

Light for Your Future  
(Rev. Dr. John Bartol)

*“Divine guidance should be sufficiently clear to act upon but never so clear that a step of adventurous faith is not required.”* John Gladstone

We all want to know how our future will unfold and perhaps in your future plans, you find yourself facing some difficult choices. Robert Frost, in his classic poem, *The Road Not Taken*, expressed it well “Two roads diverged in a wood, and I took the one less travelled by and that made all the difference.”

Since graduation from high school I have had to make at least 19 major decisions, and several led to some very steep climbing on the road of life. With each decision I sought Divine guidance through prayer, scripture, circumstances, the advice of trusted friends and the inner leading of the Holy Spirit. In case after case I observed that when these five sources of light began to converge and point in the same direction, I could be almost certain the guidance was authentic.

At times we long for total knowledge covering the rest of our lives but almost always God reveals His will one step at a time. He never guides contrary to his Word. I found that if I had doubts and feelings of uncertainty, it was best not to panic and run ahead of the Lord. He always gives his best to those who leave the choice to Him.

Philosopher Soren Kierkegaard once observed, “Life is lived forward, but it can only be understood backward.” Looking backward on my life I experienced some issues which seemed at the time to be very difficult, even tragic. But now I can see the guiding hand of God working for my highest good. Some of the obstacles became opportunities for growth and blessings in disguise.

A true story tells about a lady who reported to the Better Business Bureau how a man promised that if she turned her investments over to him, he could double their value. She did so and lost virtually everything. Then through her tears she added, “I did think seriously of coming first to the B.B.B.” Why didn’t you do so? “Because I was afraid you would tell me not to do it!”

Sometimes we treat God that way. We act as if he is withholding some good things from us. What a terrible misconception of the will of God. As if God was some sort of cruel tyrant trying to take advantage of us and make our lives miserable.

No, the God and father of our Lord Jesus Christ wants to remake our lives and bring us to the true purpose for which we were created. His commandments are not burdensome. They are there to protect us not to punish us. God never asks us to give up anything unless it is harmful, and he never takes anything away without offering something far better to take its place.

I hear and I wonder if it is on the Lord's will. Rufus Jones expressed it well, "The closer you are to your guide, the better the guidance." As the years go by those who seek and find the will of God experience deep contentment and there is no place on earth where they would rather be

*"The will of God will never lead you where His grace cannot keep and sustain you."*