

Seeking Guidance: The Pattern

Matthew 7:7-8

Matthew 7:7-8 (NASB)

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.”

There’s a pattern we should follow in seeking God’s guidance, and the first step involves cleansing. Sin can strangle the Holy Spirit’s power in us and cloud judgment, so we must ask God to reveal and then forgive anything that might interfere with what He wants to tell us.

Of the remaining steps, the most important is surrender. The Lord cannot share His plans for our life until we are committed to following Him no matter what. He certainly knows whether we’re seeking direction in order to *obey* or merely to *consider* what He suggests. Therefore, surrender precedes even our request for guidance. First John 5 says God hears and grants our petitions when they align with His will ([1 John 5:14-15](#)). When believers yield themselves to Him, they’ll find their way to the right request and the best possible answer.

1 John 5:14-15 (NASB)

¹⁴ “This is the confidence which we have before Him, that, if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us.

¹⁵ And if we know that He hears us *in* whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests which we have asked from Him.”

Most of the time, God guides believers to an answer through His Word, which is why I encourage meditation upon Scripture ([Psalm 119:105](#)).

Psalm 119:105 (NASB)

¹⁰⁵ “Your word is a lamp to my feet And a light to my path.”

Our reading may take us to a chapter that deals with our very situation or to a passage containing an applicable principle. At times the crystal-clear message God speaks to one person’s heart is something no one else would glean from that particular passage. The key is to believe that the Lord will guide you, and to live out that faith ([Mark 11:24](#)).

Mark 11:24 (NASB)

²⁴ “Therefore I say to you, all things for which you pray and ask, believe that you have received them, and they will be *granted* you.”

Waiting is important, as the process of seeking guidance can often be slow and running ahead or manipulating circumstances can be a costly mistake. The omniscient Sovereign of the universe acts on behalf of those who wait for Him ([Isaiah 64:4](#)). So, seek direction and you will receive it—that’s a promise.

Isaiah 64:4 (NASB)

⁴ “For from days of old they have not heard or perceived by ear, Nor has the eye seen a God besides You, Who acts in behalf of the one who waits for Him.”