

Often this takes the form of providential guidance. God will close the doors if they are to do this or to do that. We are told by some that it is everyone's duty to be a foreign missionary unless God closes the doors, that everyone should consider that he should start immediately for the foreign field unless God in some way closes the doors. Then if God closes the doors for that, then he has liberty to serve God in this country.

Let us not be misunderstood at this point. The analogy of God as the great general does certainly have elements of truth in it. God sees the whole past and the whole future, knows the whole situation in a way we can never possibly know, can work the tangled strands of our lives into a beautiful symphony in his own way. His thoughts are far above our thoughts, his ways beyond our ways. It is absurd to think of comparing our knowledge with his. Also it is true that he does guide, often in very mysterious ways. He leads with queer internal intuitions at times. He leads by providential leading at times. Yet the thing I would like to stress is that these methods of leading are rare. They come so seldom that we are to test them ~~what~~ very carefully to be absolutely sure that any such assumed leading really is the leading of God's spirit. In general, the position in which God has placed us in this world is utterly different from that of the private soldier in the trench. God has given us a great commission. He has given us a task to perform. He gives us a certain amount of intelligence to use in order to undertake to carry out his task. He does not say to us, "You are to become like automatons, to move right or left or forward or back as I give the signals." ~~But~~ What he says is rather, "If any man lack wisdom, let him ask of God who giveth liberally and upbraideth not, and it shall be given unto him." God wishes us to use the intelligence we have. He also wishes to give us more intelligence as we ask him in faith for it. He places us in a situation here in which he expects us