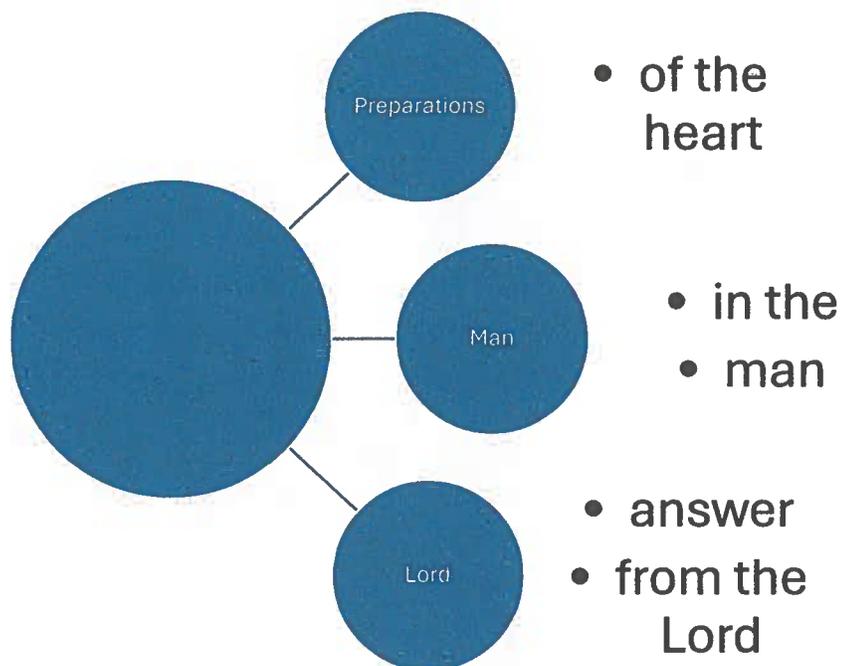


## Proverbs 16



**Message:** The Lord gives the right answer, examines motives, and that the Lord determines our steps. The main message of Proverbs 16 is that while humans plan, God has the ultimate say, and true success comes from committing your ways to Him, seeking wisdom (more valuable than riches), and embracing humility, as pride leads to a fall, while righteousness and trust in the Lord bring blessing and stability. It emphasizes God's sovereignty over human endeavors, urging reliance on Him for direction, not self-sufficiency.

### Key Themes

- **God's Sovereignty vs. Human Plans:** Humans make plans, but the Lord directs their steps (Proverbs 16:1,9).

- **Committing Work to the Lord:** Entrusting your work to God ensures your plans will succeed (Proverbs 16:3).
- **God's Evaluation:** God weighs motives, not just appearances; He detests pride and arrogance (Proverbs 16:2,4,5).
- **Value of Wisdom & Righteousness:** Wisdom and integrity are more valuable than gold; fearing God turns you from evil (Proverbs 16:8,16, 12).
- **Humility & Pride:** Better to be humble and poor than proud and rich; pride precedes destruction (Proverbs 16:18, 19).
- **Righteous Leadership:** Good leaders are just, honest, and love truthful counsel, unlike oppressive rulers (Proverbs 16:10–15).

In essence, Proverbs 16 teaches that acknowledging God's ultimate authority in all aspects of life—from personal plans to leadership—and living righteously with humility, rather than pride, leads to true prosperity and God's favor.

## God Directs our Path

God directs our path in the Bible primarily through His word (the Bible as a lamp), the guidance of the Holy Spirit, prayer, wise counsel, and by establishing our steps as we acknowledge Him in all things, meaning we trust Him with our plans, and His purpose prevails, even through closed doors or hardships, leading us toward His will.

### Key Biblical Principles

- **Proverbs 3:5-6:** *"Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all*

*your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths” (NIV/ESV).*

- **Psalm 119:105:** *“Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path”.*
- **Proverbs 16:9:** *“The heart of man plans his way, but the LORD establishes his steps”.*
- **Psalm 32:8:** *“I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with my eye upon you”.*

### **How God Guides**

<b>His Word</b>	<b>Provides foundational truth and moral guidance, illuminating the way forward.</b>	<b>The Bible</b>
The Holy Spirit	Guides believers into truth and helps understand God’s will, often subtle “bending”: hearts toward Him or preventing wrong turns.	Acts 16:7
Prayer & Acknowledgment	Bringing decisions to God in prayer and acknowledging Him in every aspect of life invites His direction.	
Godly Counsel	Wise advice from mature believers can offer clarity.	Acts 15:28
Sovereignty & Purpose	God’s ultimate purpose prevails (Proverbs 19:21), and He can use detours, closed doors, or	Proverbs 19:21 and Romans 8:28

	hardships to redirect us for His ends.	
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### **Our Role:**

- **Trust & Submission:** Instead of relying solely on our own understanding, we surrender our plans to God.
- **Obedience:** Following His revealed will and commands.
- **Faith:** Believing He will guide, even when the path isn't fully clear.

### **Genesis 31:2-16 5 Ways God Directs Believers Today**

1. **Scripture is the primary means of divine guidance.** The bible is inspired, authoritative, inerrant, infallible-we often use these rich and meaningful words to describe the confidence we have in the Bible. "Your word is a lamp for my feet and a light on my path" (Ps. 119:105).
2. **The Holy Spirit inspire men of old to write the Scriptures,** through illumination He enables believers today to understand truth and He directs us in doing God's will. "But the counselor, the Holy spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and remind you of everything I have told you" (John 14:26, John 16:13, Acts 13:2, Acts 15:28 and Acts 16:7).
3. **Godly Counsel:** The Book of Proverbs makes a strong case for seeking the godly counsel of others:  
"Without guidance, a people will fall, but with many counselors there is deliverance" (Proverbs 11:14).  
"A fool's way is right in his own eyes, but whoever listens to counsel is wise". (12:15).

“Plans fail when there is no counsel, but with many advisers they succeed” (15:22).

“Listen to counsel and receive instruction so that you may be wise later in life” (19:20).

“For you should wage war with sound guidance—victory comes with many counselors” (24:6).

4. Common Sense: God gave us brains, and He expects us to use them to make sound judgments. Of course we must not lean on human understanding alone (Proverbs 3:5-6). But when we are yielded to the Spirit of God, He helps us think clearly and sensibly. He will guide our minds as we walk in a close relationship with Him.

First Peter 4:7 tells us to “be alert and sober-minded.” “Sober minded” translates the Greek verb *sophroneo*, which means “to be of sound mind, to be reasonable, sensible, or in one’s right mind.” In other words, use your God-given common sense.

- “Learn to be shrewd, you who are inexperienced, develop common sense, you who are foolish” (Proverbs 8:5).
- “For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but one of power, love, and sound judgment” (2 Timothy 1:7).

5. Circumstances: Though we may not realize it at the time, sometimes we can look back and see how God was working in our circumstances to accomplish His will in our lives. Take an example from the Book of Acts. How did Paul and Silas end up sitting in the house of the Philippian jailor, eating and rejoicing with

a family of new believers? (Acts 16:34) It was not the result of some heavenly vision, nor by the Spirit's prompting. In addition, the sovereignty of God would rule out coincidence. Paul and Silas got there through all the circumstances described in Acts 16:16-33. Seeing the whole story, we are able to say it was a God thing.

- "You planned evil against me; God planned it for good... (Gen. 50:20).
- "We know that all things work together for the good of those who love God, who are called according to his purpose" (Rom. 8:28).

"He leadeth me: O blessed thought! O words with heavenly comfort fraught! Whate'er I do, where'er I be, still 'tis God's hand that leadeth me."