

The Scriptures Are Our Guide

Two different views exist as to how one comes to a knowledge of gods will. The first view is that one comes to this knowledge by carefully reading and understanding the scriptures; that Jesus promised his apostles that they would be led into all truth by the spirit.

John 14:26 – Jesus said,

“But the helper, the holy spirit, whom the father will send in my name, he will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.”

John 16:13 – Jesus also, said,

“However, when he, the spirit of truth, has come, he will guide you into all truth; for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak; and he will tell you things to come.

That they, along with other inspired men, wrote that truth in the scriptures; that when we read what they wrote, we may “understand (their) knowledge in the mystery of Christ”

Ephesians 3:3,4 – Paul tells us this,

“How that by revelation he made known to me the mystery as I have briefly written already, By which, when you read, you may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ.”

I hope we can see that the scriptures, consequently, are an all-sufficient guide from earth to heaven.

The second view is that each child of God is led in some direct way by the spirit in understanding God’s will. People are often heard to say, “God is leading me into this understanding,” or “God is leading me in this way,” and in saying this they mean that He is leading them through some direct guidance. While they do not disregard the scriptures altogether, they feel that they are led in some additional way into an understanding of God’s will, applying **John 14:26** and **John 16:13** to “every believer.”

I hold to the first view and would ask those who hold to the second view the following questions:

- 1) If, indeed, all believers are led directly into an understanding of God’s will, why was it necessary for the first converts to continue “steadfastly in the apostles’ teaching”
- 2) **Acts 2:42** - Luke records,
“And they continued and they continued steadfastly in the apostle’s doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.”

Would they not have had the same understanding of god’s will as the apostles had?