



Sunday May 05, 2019
Receiving God's Guidance
Part-1 : His Word

INTRODUCTION

God has promised to lead and guide us. As believers, we sincerely desire to be led by God. We understand the importance of following His plans and purposes for our lives. We recognize that God's ways are the best for us. We seek to live according to His will for our lives.

This is a study of some of the important ways we receive God's guidance for our lives. While there is no set formula on how to discern God's guidance, we must understand what God's Word reveals on the various ways through which God will speak His counsel into our lives. This will enable us to follow Him through all of life's decision points, small or big.

In this series, we consider the following ways God speaks His guidance into our lives: (1)The Word, (2)The indwelling Spirit, (3)Gifts of the Holy Spirit, (4)The voice of the Holy Spirit, (5)Dreams and visions, (6)Prophecies, (7)Angels, (8)Godly counsel, (9)The renewed mind, (10)Times and seasons, (11)Circumstances and divine orchestrations. We then discuss on how we put all this together to arrive at discerning God's direction, and what to do in seasons when we do not seem to be hearing clearly from God.

An important truth we must bear in mind, which we see in both the Old and New Testaments is that **"by the mouth of two or three witnesses every word shall be established"** (2 Corinthians 13:1, quoted from Deuteronomy 19:15). Hence as we determine God's direction we will typically be hearing from God in more than one way. This is God confirming to us through two or three witnesses His direction for our lives.

While all of us will make mistakes along the way, we must understand that God is greater than our mistakes and is more than able to get us back on track and help us journey forward into His highest and best for our lives.

We also take the liberty to share instances, stories and anecdotes along our personal journey on receiving God's guidance. While it is good to learn and be encouraged through another's experience, we must build our lives on God's Word and the work of His Spirit in us personally. Don't build your life on somebody else's experience. Be firmly established in His Word. Be yielded to His Spirit. You will then have your own experience of God leading you through your journey in life.



GOD, OUR GUIDE

We need God's guidance in all kinds of matters in life. Some may have to do with small decisions and some may be big, major decisions. At different points in life, we need to know God's will for our next steps: a student would desire to know which academic area to focus on; someone entering professional life would desire to know which job opportunity or career path to pursue; and there are other major life decisions including the choice of one's spouse; which part of the world to live in; which local church to be part of, and so on. Our desire is to follow God through all of life's decisions. We have the wonderful privilege of having God as our Guide, and the ability to receive His guidance every step of the way.

God's Promise To Lead And Guide

There are several Scriptures revealing to us that God has promised to lead and guide us. This is wonderful assurance. God is genuinely interested in the decisions we have to make and has promised His guidance.

Psalm 37:23-24

23 The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD, And He delights in his way.

24 Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down; For the LORD upholds him with His hand.

The steps of a good man (literally a courageous man, a valiant man, a warrior) are ordered (directed, set up, made perfect, made firm) by the Lord. God takes pleasure in the way this person is going. As the Amplified Bible states, God "*busies Himself with his every step*" (AMPC).

God is very interested in our lives, very interested in the steps we take, the path we choose, and the decisions we make. Some of us need to get rid of the notion that 'God doesn't really care', or 'why would He even care about me, when He has this huge big universe to take care of?' The great God of this universe busies Himself with your every - small and big - step.

Even if we make mistakes, stumble, and falter it is not the end of everything. We are not doomed for the rest of our lives. God upholds us, or as the Amplified states, "*...the Lord grasps his hand in support and upholds him*" (AMPC).

Psalm 32:8-9

8 I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will guide you with My eye.

9 Do not be like the horse or like the mule, Which have no understanding, Which must be harnessed with bit and bridle, Else they will not come near you.



What wonderful promises and assurance of guidance for us. The Lord Himself states: *I will instruct you* : the expanded meaning of the word 'instruct' in Hebrew ('*saka*') means, make you circumspect, intelligent, prudent and wise and give you skill so that you can have good success.

I will teach you : the word 'teach' in Hebrew ('*arah*') figuratively means to point out, as if by aiming the finger, as when shooting an arrow.

I will guide you : the word 'guide' also means to advise or counsel.

The Lord has promised to instruct, teach and guide us.

