

500 the objectionable duties in a spirit of submission and helpfulness. They are
501 being qualified to fill places where their disciplined abilities will make them
502 of the greatest service.

503 Some God trains by bringing to them disappointment and apparent failure. It is
504 His purpose that they shall learn to master difficulty. He inspires them with a
505 determination to make every apparent failure prove a success.

506 Often men pray and weep because of the perplexities and obstacles that
507 confront them. But if they will hold the beginning of their confidence steadfast
508 unto the end, He will make their way clear. Success will come to them as they
509 struggle against apparently insurmountable difficulties; and with success will
510 come the greatest joy.

511 Many are ignorant of how to work for God, not because they need to be
512 ignorant, but because they are not willing to submit to His training process.
513 Moab is spoken of as a failure because, the Word declares, he "hath been at
514 ease from his youth, . . . and hath not been emptied from vessel to vessel,
515 therefore his taste remained in him, and his scent is not changed." (Jeremiah
516 48:11.)

517 Thus it is with those whose hereditary and cultivated tendencies to wrong are
518 not purged from them. Their hearts are not cleansed from defilement. They
519 were given opportunity to do a work for God, but this work they did not
520 choose to do, because they wished to carry out their own plans.

521 The Christian is to be prepared for the doing of a work that reveals kindness,
522 forbearance, longsuffering, gentleness, patience. The cultivation of these
523 precious gifts is to come into the discipline-life of the Christian, that when
524 called to service by the Master, he may be ready to exercise the energies of
525 heart and mind in helping and blessing those who are ready to die.—Ms 79,
526 1903, pp. 1-3. ("How God Trains His Workers," August 4, 1903.)—
527 *Manuscript Releases*, Vol. 8, 422.1-424.1

528

529 GEORGE MÜLLER'S FIVE STEP PLAN

530

- 531 1. Chose to have no will of your own.
- 532 2. God's direction will always be in harmony with His word.
- 533 3. God's direction will often be accompanied by His opening providences.
- 534 4. God's direction will always be accompanied by His peace.
- 535 5. God's leading can always be explained to godly mature Christians.

536

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GUIDANCE

"Collected Thoughts"
Compiled by Dan Augsburger

INTRODUCTION

1 *"The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord..."*

2

3 Learning how to determine God's will is one of the more important lessons in
4 obtaining answers to prayer and knowing God's blessings in the Christian life.
5 The following Scriptures and thoughts should be helpful in seeking
6 to understand this subject.

7

8

9

GOD'S WILL AND PRAYER

10

11 1 John 5:14,15 "And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask
12 any thing according to his will, he heareth us: And if we know that he hear us,
13 whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of
14 him."

15

16 1 John 3:22 "And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his
17 commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight."

18

19 "He makes it plain that our asking must be according to God's will; we must
20 ask for the things that He has promised, and whatever we receive must be used
21 in doing His will. The conditions met, the promise is unequivocal." *Education*,
22 p. 257.7

23

24 "When we pray for earthly blessings, the answer to our prayer may be
25 delayed, or God may give us something other than we ask, but not so when we
26 ask for deliverance from sin. It is His will to cleanse us from sin, to make us
27 His children, and to enable us to live a holy life." *Desire of Ages*, p. 266.2

28

29

30 THE BIBLE AND KNOWING GOD'S WILL

31

32 1. God wants His will to be perfectly accomplished in our lives:

