



# **KNOW HOW**

## **Part 3**

Simple Bible studies  
for living the Christian life

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# CONTENTS

|                                    | Page number |
|------------------------------------|-------------|
| 1. Know how to witness to others   | 3           |
| 2. Know how to handle trouble      | 6           |
| 3. Know how to grow as a Christian | 9           |
| 4. Know how to exercise faith      | 12          |
| 5. Know how to find God's guidance | 16          |

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## 1: Know how to witness to others

What is the only thing which Christians can do on earth which they couldn't do better in heaven?

Most things in the Christian life we could do better in heaven - for example worship, or living holy lives. But the one thing we can only do on earth is to share the gospel and to tell others of Jesus and the way of salvation.

The specific reason the Lord Jesus has left Christians on earth is to be his witnesses (*Acts 1:8*).

The great commission, to take the gospel to all the world was given to the original apostles, but they are the foundation of the church. Just as the shape of a foundation determines the shape of the whole building, so the great commission shapes the purpose of the whole church (*Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15-18; Luke 24:46-49; John 20:21*).

### 1. WITNESS - HOW TO LIVE

People say that actions speak louder than words, and if we are going to witness for Christ firstly our lives must speak of him (*Matthew 5:14-16*).

The devil is in the trade of prejudicing people against Christians, and against Christ (*2 Corinthians 4:4*). We are to live so as to prove him wrong.

He caricatures Christianity as:-

- a religion for harsh bigots - instead we are to be full of grace and love (*Colossians 4:6; Galatians 6:10*).
- a refuge for hypocrites - instead we are to be self-controlled and holy, and willing to humbly admit our faults (*1 Peter 2:11,12; Philippians 2:15,16*).
- a joyless duty - instead we are to be thankful people, joyful in the Lord (*Philippians 4:4,5; Acts 16:25*).
- a crutch for the emotionally weak - instead be unashamed of Christ and (with God's help) stand on your own two feet to win the respect of others (*Romans 1:16; 1 Thessalonians 4:11,12*).

- a delusion for mindless, hysterical people - instead we are to think through our faith and know the reasons why we believe. (*1 Peter 3:15,16; Acts 26:24,25*).

In particular the Lord Jesus told us that our love for one another as Christians is of particular power in speaking to the world, of the reality of God and who Jesus is (*John 17:21,23; 1 John 4:12*).

## 2. **WITNESS - WHAT TO SAY**

God has gifted some of his people with particular evangelistic gifts. We are to support those folk and thank God for them (*Ephesians 4:11; 2 Timothy 4:5; Acts 21:8*). But we are not to leave all the work of witness for Christ to them.

Each one of us as Christians, is to look for and take whatever opportunities arise to speak for Christ (*Colossians 4:5; 1 Peter 3:15*).

Witness is testimony to the truth of Jesus based on personal experience of Jesus.

There are seven specific areas which go to make up witness for Christ. These are:

- My life before becoming a Christian
- How I realized my need for Christ
- Who Jesus is and what he has done
- Why I accepted Christ as my Lord and Saviour
- When and how the decision was made
- Specific ways in which my life has changed once I became a Christian.
- What the Lord is teaching me in my life now.

Some Scriptures to analyse in relation to this 7-fold pattern are

- The witness of the woman at the well to her neighbours (*John 4:28,29,39*).
- Paul's personal testimony to the Philippians (*Philippians 3:4-11*).
- Paul's personal testimony before Agrippa (*Acts 8:29-35*).

It is good to have thought through our own story of how we became Christians so that we can share it briefly with others.

In speaking to our friends we may not be able to say everything. We need to be sensitive to the Holy Spirit as to how much to say and when to say it (*Acts 8:29-35*).

### 3. WITNESS - HOW TO PRAY

We need to pray especially for those who are front line evangelists, that opportunities would arise for them and they would be given the right words to say (*Ephesians 6:19,20; Colossians 4:3*).

We must pray too for those we are seeking to see come to Christ. We cannot make people into Christians. God must work in their hearts.

Pray that

- God would open their eyes (*2 Corinthians 4:4; Acts 26:17,18*).
- the Spirit would convict them of their need (*John 16:8-11; Acts 2:37; 1 Thessalonians 1:5*).
- that they will be saved from judgment and forgiven (*1 Thessalonians 1:10*).
- that they would be born again (*John 3:3,5; 1 Peter 1:23*).
- that they would be given repentance towards God and faith in Christ (*Acts 20:21; Ephesians 2:8*).
- that they would be brought out of Satan's bondage into the kingdom of Christ the Lord (*Colossians 1:13*).