Our response to His instruction, teaching and guidance is also important. He points to two animals, which lack understanding, the horse and the mule, and hence must be harnessed and held firm in order to go a certain way. They could either run ahead and must be held back, or could be very stubborn and hard to move forward. We must avoid either of these postures.

Psalm 25:12

Who is the man that fears the LORD? Him shall He teach in the way He chooses.

When we walk in reverence for the Lord, God will teach us the way in which we should go. The Good News Bible renders this verse as: "*Those who have reverence for the LORD will learn from him the path they should follow.*"

Our heart attitude determines if we are going to hear from God and receive His guidance. If we are reverent, walking in the fear of the Lord, we will not only seek His will but follow through to do His will. So the Lord marks out those who fear Him, and make His guidance available to them.

The Revelation of God's Will

At the very beginning it is good to establish some basics or foundational truths in relation to God's will and guidance. Here are some important insights that we must understand:

1) God's will is always consistent with God's nature

God is unchanging. He does not change (Malachi 3:6). He is the "*Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning*" (James 1:17). Who God is, His nature, is constant. God's will, purpose and guidance will always be consistent with His nature. His will is always in harmony with who He is. For instance God is holy. So no one can claim that God is guiding them or directing them to do something unholy.



2) God's will is always consistent with His Word

God will not lead us to do something that contradicts His Word. God's Word is truth (John 17:17), it is eternal, unchanging and is forever established in heaven (Psalm 119:89). The leading of the Spirit will always be consistent with the Word that the Spirit inspired. [We are assuming here that our understanding of His Word is right. Sometimes God may lead us to do something that contradicts our understanding of His Word. For instance, in the keeping of the Sabbath, the Pharisees did not permit anyone to do anything on the Sabbath. On the other hand we see Jesus healing people on the Sabbath, and even His disciples plucking grain to eat on the Sabbath (Matthew 12:1-8). Jesus explained that He was Lord even of the Sabbath. Or take the apostle Peter for instance. He (and the Early Church) were not preaching the Gospel to the gentiles. So God gives him a vision telling him to rise and eat unclean birds and animals, which Peter refused to. Subsequently God led Peter and the Church, to preach the Gospel to the gentiles (Acts chapters 9 & 10)]

3) God's promises are a revelation of God's will

The reason God promised us something, was because He intended for us to have it. So we can understand God's promises as an expression of His will for our lives.

4) God desires for us to know His will

God really desires for us to know His will. God is not trying to hide His will from us so that we falter, get into all kinds of trouble and mess up our lives because we did not know His will and could not receive His guidance. On the other hand He has made provision for us to know His will.

Consider what the Word teaches in Colossians 1.

Colossians 1:9-10

9 For this reason we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding;

10 that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God;

We note these three important insights:

First, Paul prayed for the believers to be filled (that means there is no lack, no short fall, they are full up and not lacking in this) with the knowledge of His will. The Greek word for 'knowledge' ('*epignosis*') means precise and correct knowledge, deep and clear knowledge. As believers we can pray and have full, complete, precise, correct, deep and clear knowledge of His will, for us. [Note: we are not implying that we will have all knowledge, or possess infinite knowledge, or know everything about everything.



Omniscience belongs only to God. We are talking about knowing His will for our lives, personally].

Second, knowing His will comes through wisdom and spiritual understanding, or through the wisdom and understanding given to us by His Holy Spirit. As we see in 1 Corinthians 2:9-16, the Holy Spirit reveals things to us and makes the mind of Christ known to us. Hence we must grow in wisdom and spiritual understanding.

Third, the end result (outcome) of being filled with the knowledge of His will is that -

(A)we walk worthy of the Lord - live a life that honors the Lord.

(B)we live fully pleasing to Him - live a life that pleases Him.

(C)we are fruitful in all we do - bear much fruit in all that He has called us to do.

(D)we continue to increase in our knowledge of Him

What powerful outcomes when we are filled with the knowledge of His will. The converse should also be considered, that is, if we do not know His will, we may do things that dishonor and displease Him, we may not be fruitful in what we do, and we could become stagnant in our knowledge of Him.

Let's consider what the Word teaches us in Ephesians:

Ephesians 5:8-10,17

8 For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light

9 (for the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness, righteousness, and truth),

10 finding out what is acceptable to the Lord.