33

34 Colossians 4:12 "That ye may stand perfect and complete in all the will
35 of God."

36
37 2. Jesus always sought to do His Father's will:
38
39 John 4:34 "My meat is to do the will of Him who sent me."
40
41 John 5:30 "I seek not my own will, but the will of Him who sent me."
42
43 3. God is willing to give wisdom:
44
45 James 1:5 "If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to
46 all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him."
47
48 Psalm 32: 8: "I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should
49 go."
50
51 4. Accepting God's direction brings true and enduring happiness.
52
53 Prov. 16:20 "He who heeds the word wisely will find good, and whoever
54 trusts in the LORD, happy is he."
55
56 John 13:17 "If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them."
57
58 Ps. 34:8 "Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good; blessed is the
59 man who trusts in Him!"
60
61 Ps. 119:1,2 "Blessed are the undefiled in the way, who walk in the law
62 of the LORD! Blessed are those who keep His testimonies, who seek
63 Him with the whole heart!"
64
65 Ps. 128:1 "Blessed is every one who fears the LORD, who walks in His
66 ways."
67
68 Rev. 22:14 "Blessed are those who do His commandments, that they
69 may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter through the gates
70 into the city."
71
72 5. We must be completely open to whatever God wants. To do so, it is best to
73 have no will of our own on the matter:
74
75 Luke 9:23 "If any man will come after Me, let him deny himself, take up
76 his cross daily, and follow Me."
77
78 6. God will never lead contrary to what is taught in the Bible:
79
80 Isaiah 8:20: "To the law and to the testimony! If they do not
81 speak according to this word, it is because there is no light in them."
82

453 216.3
454
455 "All who have determined to serve God will seek to know and to do his will,
456 at whatever cost to themselves. The true servants of God will be made
457 manifest by their willing obedience to all the commandments of their Master.
458 They will not be murmuring and finding fault with the law, but will declare by
459 word and action, "This is the love of God, that we keep his commandments;
460 and his commandments are not grievous." In obeying the law, they are doing
461 that which is well-pleasing in the sight of Heaven, and all the promises of the
462 word of God are pledged to the support of the faithful and obedient. They may
463 hope in his mercy, build on his immutable counsels, obtain the desires of their
464 hearts, because their wills are placed on the side of God's will. It is their meat
465 to do the will of God and to finish his work. The gates of the eternal city shall
466 open for the nation that has kept the truth. The servants of God shall eat of the
467 tree of life, and enjoy the unsearchable riches of eternity."—*Signs of the*
468 *Times*, January 6, 1888 par 5
469
470 *We Must Accept God's Training Experiences*
471 "Christ has given to every man his work, and we are to acknowledge the
472 wisdom of the plan He has made for us by a hearty cooperation with Him. It is
473 in a life of service only that true happiness is found. He who lives a useless,
474 selfish life is miserable. He is dissatisfied with himself and with everyone else.
475 True, unselfish, consecrated workers gladly use their highest gifts in the
476 lowliest service. They realize that true service means to see and to perform the
477 duties that God points out.
478 There are many who are not satisfied with the work that God has given them.
479 They are not satisfied to serve Him pleasantly in the place that He has marked
480 out for them, or to do uncomplainingly the work that He has placed in their
481 hands.
482 It is right for us to be dissatisfied with the way in which we perform duty, but
483 we are not to be dissatisfied with the duty itself, because we would rather do
484 something else. In His providence God places before human beings service
485 that will be as medicine to their diseased minds. Thus He seeks to lead them to
486 put aside the selfish preferences which, if cherished, would disqualify them for
487 the work He has for them. If they accept and perform this service, their minds
488 will be cured. But if they refuse it, they will be left at strife with themselves
489 and with others.
490 The Lord disciplines His workers, so that they will be prepared to fill the
491 places appointed them. He desires to mold their minds in accordance with His
492 will. For this purpose He brings to them test and trial. Some He places where
493 relaxed discipline and over-indulgence will not become their snare, where they
494 are taught to appreciate the value of time, and to make the best and wisest use
495 of it.
496 There are some who desire to be a ruling power, and who need the
497 sanctification of submission. God brings about a change in their lives, and
498 perhaps places before them duties that they would not choose. If they are
499 willing to be guided by Him, He will give them grace and strength to perform

406 with success. Those who know how to pray, who know what are the
407 invitations of the gospel of Christ, show dishonor to God when they lay their
408 burdens upon finite men. It is always right to counsel together; it is right to
409 converse together; it is right to make the difficulties that present themselves in
410 any enterprise plain before your brethren and your ministers. But do not
411 depend upon man for wisdom. Seek God for the wisdom that comes from
412 above. Ask your fellow laborers to pray with you; and the Lord will fulfill his
413 word, "Where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the
414 midst." —*Youth Instructor*, February 15, 1900