Winning a soul to Christ is one of the greatest joys we can ever know, and one of the most worthwhile things we can ever be involved in. It is something which will last for eternity to the glory of God and the good of the friend we have won.

## **2: Know how to handle trouble**

The Christian life is no bed of roses (*John 16:33*). Tragedy and difficulties afflict all people at times and the Christian is not exempt.

Violence in the family (*Genesis 4:8*); bereavement (*Genesis 23:1*); blindness (*Genesis 27:1*); being the victim of jealousy (*Genesis 37:23,28*); slavery (*Exodus 1:11*); having an adulterous marriage partner (*Hosea 1:2*); sickness (*2 Timothy 4:20*); - these are just a few of the troubles experienced by the people of God we read of in Scripture.

We cannot escape trouble entering our lives, so we had better learn how to handle it. There are 3 main lessons.

### **1. BEFORE THE TROUBLE**

Let it be emphasized that our ability to cope in a time of trouble will depend largely on our spiritual condition before the trouble comes.

It was because Job was walking closely with God, that when his tragedy came, he had strength to resist (*Job 1:1,22*). This is one of the reasons we need to constantly keep our spiritual life in good repair.

Many Christians do not walk closely with God. What is actually keeping their life together are such things as their standing in their place of work, the prospect of a continental holiday, the fact that other people find them attractive, their wealth, their reputation etc. And when a crisis comes they can't cope because God has not really been their refuge and strength (*Psalms 46:1*).

The flood of trouble exposes their weak foundations and that is a collapse (*Matthew 7:24-27*).

Now God is gracious and picks his people up. But a closer walk with God would have given better strength to withstand the trouble.

### **2. DURING THE TROUBLE**

As we face trouble we need to understand ourselves. We can think of the internal workings of human beings as made up of four parts. We have emotions, we have minds, we have wills and there is the true 'us', our spirit.

In times of trouble we need to know how to handle ourselves in these four areas.

### Acknowledge your feelings (the emotions)

- Job tore his clothes acknowledging his grief (Job 1:20).
- Nehemiah wept at the news of devastated Jerusalem (*Nehemiah 1:4*).
- In Gethsemane, the Lord Jesus said 'My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death' (*Matthew 26:38*).

### Tell yourself the truth (the mind)

- Put yourself in Job's shoes after he had lost all his wealth and his children. What would you have been telling yourself? 'That's the end'; 'Life is no longer worth living'; 'Nothing good ever happens to me'.
- Such thoughts are understandable but they are actually not true.
- Job doesn't say things like that. He actually is able to give himself a balanced and spiritual view of his situation (*Job 1:21*).
- 'Yes, almost everything I had in life is gone, but all my life is in God's hands and God is still there'
- In times of trouble we need to hold on to what we believe (*Habakkuk 3:17,18*).

### Reaffirm your worth in Christ (the spirit)

- When trouble comes we tend to feel worthless. But actually you are worth more than all the gold and jewels in the world, more than all the worlds in a million galaxies, because the Lord Jesus died not for gold or galaxies, but for you (Romans 5:8; Galatians 2:20).
- Job knew God as the LORD, the covenant keeping God who never breaks his promises. 'May the name of the LORD be praised' (*Job 1:21*).
- We may have to face this particular crisis. But praise God we will never have to face the ultimate crisis of judgment day, for the Lord Jesus substituted himself for us on the cross (*Romans 14:8*).

## Choose to do what is right (the will)

- In times of trouble we may, like Job, be tempted to sin and curse God. But doing what is wrong, doing what Satan wants (*Job 1:11*), can never make our situation better. We must choose to continue to trust God and do what is right, even though we may not understand why God has allowed the trouble to come.
- If the crisis has troubled our conscience, and reminded us somehow of our sins, then we should confess our sins knowing that God will totally forgive us (*1 John 1:7*).
- If there is a course of action to be taken in obedience to God, then that is what we should do (*Job 1:22*).
- Even in Gethsemane, Jesus prayed, to the Father 'Not my will, but yours be done' (*Matthew 26:39*).