17 Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is.

Now that we are light and walking as children of light, we not only display the fruit of the Spirit, but we also live our lives "finding out" (meaning testing, examining, proving, discerning, figure out) what is "acceptable" to the Lord. The word 'acceptable' in English could be misleading. To be "acceptable" could mean what is "ok", just satisfactory. However, the Greek ('*euarestos*') means what is **fully agreeable** and **well pleasing** to the Lord. So as believers we are encouraged to be on this pursuit of discovering God's will, what is fully agreeable and well pleasing to God.

Further on in verse 17, we are instructed not to be unwise. Thayer's Greek Definitions has the following meanings of ('*aphroon*'), the Greek for 'unwise': "without reason, senseless, foolish, stupid, without reflection or intelligence, acting rashly". Instead of being unwise, we must understand what God's will is. The Greek for 'understanding' is to put together, to comprehend, to set or join together in the mind, to bring together in a hostile sense, bringing two combatants together, which could imply thinking through seemingly opposing ideas. This verse is teaching us that we do not do away with our mind in understanding God's will and receiving God's guidance.



Sometimes, believers in the seeming pursuit of God's guidance and God's will, throw away all good common sense, caution and reason to the wind. When we counsel them with some simple practical instructions - they consider that as being very unspiritual and reject some plain and simple common sense. Then they get into a big mess, and waste so much of their lives sorting out the mess they got themselves into. How much more useful they could have been for God's Kingdom, if they had just paid attention to some practical advice. More on this in the chapter on the renewed mind.

5) The things that remain unknown

In as much as we seek to receive God's guidance and know His will, we must recognize that there is the realm of the unknown.

Deuteronomy 29:29

The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but those things which are revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law.

There are things that God keeps reserved only for Himself. So we must be willing to be comfortable with not having all the answers to all our questions. We can live at peace with the unknown, the unanswered, because we have the peace that is beyond understanding (Philippians 4:6-7). This is a peace that we have even when we do not understand. And the way we step into this kind of peace, is by letting go and releasing things into God's hands.

Having said that, God has clearly indicated that He wants us to be filled with the knowledge of His will. So as far as guidance in living life according to His purposes, that will be no holding back from God's side to reveal what we need to know, to do His will.

Are There Different Categories of God's Will?

Romans 12:1-2

1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.

2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

Some use these two verses of Scripture to indicate three different categories or classifications of God's will: "good", "acceptable" and "perfect". However, we do not subscribe to this idea of three different categories of God's will, and it actually is erroneous and leads people to live compromised lives. Let study this through.



First, we must understand that "good and acceptable and perfect" are three descriptors used to describe the same thing - the will of God. God's will is good, acceptable and perfect. For instance, if we say that an apple is red, flavorful and sweet smelling, we are just using three different descriptors to describe the same thing, not three different things.

Second, the word "acceptable" does not mean "permissive" or "permit-able". The word acceptable in Romans 12:1-2 is the same Greek word used in Ephesians 5:10, where we explained the Greek ('*euarestos*') means what is **fully agreeable** and **well pleasing** to the Lord. Please observe that the same word 'acceptable' is used both in Romans 12:1 and Romans 12:2. In Romans 12:1 our bodies are to be holy and acceptable (fully agreeable, well pleasing) to God. We do not in any way interpret the 'acceptable' in Romans 12:1 to mean partially acceptable, permissive to God. Hence, we should remain consistent in our understanding of the word 'acceptable' when we read Romans 12:2 and as it really means, state that the 'acceptable' will, means fully agreeable and well pleasing will, the same as 'good' and 'perfect' will of God.

Third, if there was such a revelation of three categories of the will of God, Paul does not mention this anywhere in his epistles. Rather we see in the other Epistles (as we have seen in Colossians and Ephesians) that we can know the perfect will of God clearly.

Fourth, look at the life, teaching and ministry of Jesus Christ. We do not find Jesus' teaching us about different categories of God's will. When the sick came to Him, Jesus did not have to pray to the Father about each sick person to determine if it was God's will to heal, or was it God's 'acceptable will' or 'permissive will' for them to remain sick. He healed and delivered all who came to Him in faith.