415

416 *We Must Accept His Direction*

417 "It is in neglecting to follow the exact directions of the word of God that many
418 err. They turn away from God's plans, to follow their own ideas. Christ
419 himself declared, "The Son of Man can do nothing of himself, but what he
420 seeth the Father do; for what things soever he doeth, these also doeth the Son
421 likewise." So utterly was he emptied of self that he made no plans for himself.
422 He accepted God's plan for him, and day by day the Father unfolded his plans.
423 If Jesus was so wholly dependent, declaring, "I do nothing of myself," how
424 much more should the human agents depend upon God for constant
425 instruction, so that their lives might be the simple working out of God's will.
426 Oh, that failing, erring mortals would be content to seek wisdom from God,
427 and be entirely submissive in working out his directions, in exemplifying his
428 character! If ever mortals needed to send to heaven an earnest cry, "Lord,
429 show me thy way; teach me the way of the Lord," it is now. Only those will
430 have a fitness for the mansions above who give to God full and implicit
431 obedience. God knows that we would not appreciate his rarest gifts if we were
432 not perfectly submissive to his will."—*Signs of the Times*, November 21, 1892
433 par. 2

434

435 "We must not study to have our own way, but God's way and God's will. . . .
436 Human beings suffer much because they step out of the path that God has
437 chosen for them to follow. They walk in the sparks of the fire they themselves
438 have kindled, and the sure result is affliction, unrest, and sorrow, which they
439 might have avoided if they had submitted their will to God. . . . Whatever path
440 God chooses for us, whatever way He ordains for our feet, that is the only path
441 of safety. . . . With the eye of faith, with childlike submission as obedient
442 children, we must look to God, to follow His guidance, and difficulties will
443 clear away. The promise is, "I will instruct thee and teach thee."—*Sons and*
444 *Daughters of God*, p. 175.5

445

446 "When the students in our schools shall learn to like God's will, they will find
447 it comparatively easy to do it."—*Fundamentals of Christian Education*, p.
448 293.2

449

450 "God's will is to be diligently and conscientiously studied, and it must be
451 made paramount in all the affairs of life. The laws which every human agent is
452 to obey flow from the heart of infinite love."—*Selected Messages*, Vol. 2, p.

83 7. God will providentially direct us by opening and closing doors:

84

85 Proverbs 3:6: "In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will
86 direct your paths."

87

88 8. We may not understand all the steps, but God will both prepare and direct
89 us for whatever He has in mind—like He did for Daniel who didn't always
90 understand what was going on:

91

92 2 Sam. 22:33 "God is my strength and power, and He makes my way
93 perfect."

94

95 Heb. 13:20-21 "Now may the God of peace who brought up our Lord
96 Jesus from the dead, that great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood
97 of the everlasting covenant, 21 make you complete in every good work
98 to do His will, working in you what is well pleasing in His sight, through
99 Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen."

100

101 9. When God is leading, His peace will rule in our hearts. Lack of peace is an
102 important indicator that what we are pursuing may not be God's will, or that it
103 is not yet God's time:

104

105 Col. 3:15: "And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also
106 you were called in one body; and be thankful."

107

108 10. It is often wise to share God's leadings with a mature and surrendered
109 Christian, to ascertain if we are correctly understanding God's leading:

110

111 Proverbs 11:14 "In the multitude of counselors there is safety."

112

113 11. As God leads us forward He often only shows us one step at a time.

114

115 Isa. 30:21 "Your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, 'This is the
116 way, walk in it, whenever you turn to the right hand whenever you turn
117 to the left.'"

118

119 12. Confirmation—NOT direction—is sometimes gained in seeking a fleece.

