

HOW CAN I BE SURE I'M DOING WHAT THE LORD WOULD HAVE ME TO DO?

to answer this question...

I. WE NEED TO MAKE SURE FIRST OF ALL THAT WE ARE SAVED

When a person is unsaved he does not have spiritual discernment (I Cor. 2:14). Therefore, it is impossible for a person to know what God wants him to do if the Holy Spirit does not indwell him and direct him.

He that is spiritual, that is indwelt and controlled by the Holy Spirit, is able to judge all things (I Cor. 2:15). In other words he is able to sift through the evidence presented and come to a proper conclusion because he has spiritual discernment.

Notice also the Holy Spirit will guide the Christian who is surrendered to do God's will. This truth is illustrated in the Apostle Paul's life (Acts 13:2,4; 15:28,29; 16:6,7; 20:28). In this respect we should understand that the Holy Spirit never directs us contrary to the Word of God.

II. WE NEED TO FIND OUT WHAT OUR SPIRITUAL GIFTS ARE

In finding our spiritual gifts we can determine what the Lord has equipped us to do. In this respect we can be sure the Lord is not wanting us to do something we are not capable of doing.

A study of I Cor. 12, Eph. 4, and Romans 12 will reveal some nineteen gifts which the Holy Spirit sovereignly gives to believers at the moment of salvation. These may be categorized into three groups as sign gifts, speaking gifts, and serving gifts. The sign gifts (tongues, interpretation of tongues, miracles, and healing) are not operative in our day.

Finding our spiritual gift or gifts is discovered as we get involved in the Lord's service. When we attempt to do, what the Lord has spiritually-gifted us to do, we will not only be successful in it, but we will find a sense of personal satisfaction in the course of it. We will also find that we will be a blessing to others in the exercise of our spiritual gifts.

At this point, in determining what the Lord would have us to do, we would do well to identify what our spiritual gifts are. Again, God doesn't want us to do things that we are not equipped to do.

III. WE NEED TO MAKE SURE WE'RE IN FELLOWSHIP WITH THE LORD AND SURRENDERED TO DO HIS WILL

If a person is not in fellowship with the Lord he is not going to be sensitive to the leading of the Holy Spirit in his life. Being out of fellowship means having some unconfessed sin and sin grieves the Holy Spirit (Eph. 4:30; I Jn. 1:6).

A Christian can be in fellowship and yet not be totally surrendered to do God's will. Finding God's will requires a surrendering of our own will and a genuine desire to do what God would have us to do (Jn. 7:17). If anyone is "willing to do" God's will then he will "know" God's will.

In conclusion you can be sure you're doing what God would have you to do if you're saved because the Holy Spirit will guide you in serving God.

Secondly you can be sure you're doing what God would have you to do because as you exercise your spiritual gifts you'll be successful, you'll be a blessing to others, and you'll get a blessing out of doing what you are spiritually-gifted to do.

Finally, you can be sure you're doing what the Lord would have you to do if you're in fellowship with the Lord and surrendered to do His will because He will lead you as the Good Shepherd in the ways He wants you to serve Him. And when you are where the Lord wants you to be and doing what He has called you to do then you will be a "happy camper" and know what it means to have an "abundant life."