What about other issues like (A)the Fall of man, (B)the Hebrews wanting meat in the wilderness (C)Israel wanting a king like their neighboring nations, etc. Was this the will of God? No. Did God permit it? Yes. Does this mean that there is such a thing as an 'acceptable will' or 'permissive will'. No it does not. It just means that what happened was not the will of God and yet because God has given people free-will and the freedom to choose they made these choices. God allows us to go with the choices we make and He works with us, calling us back to Himself, in order to see His purposes established. God goes about restoring things according to His will. As an analogy, consider this: in the city it is not the government's will (or law) for murders to happen. But do murders happen? Yes. Does that mean that the government has a 'permissive law' that permits murders to happen. Not at all. All murder is against the law. The government works to enforce the law and restore law where things have been violated.



So what some call as the 'permissive will' is really another term for what is "not God's will" and is actually something out of the will of God.

The danger of the notion of a "permissive" will of God, it that, it gives believers a very casual approach to doing the will of God. The reasoning is that "I am ok if I am in the permissive will of God, so long as I am not out of the will of God". But let's get this straight - to be in what someone calls as the "permissive will" of God is really to be out of the will of God. So our goal is to understand and walk in what is the good, acceptable and perfect will of God.

Our Responsibility : Seeking, Listening, Obeying

In receiving God's guidance we have our responsibility or part to fulfill. We must seek, listen and obey.

Seeking

To seek means that we earnestly desire and ask God to guide us and direct us. We express our desire to know His will so that we can walk honoring and pleasing Him.

God invites us to seek Him and to call upon Him in order to receive His revelation of things we do not know:

Jeremiah 29:12-13

12 Then you will call upon Me and go and pray to Me, and I will listen to you.

13 And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart.

Our seeking must be whole-hearted. God responds to such heart attitude.

Jeremiah 33:3

'Call to Me, and I will answer you, and show you great and mighty things, which you do not know.'

Proverbs 25:2

It is the glory of God to conceal a matter, But the glory of kings is to search out a matter.

Matthew 7:7

7 "Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.

8 For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened.

Our seeking and receiving God's guidance can take on different expressions.

1) Seeking His guidance during the normal course of things

As we go through our day, we walk in the Spirit, walk with a renewed mind, and learn to listen to Him as and when important decision moments arise. Maybe you are in a



business meeting and have to make some important decisions. Pray in your heart. Speak to Him asking Him for His counsel and guidance. God will guide us during our day as we go through the normal course of things.

2) Seeking His guidance during special times of seeking

We can (and should) set aside special times of seeking when making important (major) decisions in life. This would mean that we take extra time to pray, be in His Word, worship - just be alone with Him, and position ourselves to receive His guidance. Special times of seeking may also mean that we spend several days (or weeks) continuing to wait on Him, until we know for sure what He desires for us to do.

3) Guidance during unexpected "God moments"

There are then those unexpected "God moments" where God initiates the speaking and reveals His counsel to us. We may not be necessarily asking or seeking Him for guidance, but God breaks in and speaks to us. This can come in any of the ways we will be considering later in this book.

Listening

John 10:1-5,27

1 "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door, but climbs up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber.

2 But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep.

3 To him the doorkeeper opens, and the sheep hear his voice; and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out.

4 And when he brings out his own sheep, he goes before them; and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice.

5 Yet they will by no means follow a stranger, but will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers."

27 My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me.

A second important component to receiving God's guidance is listening.

Notice how the Lord Jesus shared what the sheep do in relation to their shepherd:

- ✓ the sheep hear his voice - they are listening in for the shepherd's voice.
- ✓ the sheep follow him, for they know his voice - they are able to follow their shepherd because they know and listen for his voice.
- ✓ the sheep do not follow strangers because they recognize that it is not their shepherd's voice.

This indicates active involvement on part of the sheep.



Similarly, as sheep, we can follow our Shepherd when we know, recognize and hear His voice. God is speaking. Are we listening? Are we listening in the right places and to the right voice? Are we avoiding or entertaining the voice of strangers?

Psalm 23:3-4

3 He restores my soul; He leads me in the paths of righteousness For His name's sake.

4 Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; For You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.