120

121 "Look, I shall put a fleece of wool on the threshing floor; if there is dew
122 on the fleece only, and it is dry on all the ground, then I shall know that
123 You will save Israel by my hand, as You have said." Judges 6:37

124

125

OTHER QUOTATIONS

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God Reveals His Will Three Ways

“There are three ways in which the Lord reveals His will to us, to guide us, and to fit us to guide others. How may we know His voice from that of a stranger? How shall we distinguish it from the voice of a false shepherd? God reveals His will to us in His word, the Holy Scriptures. His voice is also revealed in His providential workings; and it will be recognized if we do not separate our souls from Him by walking in our own ways, doing according to our own wills, and following the promptings of an unsanctified heart, until the senses have become so confused that eternal things are not discerned, and the voice of Satan is so disguised that it is accepted as the voice of God.

Another way in which God’s voice is heard is through the appeals of His Holy Spirit, making impressions upon the heart, which will be wrought out in the character. If you are in doubt upon any subject you must first consult the Scriptures. If you have truly begun the life of faith you have given yourself to the Lord to be wholly His, and He has taken you to mold and fashion according to His purpose, that you may be a vessel unto honor. You should have an earnest desire to be pliable in His hands and to follow whithersoever He may lead you. You are then trusting Him to work out His designs, while at the same time you are co-operating with Him by working out your own salvation with fear and trembling. You, my brother, will find difficulty here because you have not yet learned by experience to know the voice of the Good Shepherd, and this places you in doubt and peril. You ought to be able to distinguish His voice.”—*Testimonies* Vol. 5, p. 512.1,2

You Must Trust God

“Many who profess to be Christ’s followers have an anxious, troubled heart, because they are afraid to trust themselves with God. They do not make a complete surrender to Him; for they shrink from the consequences that such a surrender may involve. Unless they do make this surrender, they cannot find peace.... Worry is blind, and cannot discern the future; but Jesus sees the end from the beginning. In every difficulty He has His way prepared to bring relief. ‘No good thing will He withhold from them that walk uprightly.’ Our heavenly Father has a thousand ways to provide for us of which we know nothing. Those who accept the one principle of making the service of God supreme, will find perplexities vanish, and a plain path before their feet.”—*Ministry of Healing*, pp 480, 481

“Let students seek heavenly direction much more than they have done hitherto, and let them make no move, even though it be advised by their teachers, unless they have most humbly sought wisdom from God, and have received his guidance and counsel.”—*Special Testimonies on Education*, p. 125

359 according to the direction of the Giver; and by each an account of his
360 stewardship must be rendered to God.”—*Loma Linda Messages*, p. 257.5
361
362 “One great object in the mission of Christ was to establish in every believer a
363 sense of the guiding and controlling power of God. This lesson is to be
364 repeated again and again. No greater injury can be done to our churches than
365 for members to be taught to look to their fellowmen for guidance. And there is
366 no man so humble in heart and so respectful of his brethren that he can safely
367 take upon himself this work.”—*Loma Linda Messages*, p. 212
368
369 “Never should a worker encourage one who is in need of instruction and help
370 to go first to human agencies for an understanding of his duty. It is our
371 privilege as laborers to pray together and to counsel together; but we are
372 individually to seek God to know what he would have us do. When the Lord
373 impresses the mind of one of his servants that he is to go to a certain place to
374 labor, that man is not under obligation to go to a human being to know if it is
375 right for him to do this. It is a wrong education to teach our people to lean on
376 human aids, instead of going to the Lord in prayer. The enemy of souls has
377 been the instigator of this, that minds might become obscured. The people are
378 not to be instructed differently. God's people are to meet together in counsel,
379 but no leader or worker is to take the position that God's children are to make
380 no move until he is first consulted. Those who bear responsibilities in the
381 work are to co-operate with heavenly angels in teaching men and women to
382 look to God as the source of their strength.”—*Spaulding and Magan*
383 *Collection*, p. 415
384
385 “God would have you united in pleasant cords of companionship. As the
386 Lord's workmen, you are to open your plans one to another. These plans must
387 be carefully and prayerfully considered, for the Lord will leave those who do
388 not do this to stumble in their own supposed wisdom and superior greatness.
389 [John 15:16, 17, quoted.]
390 One person must not suppose that his wisdom is beyond making any mistake.
391 God would have the greatest cherish that humility that will lead him to be the
392 servant of all if duty thus orders it.
393 But while you are to love as brethren, and think soul to soul, heart to heart, life
394 to life, you are individually to lean your whole weight on God. He will be in
395 your support. He is not pleased when you depend on each other for light and
396 wisdom and direction. The Lord must be our wisdom. Individually we must
397 know that He is our sanctification and our redemption. To Him we may look,
398 in Him we may trust. He will be to us a present help in every time of need.”—
399 *Manuscript Releases*, Vol. 21, p. 337
400
401 “In the place of bearing your perplexities to a brother or a minister, take them
402 to the Lord in prayer. Do not place the minister where God should be. The
403 minister of Christ is like other men. True, he bears sacred responsibilities, but
404 he is not infallible. He is compassed with infirmity, and needs grace and
405 divine enlightenment. He needs the heavenly unction, in order to do his work