### 3. **BEYOND THE TROUBLE**

A great necessity in trouble is to have hope. Because we know the living God the Christian can always have hope. We are to fix our eyes on him.

- First and foremost God has provided us that beyond the trials and troubles of this life we shall inherit eternal life where our troubles will be at an end.
- Second, as we trust God in times of trouble, he will use it to mature us and bring us closer to himself as Christians. James goes so far as to say that for this reason we should welcome trouble (*James 1:2-12*). We should understand that God is at work in difficult times as well as good times. He is developing our patience and character so that we become more like Christ (*Romans 5:4,5*).
- Third God invites us to turn our troubles into prayers so that we may enjoy his peace (*Philippians 4:6,7*).
- Fourth, we should rest on the fact that ultimately God's plans can never be thwarted and he is working out his great and good plan for all his people (*Genesis 50:20; Romans 8:28,29*).

### **3: Know how to grow as a Christian**

In order to grow into healthy adults, there are 3 fundamentals which babies require. They need nourishment, family love, and as they grow they need exercise for healthy development.

We have been born again and are God's children (*John 3:3*). The Lord desires that we grow up in our faith (*2 Peter 3:8; 2 Thessalonians 1:3*). And parallel to the growth of a baby, spiritually we need the same three fundamentals for healthy, Christian development.

#### **1. THE CHRISTIAN'S NOURISHMENT**

Our spiritual food is Christ himself. He is the bread of life (*John 6:35; John 6:51*). He is the one who gives us living water (*John 4:10; John 7:37-39*).

We feed on Christ through the Scriptures as we receive the word with faith.

Read *1 Peter 1:23 - 2:3*. The word of God is living and enduring. It is pure spiritual milk. In order to receive it properly we are to rid ourselves of sin, coming repentantly and with a sincere desire for obedience. We are to come to the Bible desiring to be fed, with the same enthusiasm with which a hungry baby desires its mother's milk. And as we feed, we grow in our salvation and taste the Lord himself.

As we grow as Christians then the teaching we receive and understand should become more meaty! (*1 Corinthians 3:2. Hebrews 5:12*).

Unless a child feeds, it will die.

The Scriptures are the word of God, inspired by the Holy Spirit (*2 Peter 1:21*). Since the Bible is the Spirit's soul we need to come to Scripture prayerfully, relying on the Spirit himself to teach us his word. So our minds will be renewed and so as we co-operate, our lives will be transformed (*Romans 12:1,2*).

#### **2. THE CHRISTIAN'S FAMILY**

If a child does not feel family love from an early age, he or she is likely to be emotionally damaged. We need the warmth of family love to grow as Christians.

For the Christian, God is our Father, and the church is our family. That is why folk like Paul writing the New Testament letters keeps referring to other Christians as brothers and sisters.

To grow as a Christian you need to be fully committed to a loving local church.

- Support *1 Peter 1:22; 1 Peter 3:8; 1 Peter 4:8*

The Christian life is lived out in a world which can be hostile (*John 15:18*). We need a 'home', a 'family' where we are loved and can relax, where there are shoulders to cry on if necessary. The people in a local church are to provide such love and support for one another, unconditionally (*Ephesians 4:32; Romans 12:10; Romans 15:7; Galatians 6:2*).

- Service

By His Holy Spirit God has given every Christian spiritual gifts, by which he or she is able to serve others in the fellowship (*1 Peter 4:10,11*). We need each other in the church. Everyone has a part to play in serving each other (*1 Corinthians 12:4-31; Ephesians 4:1-16*). We will encourage others and they will encourage us in the church (*1 Thessalonians 5:11*).

We can pray for others and others will pray for us.

- Shepherds *1 Peter 5:1-4*

Another picture God uses is that of the church as a flock. Over the flock, the Lord has appointed shepherds - mature Christian leaders who have responsibility for watching over, protecting, teaching, guiding and caring for the flock.

These leaders are also to be examples to us so that we can see what a mature Christian is like and model ourselves on them (*1 Timothy 3:1-7; Hebrews 13:17*). These folk will pray for us and help us grow.

### 3. THE CHRISTIAN'S EXERCISE

This is crucial. It is possible to be well-fed and loved, but never live out our Christianity in our every day life. We must not become fat and lazy as Christians. We need to work out our Christianity. We need to exercise our faith. There are 4 areas where we need to do this.