The shepherd's rod and staff served not only for defense and protection but also to guide and keep the sheep together. There are times when the shepherd leads the sheep from the front, calling out his voice and the sheep followed him, by following his voice. There are times when the shepherd follows the sheep along a known path. The sheep walk ahead and the shepherd sees them from behind. He calls out to the sheep and uses his rod and staff to keep the sheep on the right path. The shepherd's voice, his rod and staff are different pictures of God's guidance to us His sheep to keep us on the path He wants us to take. God our Shepherd is guiding us. We must be willing to listen and follow.

Obeying

The third important component to receiving God's guidance is obeying. God guides us so that we can follow Him.

Proverbs 3:32

For the perverse person is an abomination to the LORD, But His secret counsel is with the upright.

God reveals His secret counsel to the upright. Why the upright? The answer is because they desire to do what is right in the eyes of God. So God speaks so that we can obey Him and walk pleasing to Him.

God guides but we must follow with faith, obedience and patience. Sometimes obeying can be 'painful' to the flesh and to our soulish desires. But the end result of obeying God's guidance is peace. All will be well.

Psalm 37:37

Mark the blameless man, and observe the upright; For the future of that man is peace.



THE WORD

God leads and guides us by His Word and Holy Spirit primarily. In this chapter we share simple insights on receiving guidance through God's written Word.

Let us consider a few Scriptures to begin with.

Psalm 119:105

Your word is a lamp to my feet And a light to my path.

Psalm 119:130

The entrance of Your words gives light; It gives understanding to the simple.

Psalm 37:31

The law of his God is in his heart; None of his steps shall slide.

Here are some common ways that God speaks, leads and guides us through His written Word.

The Instructions In God's Word

We must become familiar with what God has already stated in His written Word concerning various areas of our lives. These are instructions that we must obey. As examples, we know that God has already stated in His Word how a husband should relate to his wife and a wife to her husband. God has already stated in His Word how parents are to relate to their children and children to their parents. God has given us instructions on how to handle money, and so on. Hence, as we make decisions, this becomes our starting point. We must stay aligned to the instructions in God's Word as we make our choices.

Hebrews 5:12-14

12 For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God; and you have come to need milk and not solid food.

13 For everyone who partakes only of milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, for he is a babe.

14 But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, that is, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.

As we mature and stay in God's Word our senses (organs of perception) are exercised (trained like an athlete) to discern (distinguish, judge) what is right and wrong. Because of our constant use of the Word, we immediately know what is right and wrong.



The Quickened Word

Then there are other times when seeking God's guidance that He speaks to us through the written Word specifically to our situation. You may be praying about a certain decision and then a passage of Scripture bring out insights that address your matter directly. The mind of the Lord becomes clear to you. You recognize what God would have you do and the decision He would have you make in your situation.

This can happen during your time of reading of the Scriptures, perhaps during your daily reading. A verse or passage "jumps at" you from the pages of the Bible. An understanding, a fresh insight suddenly seems to open up from a seemingly familiar passage. As the Psalmist prayed, your eyes have been opened to see something wonderful from His Word (Psalm 119:18). The finger of God seems to be pointing you in a certain direction through a verse of passage of Scripture during your time in His Word.

At other times, you may be going about your daily routine and suddenly a verse of Scripture is brought to your mind. Jesus said that the Holy Spirit will "bring to our remembrance" (John 14:26) what the Lord has taught us. That verse of Scripture coming to your mind would serve among other things, to bring God's guidance and direction to your life. This is another way the Word can be quickened to us to bring God's guidance.

The Word Preached

Another commonly experienced way that God will bring His guidance to our lives using the written Word is when we hear the Word being preached. Maybe you came to the church service or meeting praying about a matter. Then through the Word being preached, it seems that God is addressing exactly the things that are upon your heart. Interestingly, there would be many listening to the same message and all feel that God is speaking to them directly, although the matters on each one's heart may be so different. Only God can do something like this. Where the written Word being preached becomes His counsel to so many of His people simultaneously. You know God has spoken and given you the direction you were seeking through the Word being preached. Now it is your turn to obey the Lord's direction.

The Inner Voice - The Voice Of Our Conscience

A fourth way in which God uses His written Word to counsel, guide and direct us is through the inner voice, our own conscience. Our conscience is our own spirit speaking to us. The voice of our human spirit is called the conscience.



