



Jesus said – Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. Matt 6:13

What are your plans for next year or next week? Or even tomorrow? Do you struggle to know what the right direction is or how to choose between different paths? Have you tried praying about your future plans or choices? Or even asked God what his direction for your life would be? Jesus showed that trust in God is crucial but along with that trust comes a freedom from worry and a deep peace. To keep in touch with God's voice directing his steps Jesus regularly prayed and listened for direction.

Then he went up on a mountain where he could be alone and pray. Later that evening, he was still there. Matt 14:23

Stay awake and pray that you won't be tested. You want to do what is right, but you are weak. Matt 26:41

Again Jesus went to pray and said, "My Father, if there is no other way, and I must suffer, I will still do what you want." Matt 26:42

But more than anything else, put God's work first and do what he wants. Then the other things will be yours as well. Don't worry about tomorrow. It will take care of itself. You have enough to worry about today. Matt 6:33

Try finding direction from reading the Gospels prayerfully. Here are some pointers to useful texts.

Abuse: Mark 9:42	Possessions: Luke 12:13-21
Afraid: Mark 4:35-41	Priorities: Luke 10:38-42
Children: Mark 10:13-16	Reconciliation: Luke 15:11-32
Confidence: Matt 5:13-16	Reliability: Matt 5:33-37
Divorce: Matt 19:1-12	Responsibility: Matt 25:14-30
Eternity: John 4:13-14	Revenge: Matt 5:38-48
Faith: Luke 7:1-10	Sacrifice: Luke 9:23-25
Forgiveness: Luke 6:37	Security: Matt 6:19-34
Generosity: Mark 12:41-44	Speech: Luke 6:45
Giving: Luke 6:38	Status: Mark 9:33-37
Hypocrisy: Luke 6:41-42	Tempted: Matt 4:1-11
Impossibilities: Luke 1:37	Tired: Matt 11:28-30
Neighbours: Luke 10:25-37	Values: Luke 16:15
Peace: John 16:33	Worry: Luke 12:22-34

Help make a decision by examining each choice in detail. Narrow down your options to two or three and draw the following grid for each option with squares large enough to write notes in.

	me	others
short term pluses	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
long term pluses	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
short term minuses	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
long term minuses	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

Pray that God would help you see the right way forward.

ASK GOD TO SHOW YOU WHERE TO STEP JUST FOR TODAY OR FOR WISDOM FOR RIGHT NOW.

Once a month set aside time and find a place for:

**SOLITUDE
SILENCE &
STILLNESS**

In the middle of the night or early in the morning is a good time. Keep your thoughts focused and when you've asked God your question – listen for answers.

Consider praying this powerful prayer called **The Methodist Covenant Prayer.**

I am no longer my own but yours.
Put me to what you will,
rank me with whom you will;
put me to doing, put me to suffering;
let me be employed for you or laid aside for you,
exalted for you or brought low for you;
let me be full, let me be empty,
let me have all things, let me have nothing;
I freely and wholeheartedly yield all things to your pleasure and disposal.

And now, glorious and blessed God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, you are mine and I am yours. So be it. And the covenant made on earth, let it be ratified in heaven. Amen