





## WHERE ARE THE FORMULAS?

We've all heard the sermons, "Three steps to knowing God's will," or "Five steps...." But sooner or later we discover formulas are inadequate. Too often they leave us puzzled as we try to follow God's leading.

## WHY ARE THERE NO ADEQUATE FORMULAS?

Could it be that God doesn't want us attached to formulas but to Himself? It's been said, the secret of guidance is the Guide himself. That's it!

# *Intimacy with Christ is the most important prerequisite for knowing God's will.*

## SO HOW DO YOU MAINTAIN INTIMACY WITH CHRIST?

- By refusing to allow sin to remain in your life un-confessed.
- By actively seeking the Lord through prayer and by meditation on His Word.

## YES, BUT...

What if you are intimate with Christ and you still aren't sure of the direction God wants you to go?



## KEY PRINCIPLES

### PRE-COMMIT YOURSELF TO DO WHATEVER HE SAYS

God generally doesn't show His will to people who are just curious. He loves to guide those who are committed to doing His will. Christ said, "If anyone chooses to do God's will, he will know..." (John 7:17). First comes the choosing. Then comes the knowing.

### EVALUATE RELEVANT FACTS

God expects us to use our minds to gather and weigh significant information. He says, "I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go. I will guide you with my eye on you. Do not be like the horse or the mule which have no understanding but must be controlled by bit and bridle..." (Psalm 32:8-9).

God will guide us but we've got to use our heads! He doesn't want us to remain intellectually passive, forcing Him to use the "bit and bridle" to direct us.

### PRAY FOR WISDOM

Prayer shows our dependence on God. Prayerlessness shows we think we are smart enough to figure things out on our own. Proverbs 3:5 is an important caution: "Do not lean on your own understanding." God expects us to use our minds, but He knows human brainpower can lead us astray. If we gather and evaluate facts prayerfully and in the light of the principles of His Word, God will help us to interpret those facts correctly to make good decisions.

### WELCOME EVALUATION FROM OTHERS

God always makes a good fit between person and task. He doesn't put square pegs in round holes. Did you ever try to squeeze into a role for which you weren't designed—simply because you didn't know the true shape in which God has made you? Frustration! To avoid this, welcome honest evaluations of yourself by friends and qualified leaders. And don't be afraid of aptitude and personality tests. These can help you identify the special shape God has made you.