- Worship *1 Peter 2:9*

There is a sense in which worship is the most important activity of our lives and a

sense in which all aspects of our life should be an act of worship (*Romans 12:1,2*). We were made to bring praise to God. A life of worship will be built as we learn from the heart to praise and thank God in our prayers and songs each day and in the church congregation (*Psalms 95:1-11*).

- Warfare      *1 Peter 5:8,9*

Overcoming obstacles in the way we learn and grow. So God allows difficulties of various kinds to come into our lives and they exercise our faith. We can face an unfair boss at work (*1 Peter 2:18*); or the difficulties of having a non-Christian marriage partner (*1 Peter 3:1,2*); or temptations to sin (*1 Peter 4:1-3*); or rejection and persecution from non-Christians (*1 Peter 4:4*); or some more direct conflict with Satan.

These things are hard. But God wants us to use such things as opportunities for growth - opportunities to exercise faith, to trust God despite our circumstances and obey him.

- Witness      *1 Peter 3:15*

The Lord Jesus left us here with one main job to do. That job is to be his witnesses (*Acts 1:8; Luke 24:46-49*). This is the one thing which we can only do on earth and could not be done better if we were in heaven. As we get involved in evangelism our faith is exercised. As we have to explain the gospel to others so our own appreciation of God's goodness grows. (*Revelation 21:1-4; Romans 8:18; 2 Corinthians 4:17*).

- Welfare      *1 Peter 3:9*

Despite the difficulties and hostility we may receive from people, God has called us to be a blessing to others. The Christian is called to be the good Samaritan for the welfare of others. Like our Father in heaven, we are meant to show kindness to all (*Matthew 5:43-48; 1 Peter 2:12*). As we reach out to others in need, we will feel for them and grow in love as the Lord desires.

Here then are some vital keys to Christian growth. Every one of these areas needs to be functioning in our Christian experience. We need to keep these areas in balance. It is no good doing a lot as a Christian, if we are not feeding from the Lord. It is no good spending all our time in church, but never witnessing for him in the world.

As we pursue all three areas in a balanced way, we will grow up and become more like the Lord Jesus in character and behaviour to the glory of God.

#### **4: Know how to exercise faith**

It is personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ which alone makes us Christians (*Luke 7:50; Romans 3:22; Romans 5:1; Colossians 1:23*).

We are encouraged to grow in faith (*2 Thessalonians 1:3*).

One of the reasons for this is that there is a link between our level of faith and God's blessing on us (*Matthew 9:28,29; Acts 6:5; Acts 11:24*).

Faith is a golden thread which runs through the entire Bible. The great Old Testament characters whose exploits are noted as examples to us in Hebrews 11, achieved what they did by faith.

Faith in Christ is the key to the whole Christian life. So it is a vital subject to look at.

##### **1. WHAT FAITH IS**

A child trusts its parents. A husband trust his wife and a wife her husband. Friends trust one another to do the best for each other. Faith is the simple trust that one person might have in another. We put our trust in God, who has revealed himself to us through Jesus (*John 14:1*).

The value of faith lies solely in the reliability of the person we trust. Faith on its own has no value. It is who our faith is in which is crucial.

Scripture tells us that God is ideally worthy of our trust. *Psalms 34:8*.

- He is incapable of telling a lie - *Titus 1:2; Psalm 12:1-6*.
- He is all-powerful and able to fulfil his promises - *Daniel 5:35; Joshua 23:14*.
- He is love and intends our good - *1 Peter 5:7; 1 John 4:16*.

Biblical faith is not an exercise in the power of positive thinking, or of mind over matter. It is reliance on the Lord.

Biblical faith is not wishful thinking, but is trust in God based upon his infallible promises.

Faith in Christ works simply because God is so utterly reliable.

## 2. WHERE FAITH BEGINS

The Bible tells us that there are two complementary ingredients at work in the initiation and maintenance of faith.

a) Faith is the gift of God.

True faith is something ultimately supernatural, planted in our hearts by the Holy Spirit through the word of God (*Ephesians 2:8; Philippians 1:29; Romans 10:17; 2 Peter 1:1*).

b) Faith is the act of the Christian.

God does not believe for us, however. We do the believing and we are responsible to believe (*Acts 16:31; Mark 6:5,6; John 6:28,29; Hebrews 10:38,39*).

