

Question Night - June, 2012

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Introduction: I will be examining some recent questions raised to me via Facebook.

I. Questions concerning the providence of God and finding a mate.

1) Is it wrong to believe that God can work in my life in providential ways to supply a godly husband who will help myself and others get to heaven?

A. What is providence? Consider The English word and its origin.

1. Latin - "providentia" from "provider" - to provide
2. Etymologically: "pro" - before; "videre" - to see.
3. The word means then "to see before". It expresses forethought and foresight. In the King James version the word is found in **Acts 24:2**.

B. What has God specifically promised and what are things that we ask God out of a need?

1. Abraham had a specific promise of God but had to wait. **(Rom 4:17-22)**
2. We are told to cast all care upon Him and to pour out our requests to Him in prayer. **(1 Pt 5:7; Phil 4:6-7)**
3. The seeking of a mate is an acceptable and good pursuit!

C. We cannot know for sure when God acts providentially!

1. Abraham learned this and so did Mordecai. **(Esther 4:14)**
2. Paul would also grant the possibility of God's actions. **(Philemon 1:15)**
3. Please be careful in attributing things to God. We could be wrong!

2) If so, how do I know the difference between providence of God and mere deception?

A. We cannot know when God acts providentially but we can know right and wrong! **(Heb 5:12-14)**

1. In friendships, marriage and other associations we must discern the character of those we partner with! **(Prov 13:20; 1 Cor 15:33)**
2. What are some questions one might ask concerning a potential mate?

B. Here is where we pray to God for wisdom! **(Jas 1:5)**

3) I have tried to and have believed that God has FULL control of everything that happens in my life, that God's presence and purpose will always be here, so I've tried to perceive everything in a spiritual way... but I have had different individuals test me in this, and now I am wondering if my whole perception of life/Godly living is wrong... and I want to know what the bible teaches about it...

A. God has not made us as robots. We have a will to chose His way or not. **(Rev 22:17)**

B. His promise of protection does involve uncertainty. He will protect but we cannot see how he does it. **(Rom 8:28)**

1. Consider how Abraham thought God would work things out. God did, but not as Abraham thought. **(Heb 11:17-19)**
2. There are conditions God has made us aware of! **(1 Cor 10:13)**

C. God does expect us to take initiative! Consider how Abraham found a mate for Isaac.

4) The word says He can do abundantly above all we can dare to ask think or imagine, according to the power that works in us... but is it wrong for me to believe when I pray for that, I can expect to see His hand at work in my life? At one point or another?

A. You will over time see how following God has blessed your life. **(Psa 37:23-26)**

B. Even Esther had to say "perhaps" concerning how God would work!

II. Questions concerning knowing God's will and the work of the Holy Spirit

1) Is it wrong to believe that the Holy Spirit guides you in your life, thru different lessons, sermons, devos, His Word, His servants?

- A. We know that the major work of the Holy Spirit is in the written word. **(Eph 3:3-5; 6:17)**
 - 1. We should see the overall plan and working of God.
 - 2. The Spirit also works in helping us communicate with God. **(Rom 8:26-28)**
 - 3. The Spirit may do many more things. We can only know what the Father has chosen to reveal!
 - 4. We are to test all teaching by the Spirit given word. **(1 Jn 4:1, 6)**
- B. We are given a glimpse in the scripture about the work of God's angels.
(2 Kings 6:15-17; Mt 18:10)

2) If I am seeking God's will for me in marriage, and praying that He will make it evident to me in His time, His way, and by His will, than can I expect Him to do this?

- A. Our God will answer all prayers of the faithful Christian. **(1 Pt 3:10-14)**
- B. Consider the prayer of a faith Christian wife for a child. What will God answer?

3) CONFUSION. If God makes a future husband evident to me, but is saying "wait" than isn't that kind of like saying you know what the future holds? I want to have faith when I ask for things, and believe when I know He is guiding... but when I read the scripture Colossians 2:18-19, I feel as though I may be unknowingly sinning by thinking this way...

- A. You may come to find one that is an acceptable mate. God lets you use discernment and judgement as to how you will act. **(1 Cor 7:26-28)**
 - 1. Do not make the mistake that you must wait for the "chosen" one!
 - 2. God may provide numerous "doors" and we may or may not open them.
 - 3. This has parallels in evangelism. **(2 Cor 2:12-13; Col 4:3-4)**
- B. If you want a Christian mate then take action!
 - 1. Be yourself and take one step at a time.
 - 2. Be a happy, contented Christian willing to serve God regardless of circumstances.
 - 3. If you act like a desprate drowning man for a mate then you will make mistakes!

4) What are examples in the bible of how the Holy Spirit will lead me today? Too many things have happened "providentially" for me to explain, and I've always believe it was God, and was joyful in this, but after I've been questioned about it, I really don't know how to differentiate between what the Holy Spirit has come to do, and how much God truly can be involved if we believe...

- A. We can know for sure what the Holy Spirit has taught and promised. **(Rom 8:15-17)**
 - 1. Again, we cannot know for sure the specifics of God's providence.
- B. Consider how God can lead you to know His will in helping others.
 - 1. God may open a door of opportunity for teachers. **(1 Cor 16:9; 2 Cor 2:12)**
 - 2. God may allow you to hear His word. **(Acts 10:33)**
 - 3. God may put you in a position of responsibility. **(Esther 4:14)**
 - 4. God may allow trouble to come for a while! **(Gen 50:19-20; Psa 105:17)**
 - 5. God may use you in an unanticipated way. **(2 Cor 12:7-9)**
- C. Look at the overall plan of God for your life and keep busy in His service.