312 trade upon, I will be thy faithful steward, doing all in my power to bring meat
313 to thy house, and I will seek to instruct others how to work in the same
314 lines.”—*Kress Collection*, p. 156.1,2

315
316 *Tips on Selecting a Marriage Partner*

317 “If men and women are in the habit of praying twice a day before
318 they contemplate marriage, they should pray four times a day when such
319 a step is anticipated. Marriage is something that will influence and affect your
320 life, both in this world and in the world to come. A sincere Christian will not
321 advance his plans in this direction without the knowledge that God approves
322 his course. He will not want to choose for himself, but will feel that God must
323 choose for him. We are not to please ourselves, for Christ pleased not Himself.
324 I would not be understood to mean that anyone is to marry one whom he does
325 not love. This would be sin. But fancy and the emotional nature must not be
326 allowed to lead on to ruin. God requires the whole heart, the supreme
327 affections.”—*Messages to Young People*, p. 460

328
329 *The Principle of Personal Responsibility*

330 "In all our dealings with one another, God desires us carefully to guard the
331 principle of personal responsibility to and dependence upon Him."—*Loma*
332 *Linda Messages*, p. 258.1

333
334 “If we are to be co-laborers with God, we must hold direct communion with
335 Him: we must ask His guidance in everything we undertake. We cannot
336 commit to another the explanation, or ask them to direct us. But how few
337 know what it is to hold intercourse with God. How readily some place the
338 responsibility of their duty on others, and ask them to tell them what to do. We
339 say to all such, You must know your duty from God. Many have depended on
340 their fellow-men until they have no individual experience. They are towed
341 along as a barge by a steamer.

342 All must see and understand their duty for themselves, after seeking wisdom
343 from God. He is the only one to whom you may commit your soul for safe-
344 keeping. If you come to Him in faith, he will speak His mysteries to you
345 personally. You may sit together in heavenly places with Christ. We may
346 individually understand God’s will; we may know for ourselves what He
347 would have us do; for He will direct us if we will consent to be consecrated
348 and humble in heart before him. Our hearts will oft burn within us as One
349 draws nigh to commune with us as He did with Enoch. “Who is this that
350 darkeneth counsel by words without knowledge.” We need Him who is the
351 true light that lighteth every man that cometh into the world.”—*Manuscript*
352 *Releases*, Vol. 6, p. 381.,23

353
354 "God desires to bring men into direct relation with Himself. In all His dealing
355 with human beings, He recognizes the principles of personal responsibility. He
356 seeks to encourage a sense of personal dependence, and to increase the need of
357 personal guidance. His gifts are committed to men as individuals. Every man
358 has been made a steward of sacred trusts; each is to discharge his trust,

171 “Too many, in planning for a brilliant future, make an utter failure. Let
172 God plan for you. As a little child, trust to the guidance of Him who will
173 “keep the feet of His saints.” God never leads His children otherwise than
174 they would choose to be led, if they could see the end from the beginning,
175 and discern the glory of the purpose which they are fulfilling as
176 coworkers with Him.”—*Ministry of Healing*, p 479