- Because faith is God's gift there is always hope for those who feel too cynical to trust Christ, and say 'I'd like to have your faith, but I just can't'. God can open their hearts and give them faith (*Acts 16:14; Mark 9:23,24*).
- Because faith is our responsibility God is pleased with our faith and willingly responds to it (*Matthew 9:2; Acts 14:9*).

## 3. HOW FAITH GROWS

In the gospels Jesus seeks to both nurture and challenge those who have little faith (*Luke 17:6; Matthew 8:26*).

By contrast the Lord Jesus commends and fully responds to what he calls great faith (*Matthew 15:28; Matthew 8:10,13*).

Great faith is often marked in Scripture by our continuing to trust God and his promises despite the absence of any outward signs that what God has said will happen (*2 Kings 18:41-44*).

Three avenues are highlighted in growing our faith.

a) The Word of God.

Since faith is based on God's promises the more we expose our hearts and minds to Scripture, the more faith will be installed in us (*John 20:30,31; Psalm 1:2,3*).

b) Exercising faith.

There are some things you can only learn and gain ability in by actually doing them. Think about learning to swim or drive a car. You cannot learn these things just by reading a book. Similarly faith grows by exercising faith (*1 Samuel 17:34-37; Hebrews 11:8-19*).

c) Prayer.

The work of the Holy Spirit is to make spiritual things real to us (*Ephesians 1:17,18*). There is a close link between prayer and the activity of the Spirit, and between the Spirit and faith (*Acts 6:31; Acts 11:24*).

The Spirit of God enables us to exercise faith rather than rely on our feelings, to walk by faith rather than by sight (*Hebrews 11:24-27; 2 Kings 6:15-17*).

#### 4. WHAT FAITH INVOLVES

Look at Hebrews 11:1

Faith is about being sure of something because the faithful God has said it.

Being sure is primarily an activity of the mind - that is why God's Word is addressed to our minds.

But of course if we are sure of something then we often begin to feel confident - our emotions are affected.

This does not mean we should rely on our emotions. That is to put the cart before the horse. But it does mean that faith often results in peace in our hearts and overcoming of fears. *Isaiah 42:1,2; John 14:27*.

Further if we are sure about something, trusting it is true, we will be prepared to act on it.

James tells us that faith is shown to be genuine by its actions, *James 2:14-26*. Similarly the writer of Hebrews 11 draws to our attention what the people of faith did. They obeyed God out of their trust in him.

So we see mind, heart and actions - the whole person is involved in exercising faith.

## 5. **WHAT FAITH DOES**

- It is by faith in Christ that we are saved (*Romans 5:1; Acts 16:31*).
- It is by faith that prayer is effective (*Mark 11:24*).
- It is by faith that we are united to Christ spiritually and God works among us (*Matthew 9:27-31; Mark 9:23; Galatians 3:5*).
- It is by faith that we overcome the world and are victorious (*1 John 5:4,5*).

## 6. **WHY FAITH?**

Why is faith the key in the dealings of people with God? Why is it not some other factor? The answer is summed up in two words.

### a) Grace

All that God does for us is not deserved by us sinners. They are of his grace. Grace can only operate through faith. If God answered our prayers because of our sincerity, or our zeal, or our goodness, then his kindness would cease to be unmerited. Faith looks to God and his mercy alone and so preserves the principle of grace (*Ephesians 2:8*).

### b) Glory

Faith glorifies God alone. If God blessed us according to what we deserved we would have reason to boast. Faith ensures that all the glory goes to God, which is as it should be (*Romans 3:27*).

## **5: Know how to find God's guidance**

There are some very big decisions which face us in life. What career should we choose? Should we get married and who to? Is it time to change jobs or move house? Such decisions shape and set the direction of our lives. How are we to know what is right for us when we face such important choices?

### **1. Guidance and our Father**

God is our Father and much better to us than any earthly father. Therefore we need not panic, as we face decisions. Our heavenly Father is someone we can trust (*Matthew 6:26*). He is able to overrule our circumstances providentially for our good (*Genesis 50:20*). He is able to guide us in his purposes (*Gen. 24:1-67*).

### **2. Guidance and God's Will**

There are two ways in which the expression 'the will of God' is used.

a) The will of God which is explicit in the Bible and applies to us all (e.g. *1 Thessalonians 4:3; Acts 20:27*).

b) The will of God which is not explicit in the Bible and is of individual application (e.g. *Matthew 10:29; James 4:15; 1 Peter 3:17*).

