

His Desire, His Plan, Our Happiness

There are numerous verses in the Bible that use the example of traveling along a path in life.

"The law of his God is in his heart; none of his steps shall slide."¹

"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path."²

"In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths."³

What I hear in these verses is this: Life is like a journey. You have the option of using God's Word as a guide and asking God to lead you, or you can sort of figure it out on your own.

Making decisions is part of life, and it is something you will need to do more often as you grow up. Depending on your nature, you might *love* figuring it out or the many decisions might worry you.



Even if you may not like making decisions, your life will be a collection of your choices and the resultant consequences—both good and bad.

This realization highlights two things for me in making decisions:

1. I need God's help.
2. I need a plan.

The beauty in all of this is that God has promised to be an active participant if I will allow Him to be. He says that *if* I acknowledge Him, He *will* direct my path. *If* His Word is in my heart, *none* of my steps will slide. *If* I hold up His Word, it *will* be a light to my path and show me the way to go.

God has His part squared away, so what about mine? Or yours? We know there isn't an actual "path" we are walking along or a real "lamp" that we can hold up, so how do we get this whole "God's help" thing to work?



A good place to start is to know and understand God's Word. God's Word is a lot like reflectors on a dark road. As you're driving along, the reflectors show you the divide in the road so that you don't veer into oncoming traffic. They show you the edge of the road so that you don't drive into a ravine. Knowing God's Word gives you a set of boundaries that provides guidance to keep you on course.

Sometimes it's really simple: I know God's Word tells me to be loving and kind, and so asking a question like, "What is the loving (considerate) thing to do?" can reveal the obvious choice. But sometimes it's more complicated, like when I have a strong personal feeling about a situation which affects my decision-making process.

It's in moments like that when it's important to remember that God has said He *will* direct our paths, *if* we acknowledge Him. It's a promise, so we can *expect* His help and guidance if we ask for it.

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Footnotes

¹Psalm 37:31 NKJV

²Psalm 119:105 NKJV

³Proverbs 3:6 NKJV