

That is circumstances that you don't see a real meaning in. Now a circumstances may be something that deserves real consideration but usually there is a rational reason for it. ~~Yps/dps~~ Usually it isn't you happen to see a certain number or you happen to notice certain similarities or something like that or you find difficulties. God may give you the difficulties in order to strengthen you by overcoming them. Difficulties or ease are not the best way of getting guidance. We mentioned No. 3

3. Dreams or Visions. God has guided this way in the past. God may guide this way now but I ~~gss~~ feel that it is very rare that He does. And that in most cases the dreams & visions are ~~psa~~ the result of something in your own past experience, circumstances or ideas that your mind sort of brings together and ordinarily they are not a dependable way of seeking guidance. I don't think I mentioned No. 4

4. Casting Lots. But many have sought the Lord's leading thro casting lots,. You might find a similarity to Gideon's fleece. You hear many people say, I put out the fleece.- But when you read the story of Gideon, God had definitely commanded Gideon what he was to do . I don't think in the story, Gideon put out the fleece in order to see whether this was what he should do. He knew God had commanded it. He put the fleece out for 2 reasons. One reason was, he put it out in order to increase his certainty because God had ordered him to do what appeared/~~lms~~/ impossible. That tremendous horde of Midianites had the land absolutely in their control and Gideon and the rest of the Israelites were in terrible ^{oppression} ~~depression~~. It _{if} looked as tho to make an uprising would lead to complete disaster. And yet God had commanded him to do it. He knew God had commanded it, And I think the lesser reason he put out the fleece was this: He said, Oh God, you've commanded me to do an impossible thing. Show me that you are the God of the impossible by making the fleece wet and the area round it dry. And the next step, by making the fleece dry and the area around it wet. By showing an impossible act he strengthened Gideon's certainty that the Lord was going to do an im-~~possit/ps~~/ impossible thing through him. Well, in our age the Lord does not ordinarily order what is impossible and we have no right to order God to do another impossible thing to strengthen our faith. But in the case of Gideon, I think an even more important reason for his putting out the fleece was in order to be a sign to the people that they should