With this in mind we need to realize two things.

Our first concern must always be to obey the explicit commands of the Bible which make clear God's will for everyone. Then, as we ask to do God's explicit will, we can be sure that he will not allow us to get lost (*Romans 12:1,2*).

95% of knowing God's will is having a heart in tune with him.

Having emphasized the need to be obedient to God's explicit will, how then do we find what choices we should make as individuals?

Paul is an example to us as Christians (*Philippians 4:9*). In the life of the apostle Paul we find two complementary processes at work through which God guided him into doing his will - they are the processes of prayerful thought and of spiritual revelation.

### 3. Guidance and prayerful thought

It is as if in many situations, God has marked out a boundary by his commands of scripture. We are not to step outside the boundary lines God has laid down by his moral commands. But within that boundary God invites us to use the mind he has given us and prayerfully choose for ourselves what we think is best from all the legitimate options (e.g. *Genesis 2:16,17*).

If you read *Romans 15:23-29*, you see something of this in Paul's missionary strategy. He knows what God has called him to do (spread the gospel) and he has prayed and sat down and thought about the best way to arrange things. God gives wisdom to those who ask in faith (*James 1:5; Proverbs 1:7; Psalm 119:97-100*).

Look at the basis on which certain decisions are made in the New Testament.

- *1 Thessalonians 3:1,2* - 'we thought it best'
- *Philippians 2:25,26* - 'I think it is necessary'

God does not want us to be afraid to think. He wants us to pray and then use our minds to make wise decisions which will be to HIS GLORY (*1 Corinthians 10:31*). This is usually God's way of guiding us.

We might well benefit from sharing our reasoning with faithful Christian friends to hear their advice too.

“In making our choice, that which is merely good must never be allowed to become the enemy of what is best. It is never enough to ask, as the Pharisees did, whether such and such a course of action is free from taint of sin. The question rather should be: is it the best I can envisage for the glory of God and the good of souls ?” Dr. J. I. Packer.

'If we move jobs right now, and go to another town, how will that affect the church we are presently involved in?'

'If I marry this person, are we likely to be able to work together for God's glory?'

As we pray and think, the way God wants us to go is clearly opened up to us. This is the way God guides us 90% of the time. However, sometimes, he does things a different way.

#### 4. **Guidance and spiritual revelation**

Prayerful thought is generally the way God guides his people in their lives. But sometimes, God may intervene in a more direct way. We have recorded for us in the book of Acts a number of occasions on which God did this in Paul's life (*Acts 13:1-3; Acts 16:6-10*).

Although when this happens it can appear exciting, it is not meant to undermine or devalue the ordinary means of guidance.

God is able to reveal things to us through dreams (*Matthew 2:13,19*), or visions (*Acts 9:10; 10:9-17*), or prophecies (*Acts 21:10,11*).

We should not be surprised when such things happen. The Holy Spirit dwells within us and he has access to our hearts (*Romans 8:15; Acts 10:19,20*).

We need to be very discerning and careful in handling such things  
(*1 John 4:1; 1 Thessalonians 5:19-22*).

We need to ask ourselves at least 4 questions about any such experience:

- Is this guidance in conformity with the Bible? cf. *Galatians 1:8,9*
- Is this from God, or just wishful thinking?
- Is wanting to carry this guidance out motivated by a sincere love to Christ and his people? (*1 Corinthians 13:1-3*).
- Is this to the glory of God? (*1 Corinthians 10:31*)
- If you can honestly answer 'yes' to all these questions, then the revelation should be taken seriously.

#### 5. **Guidance and circumstances**

It is common for Christians to try to read God's guidance from circumstances. Scripture does say some things about circumstances, but it is clear that circumstances are never a sure guide on their own to God's will.

Two things must be realised:

- God's explicit moral will in the Bible always has priority over 'circumstantial guidance'. From Job's circumstances, people came to the wrong conclusion (*Job 11:14*).

- Circumstances only provide *opportunities*, not direct guidance from God. This again can be seen in Paul's life.

In *1 Corinthians 16:8,9* there is an open door of opportunity which Paul decides to take.

In *2 Corinthians 2:12,13* there is an open door of opportunity which Paul walked away from.

Circumstances provide opportunities which are to be weighed in the scales of God-given wisdom.