

Making Decisions Based on Divine Guidance

By Eva Peck



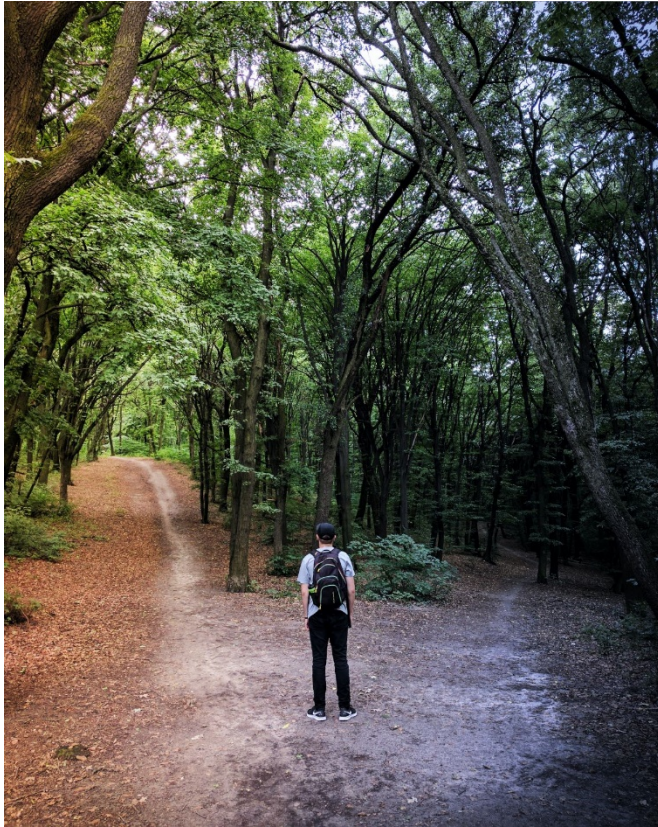
Each of us receives and perceives divine guidance in unique ways, based on what is best for us and in line with our gifts, talents and circumstances. Here are a few personal reflections based on past and recent experiences.

For me, the first and foremost starting point in any major decision, as well as the start of each day, is prayer for guidance. It is especially important to prayerfully seek guidance in big decisions where there may be longer-term consequences. Any decision that doesn't involve breaking God's law may be OK, but some may be wiser and have better outcomes than others. That's where correctly discerning guidance is important. I believe that if we ask, we will receive – our prayers will be answered. Maybe not straight away, but in due time our dilemmas will become clear.

How may guidance come? There are several ways which may vary from individual to individual. They include desires, insights, events, circumstances and open/closed doors, comments from others, things we read that resonate with us, as well as inner voice and intuition. For some it may even be through dreams or ESP experiences. Insights may come from logistically compiling a pros and cons list, from gathering facts and getting counsel, or from intuition. Another important dimension in knowing the right decision is peace of mind.

Guidance can occur in small ways for day-to-day tasks by simply an idea popping into our minds. If we include a request for guidance in our morning prayer, our thoughts and intentions are likely to be guided by the angels throughout the day.

Two other important aspects of guidance are wisdom – evaluating whether or not an action is wise and prudent, and right timing – when the time is right to move ahead, the inspiration comes, circumstances become favorable, “the light changes to green”.



Sometimes, guidance is harder to discern and may feel like a bit of trial and error. To see clearly, or at least less hazily, may take time – even months or years. It may feel like travelling on a road with multiple turn-offs. We feel led to take one turn-off only to find a road filled with obstacles and then a dead end. We try another path and it looks promising. It seems to be an open door – which subsequently closes. We pray some more and try again – and again. Eventually we hit on the right path and feel confident and at peace that this is where we are meant to be. In looking back, we may see clearly why the other paths were not meant to be, and be grateful that

we were stopped from taking them and saved from certain suffering.

Sometimes we just need to step out and act to the best of our understanding and ability, even if we aren't 100% sure what is the right decision. There may be more than one way to go and both are OK. Sometimes it may be better to make a decision, even if we are not 100% certain if it is the right one, than to make no decision. If a decision is morally and ethically sound, in many cases, there are more than one way to implement it and the results will be fine in each case – such as choosing between two jobs or two places to live.

However, if serious doubts exist or we don't have peace about an action, then either the action or the timing of it isn't right. If it is the latter, we may find that a few months or a year later, everything falls into place and the decision becomes crystal clear. Sometimes we may be gently prepared for an action that we'll eventually need to take years before it comes to fruition. We are led to think about possibilities and to gather facts – and then the time comes when we perceive ourselves ready to act.

To sum up, making decisions is an integral part of our lives as we encounter crossroads and turning points on our earthly journeys. For making the best decision and staying in God's will, the starting point is asking for divine guidance. This will help us become attuned to various ways that guidance may come – information from reading, conversations, insights and intuition, gut feelings, as well as circumstances and open doors. If we have considered the wisdom and the possible consequences, have a peace

of mind and a sense of the right timing, we can proceed in confidence that what we are embarking on is right and will work out. This doesn't guarantee that the road will be easy throughout, or that challenges mean that the decision was wrong or that the guidance was misinterpreted. These things are simply part of our earthly lives that help us grow and learn lessons. The important part is to prayerfully continue to seek guidance and ask for help every step of the way. Maintaining our spiritual priorities and seeking God's Kingdom first by praying for God's Love will ensure that we will correctly discern future guidance, grow spiritually, and be preparing for a life of untold happiness in the Celestial Kingdom.

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