



## Following God's Direction: Three Things God Reveals

(adapted from *Hearing From God*, by Phil Largent)

**Main Idea:** If we listen and pursue Him, God will reveal the What, How and When of His direction in my life.

We want to be able to know when God is saying to us, “Go care for that homeless family, tutor those students after school, or share your story to that family across the street.” “Go pray for that woman in the hospital, start a new ministry, or move your family to another country to be missionaries.” We want to know what God wants us to do—what God’s purpose or mission is for us. For most of us, it’s not a matter of I will or will not do it. We’ll gladly do what God wants. We just want to know what God is directing us to do.

There are three truths we’re going to build on to better understand following God’s direction. God reveals to us what He wants us to do. This becomes our mission. God reveals to us how He wants us to do the mission. This becomes our method. Finally, God reveals to us when He wants us to do the mission. This becomes our moment to obey God by faith. Each of these factors is important in knowing and doing God’s will—His unique will and direction for me at this particular time.

### Scripture

Read each passage, and then write one to three words that best describe the heart of that passage.

- Luke 6:47–49
- John 4:34
- John 13:17

### Principle 1: *God reveals WHAT He wants me to do. This is my mission.*

So many of us have heard others repeat the phrase, “I know God has a purpose for my life.” How many of us though could specifically articulate what that purpose may be?

Read Exodus 3.

- Was Moses looking for greater purpose in his life?
- Why was Moses, “afraid to look at God”?

- What was Moses' new purpose?
- How did he respond to that new purpose?

In one sentence, write down God's purpose for you as best as you understand it. If you don't know, what steps could you take toward finding out?

## **Principle 2: God reveals HOW He wants me to fulfill the mission. This is my method.**

I'm convinced a lot of people have heard from God. They know what God wants them to do. Yet sadly, they just dive into the work, the mission as they understand it. They don't know specifically the strategy God has for them to accomplish this assignment. They work diligently at the work given to them by God. They watch others in similar situations and try to glean understanding from them. They've been in such a hurry to accomplish what God has called them to, they forget to ask, "How do you want me to do this?"

*"The pragmatic duplication of approaches to carrying out God's uniquely assigned missions seldom brings the expected outcome."*

Go back to Exodus 3.

- What are the different "hows" that God reveals to Moses?
- Divide the ones you identified into: General, and Specifics. What can we learn about God from that breakdown?
- What are some general and specific "hows" that God has given you?

It is most common for God to give His people a clear direction and a clear method for carrying it out. Beloved, I am convinced God has a strategy for each mission or task He assigns.

## **Principle 3: God reveals WHEN He wants me to do the mission. This is my moment.**

As surely as God has a specific mission and method for you, He also has specific timing to go forward with the mission. This is often the place where many people in life and ministry make a mistake. Too often well-intentioned and faithful followers move too fast or slow in the timing of God's plans. Timing then becomes one of our biggest challenges. To miss God's moment or timing can spell disappointment and failure in achieving God's mission.

Read Exodus 4:19–20.

Moses had left Egypt 40 years prior to his encounter with God. Yet, now was the appointed moment to fulfill his purpose before the LORD.

- How might the outcome for the Jews been different if Moses had gone too soon or too late?
- What are some examples in your life of good and bad timing?
- What do you sense is God's timing for His purpose in your life?

I have a passion like you to get many things done for the Lord in my life. But I am telling you we have to wait for God's timing. God is not in a hurry. The greatness, the effectiveness, or the fruitfulness of our ministry is not measured in the duration, but in the fulfillment by faith of God's assignment.