Job 32:8

But there is a spirit in man, And the breath of the Almighty gives him understanding.

Psalm 51:6

Behold, You desire truth in the inward parts, And in the hidden part You will make me to know wisdom.

Proverbs 20:27

The spirit of a man is the lamp of the LORD, Searching all the inner depths of his heart.

God breathes (inspires, release revelation) into our human spirit. He causes us to know wisdom in our spirit. Our human spirit is like a lamp that God uses to search us out, as well as to guide us.

Our conscience bears witness or speaks aligned to what has been written on our hearts (Romans 2:15) . When our human spirit is trained with the Word of God and is in submission to the Holy Spirit, then the voice of our own spirit - our own conscience - becomes a reliable guide. We just follow our conscience, which speaks to us aligned to God's Word and according to God's inspiration. The apostle Paul said that he "lived in all good conscience before God" (Acts 23:1). He always strived "to have a conscience without offense toward God and men" (Acts 24:16).

Some Real Life Examples - Good And Bad

Don't misuse the Scriptures. It is possible to take Scriptures out of context, twist and turn and make them support what we want in our own selfish interests. Do not do this.

MINISTRY TIME | SALVATION CALL



LIFE GROUP STUDY GUIDE

Sunday May 05, 2019
Receiving God's Guidance
Part-1 : His Word

The is a simple guide for use in Life Group discussions. Our objective is to focus on the application of the Sunday sermon - how each one is becoming a doer of the Word and building their life on God's Holy Word. The Life Group meeting would normally last for 2 hours. Each Life Group would have up to 12-15 people.

Preparation

To prepare for the Life Group meeting, you can listen to the Sermon Key Points (sermon summary in five minutes) or the full length Sunday sermon. You can also review the Sunday Sermon notes. All these are available in the "All Peoples Church Bangalore" mobile App or online at apcwo.org/sermons . Pray for the Life Group meeting and invite the work and ministry of the Holy Spirit.

Welcome

The Life Group meeting may commence with a time of prayer, worship and a fun activity.

LISTEN to God's Word

Read the following Scripture passages: *Psalm 37:23-24; Psalm 32:8-9; Colossians 1:9-10; Ephesians 5:8-10,17; Romans 12:1-2*

INVESTIGATE God's Word Together

Please discuss a few of these together, giving time for people to share their insights. We encourage each one individually to make notes of their personal learning during the Group discussion.

1) What were some key insights you gained from this message about receiving God's guidance?

2) As we begin this journey learning how to receive God's guidance, write down one or more areas of your life where you have to make major decisions and desire to receive God's guidance.

3) Looking back at your walk with God thus far, are there instances where you were aware of God guiding you. Reflect on a few of these instances. How did you recognize and come to know God's direction for you?



4) *For major decisions you need to make at this stage in your life, what are the general instructions in God's Word that you need to abide by?*

5) *Ask God to speak to you through His written Word about decisions you need to make. Be open to hearing from Him either through the reading of His Word in your daily time with Him, or through the quickening of the Word at other moments of your day, or even as you hear the Word preached. Write down what you hear from the Lord.*

If time permits, each one takes a few (3 minutes max) to share one or two key learning and how they see themselves applying it into their specific life situations. Encourage each one to participate and share.

FELLOWSHIP by sharing your life and spiritual journey

Each one takes a few (3 minutes max) to share anything from their walk with God, something God has been teaching them, a testimony of answered prayer or a specific challenge that they would like prayer for. Encourage each one to participate and share.

ENCOURAGE each other by praying and ministering to one another

Get into small groups of two or three and take turns to thank God and pray for each other in the light of what was learnt today. Listen to the Holy Spirit. Expect the gifts of the Holy Spirit to flow bringing healing, releasing miracles, prophecy, etc.

Regroup and pray together for:

1, families to be protected and strengthened

2, a mighty outpouring of God's Holy Spirit on us as a church and through us to bless many others in our city and nation. Nothing but a mighty work of God's Spirit can change our city and nation.

3, for the BUILD TO IMPACT project - for God's hand to guide us through the land search and acquisition process, and for finances to be more than enough to get this project done.

Close by thanking God together.