people in it. Even though we may disagree with God’s guidance, we must understand that it is about God’s will and not ours.

**-God’s guidance has consequences attached to it if we disobey**

Jonah went through a storm, and then the belly of the whale. He brought the consequences on himself because of disobedience. The good news is that God did give him another chance!

