

## **Spiritual Skills Build Wisdom; Doctrine of Divine Guidance, A1-B7**

This proverb stresses the coexistence between the sovereignty of God and the free will of man. Man sets his course toward the ultimate objective—experiential sanctification. God directs him in his daily encounters with immediate objectives. If man will plot his course by means of doctrine, God will guide him every step of the way. God wants us to get to Santa Fé, but the only way to arrive is to submit to the Father's leadership.

We plot our path by utilizing the two power options and perfecting the three spiritual skills. If we do our part, God will do His, for in human history the sovereignty of God and the free will of man coexist by divine decree. Divine sovereignty will guide you to Santa Fé if you make the volitional decision to use the divine operating assets imputed to get you there.

Free will plus knowledge of doctrine results in divine guidance. Divine guidance plus memory traces of successful application, results in wisdom. Human wisdom plus divine sovereignty enables the believer to safely arrive at his own spiritual Santa Fé.

If we facilitate resident memory traces and fine tune existing synaptic connections, we can construct constellations which result in wisdom. With wisdom we are able to fully utilize divine guidance in our lives, a doctrine we now need to study.

### **Doctrine of Divine Guidance**

#### **A. Introduction**

Throughout our study of the Santa Fé Trail we are going to encounter incidents which show the interplay between the free will of man and the sovereignty of God. There are two major doctrines which underlie this relationship: Divine Guidance and Divine Decrees. We will note both in our study of divine guidance. But remember before we start: following salvation and as we step out into the Christian way of life, we must keep our eyes on the ultimate objective of spiritual maturity—Santa Fé—while allowing God to lead the way day by day.

Between Kansas City and Santa Fé are countless exigencies we must not only encounter but conquer if we are to arrive at the ultimate objective. Handling these immediate objectives is the purpose of divine guidance, an asset which can only be maximized through spiritual growth.

#### **B. Definition**

Divine guidance is the result of the believer using his own inventory of doctrinal ideas to determine how to solve problems, make decisions, and assess exigencies on a day-by-day basis. Divine guidance is how God leads and guides the believer toward the ultimate objective by means of resident divine thought in his soul.

Obviously then, divine guidance is the byproduct of the believer's development of the three spiritual skills. Divine guidance has both a positive and a negative manifestation:

- a. Positive: Leadership and guidance through the doctrines of Scripture.
- b. Negative: Infliction of goads and the administration of divine discipline both of which result in pain and suffering, either mental or physical or both.

To these may be added the concept of wisdom. Man is able to develop the ability to anticipate potential difficulties in life through discernment, doctrinal instincts built on past experiences, and observation of divine policies. But the central source of all divine guidance comes from doctrine resident in the stream of consciousness. There is no other source of direct contact with divine will or divine revelation in the Church Age.