

"A word was secretly brought to me, my ears caught a whisper of it. Amid disquieting dreams in the night, when deep sleep falls on men, fear and trembling seized me and made all my bones shake. A spirit glided past my face, and the hair on my body stood on end."

Job 4:12-15

1. Eliphaz saw a vision that disturbed his mind
2. Eliphaz was recognized as a man who gave bad advice to Job, his friend
3. We need to be mindful of 'supernatural' guidance
4. Some Christians are guided by 'fleeces'. These are events on the following lines. If such and such an event happens then I know that God will want me to this or that thing. Would you rely on 'a fleece'

"Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world."

1 John 4:1

1. Some 'spirits' are worth believing
2. It is sensible to test supernatural events
3. How would you test a supernatural event? What standard would you use?

Discovering the Bible

Lesson 44

Christians Making Decisions

"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him."

Colossians 3:16,17

1. We are to teach each other with the result that Christ will dwell in us.
2. The setting is Christians supporting each other
3. As we sing we should express gratitude to God
4. We are to do everything we do within a relationship with Jesus and His Father
5. Are Christians permitted to do anything they like?

"Everything is permissible"--but not everything is beneficial. 'Everything is permissible'--but not everything is constructive. Nobody should seek his own good, but the good of others."

1 Corinthians 10:23,24

1. All things are permissible but not all things do us, or others, good
2. The aim is to seek to do things that do us, and others, good
3. Do we always make decisions based on this principle?

“When men tell you to consult mediums and spiritists, who whisper and mutter, should not a people inquire of their God? Why consult the dead on behalf of the living? To the law and to the testimony! If they do not speak according to this word, they have no light of dawn. Distressed and hungry, they will roam through the land; when they are famished, they will become enraged and, looking upward, will curse their king and their God.”

Isaiah 8:19-21

1. Some people in the past sought guidance from clairvoyants
2. The source of guidance ought to be the Bible
3. The result of following the advice of clairvoyants will be that these people will curse God.
4. Have you known people who follow the advice of spiritualists? Were they better guided than you?

“For lack of guidance a nation falls, but many advisers make victory sure.”

Proverbs 11:14

1. It is good to be advised by others
2. The church was never designed to be made of individuals acting alone
3. What kind of advisers would you choose?

“I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. “

Ephesians 1:17

1. Knowing God is at the heart of making good decisions
2. The aim in decision making is primarily to have a spirit of wisdom and revelation
3. The way to get this guidance is to pray
4. Most people do not have dreams and visions to give them guidance
5. Who has had such events happen to them?

“I, Daniel, was the only one who saw the vision; the men with me did not see it, but such terror overwhelmed them that they fled and hid themselves. So I was left alone, gazing at this great vision; I had no strength left, my face turned deathly pale and I was helpless. Then I heard him speaking, and as I listened to him, I fell into a deep sleep, my face to the ground.”

Daniel 10:7-9

1. Daniel had a vision that left him physically impaired.
2. Daniel understood that God was speaking to him