

The Guided Journey: Finding Direction on the Obedient Path

Genesis 24:27 (KJV): "And he said, Blessed be the LORD God of my master Abraham, who hath not left destitute my master of his mercy and his truth: I being in the way, the LORD led me to the house of my master's brethren."

Introduction:

We live in a world desperate for direction. Men and women constantly seek a sign, a word, a prophecy, some tangible evidence to show them the way forward. They cry out to heaven, "Lord, lead me!" yet they remain paralyzed, waiting for a thunderclap or a writing on the wall. But the sacred Scripture reveals to us a profound and practical secret to divine guidance. It is not found in a passive waiting but in an active walking. It is discovered not first in a feeling, but in faithful obedience. The testimony of Eleazar, the faithful servant of Abraham, cuts through our confusion with brilliant clarity. He did not say, "The Lord led me, and then I got in the way." He declared, "I being in the way, the LORD led me." This is the sacred order: our obedient movement precedes His specific direction. This morning, we will trace this principle through the pages of Scripture, seeing how God confirms His will and reveals His path to those who have already committed to walking in His ways.

I. The Old Testament Example: Moses and the Path of Reluctant Obedience

Our first witness is Moses, a man who understood that the pathway to God's power often leads through the valley of personal inadequacy. Turn with me to the book of Exodus, chapter 3. We find Moses, no longer a prince of Egypt, but a shepherd in the wilderness of Midian. He had tried things his own way forty years prior, and it ended in failure and flight. But now, God meets him in a burning bush. The Lord gives him a clear, direct, and daunting order, just as Abraham gave Eleazar his charge.

Exodus 3:10 (KJV) spells out the command: "Come now therefore, and I will send thee unto Pharaoh, that thou mayest bring forth my people the children of Israel out of Egypt." This was the order. Moses, filled with fear and a sense of his own inability, offers a series of objections. "Who am I?" "What shall I say unto them?" "They will not believe me." "I am not eloquent." Yet, in the face of this reluctance, God assures Moses of His presence and His power. The crucial moment comes not when Moses feels capable, but when he finally obeys. He sets his foot on the path back to Egypt.

It is only after Moses is "in the way," walking in obedience to the initial command, that the Lord begins to lead him step by step. He leads him through the confrontation with Pharaoh, through the terrifying plagues, through the dead ends at the Red Sea, and through the bitter complaints of the people. Moses did not have a full map of the forty-year journey. He simply had a command and the promise of God's presence. He was often afflicted, suffering greatly at the hands of Pharaoh and his own people. Yet, at every critical juncture, when Moses was faithfully proceeding on the path of his calling, God provided specific, miraculous direction. The pillar of cloud and fire did not appear until they had left Egypt. The path through the Red Sea did not open until they were standing at its shore, trapped. The manna did not fall until they were in the wilderness and hungry. God led Moses because Moses was in the way of obedience.

II. The New Testament Example: The Apostle Peter and the Path of Stepping Out

For our second witness, we turn to the New Testament and the impulsive, passionate Apostle Peter. His life provides a powerful illustration of this principle in a single, dramatic moment. The scene is the Sea of Galilee, recorded in the Gospel of Matthew, chapter 14. The disciples are in a boat, tossed by waves, and they see Jesus walking on the water. They are terrified, but Jesus speaks peace to them.

Matthew 14:28-29 (KJV) tells the story: "And Peter answered him and said, Lord, if it be thou, bid me come unto thee on the water. And he said, Come. And when Peter was come down out of the ship, he walked on the water, to go to Jesus." Here we see the pattern perfectly. Peter receives an order from his master: the single word, "Come." This was his charge. Now, Peter could have stayed in the relative safety of the boat, discussing the theology of Christ's divinity or the physics of water-walking. But true guidance required action. He had to get "in the way." He had to place his foot over the side of the boat and onto the turbulent sea.

It was only after Peter was "in the way," actively obeying the command of Christ, that the miraculous leading occurred. The laws of nature were suspended for him. He was led on a path no man had ever walked. For a glorious few moments, he was directed by the word "Come" and sustained by the power of Christ, doing the impossible. His guidance was contingent upon his obedience. When he shifted his focus from the command of Jesus to the fury of the wind, he began to sink. But the principle held true: the specific, miraculous leading

of walking on water happened only when he was already on the path of obedience. The command was "Come." The leading was the supernatural ability to do so. God will not lead you on a path you refuse to walk.

III. The New Testament Example: Philip and the Path of Sudden Detours

Our third witness is Philip the Evangelist, a man who learned that God's guidance can sometimes involve sudden and unexpected detours for a divine appointment. In Acts chapter 8, Philip is in the midst of a powerful, successful revival in Samaria. Multitudes are coming to Christ, and signs and wonders are being performed. By all human metrics, he was in the center of God's will, doing profoundly important work. But then, the direction comes.

Acts 8:26 (KJV) says, "And the angel of the Lord spake unto Philip, saying, Arise, and go toward the south unto the way that goeth down from Jerusalem unto Gaza, which is desert." This was the order. It made little sense. Leave a city-wide revival to go to a desert road? Yet, Philip did not hesitate. The Scripture says simply, "And he arose and went." He got "in the way." He was on the obedient path, walking down a seemingly barren and unimportant road. It was only because Philip was "in the way" of obedience that the next, specific leading came. Acts 8:29 (KJV) tells us, "Then the Spirit said unto Philip, Go near, and join thyself to this chariot." He would never have heard that specific instruction, nor encountered the Ethiopian eunuch, if he had remained in Samaria debating the wisdom of the angel's command. His initial, general obedience positioned him for the subsequent, specific guidance. The result was the conversion of a key individual who would carry the Gospel to an entire continent. Philip's story teaches us that God's leading is often progressive. He gives us a first step, and as we take it in faith, the next step is revealed. The grand plan was for the Gospel to reach Africa, but it hinged on one man's willingness to be on the right way, even when it looked like a detour.

Conclusion:

The testimony of Scripture is consistent and clear. Eleazar on the road to Mesopotamia, Moses on the road to Egypt, Peter on the waves of the sea, and Philip on the road to Gaza—all demonstrate the same timeless truth: "I being in the way, the LORD led me." The God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob is the same yesterday, today, and forever. He is still a God who guides. But His guidance is conditional upon our obedience. We must first be on His way. What is the "way"? It is the way of faithfulness to the commands He has already given us in His Word. It is the way of love, holiness, and the Great Commission. It is the daily, often

mundane, walk of faith. Are you praying for guidance in your career, your relationships, your ministry? First, ask yourself: Am I already on the way? Have I obeyed the last thing He told me to do? Are my feet moving in the direction of His known will?

Do not wait for a blueprint for the entire journey. Trust the Master who gave Eleazar his charge. Take the first step of obedience. Get out of the boat of your fears. Walk away from the Samaria of your own success and comfort. Set your face toward the destination He has called you to, and as you walk, you will make the glorious discovery that the Lord who called you is also the Lord who leads you. You will look back and testify with a heart full of praise, "I being in the way, the LORD led me." Amen.