177
178 “Worry is blind, and cannot discern the future, but Jesus sees the end from the
179 beginning. In every difficulty He has His way prepared to bring relief. Our
180 heavenly Father has a thousand ways to provide for us, of which we know
181 nothing. Those who accept the one principle of making the service and honor
182 of God supreme will find perplexities vanish, and a plain path before their
183 feet.” *Desire of Ages*, p 330

184
185 “He gives “to every man his work.” Each has his place in the eternal plan of
186 heaven. Each is to work in co-operation with Christ for the salvation of souls.
187 Not more surely is the place prepared for us in the heavenly mansions than is
188 the special place designated on earth where we are to work for God.”—*Christ*
189 *Object Lessons*, p. 326

190
191 “As Christians, we ought not to engage in any employment upon which we
192 cannot conscientiously ask the blessing of the Lord.”—*Testimonies*, Vol. 4, p.
193 629.1

194
195 “I have been surprised at being asked by physicians if I did not think it would
196 be more pleasing to God for them to give up their medical practice and enter
197 the ministry. I am prepared to answer such an inquirer: If you are a Christian
198 and a competent physician, you are qualified to do tenfold more good as a
199 missionary for God than if you were to go forth merely as a preacher of the
200 word.”—*Counsels on Health*, p. 503.3

201
202 “To our people I will say, Let none be led from the sound, sensible principles
203 that God has laid down for the guidance of His people, to depend for direction
204 on any such device as the tossing up of a coin. Such a course is well pleasing
205 to the enemy of souls; for he works to control the coin, and through its agency
206 works out his plans. Let none be so easily deceived as to place confidence in
207 any such tests. Let none belittle their experience by resorting to cheap devices
208 for direction in important matters connected with the work of God.”—*Selected*
209 *Messages*, Vol. 2, p. 326.

210
211 I have no faith in casting lots. We have in the Bible a plain "Thus saith the
212 Lord" in regard to all church duties. . . . Read your Bibles with much prayer.
213 Do not try to humble others, but humble yourselves before God, and deal
214 gently with one another. To cast lots for the officers of the church is not in
215 God's order (Letter 37, 1900).”—*SDA Bible Commentary*, Vol. 6, p. 1054

216
217 “Each morning consecrate yourselves and your children to God for that day.

218 Make no calculation for months or years; these are not yours. One brief day is
219 given you. As if it were your last on earth, work during its hours for the
220 Master. Lay all your plans before God, to be carried out or given up, as His
221 providence shall indicate. Accept His plans instead of your own, even though
222 their acceptance requires the abandonment of cherished projects. Thus the life
223 will be molded more and more after the divine example; and 'the peace of
224 God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds
225 through Christ Jesus.'" —*Counsels to the Church*, p. 152.6

226
227 "All true obedience comes from the heart. It was heart work with Christ. And
228 if we consent, He will so identify Himself with our thoughts and aims, so
229 blend our hearts and minds into conformity to His will, that when obeying
230 Him we shall be but carrying out our own impulses. The will, refined and
231 sanctified, will find its highest delight in doing His service. When we know
232 God as it is our privilege to know Him, our life will be a life of continual
233 obedience. Through an appreciation of the character of Christ, through
234 communion with God, sin will become hateful to us. As Christ lived the law in
235 humanity, so we may do if we will take hold of the Strong for strength. But we
236 are not to place the responsibility of our duty upon others, and wait for them to
237 tell us what to do. We cannot depend for counsel upon humanity. The Lord
238 will teach us our duty just as willingly as He will teach somebody else. If we
239 come to Him in faith, He will speak His mysteries to us personally. Our hearts
240 will often burn within us as One draws nigh to commune with us as He did
241 with Enoch. Those who decide to do nothing in any line that will displease
242 God, will know, after presenting their case before Him, just what course to
243 pursue. And they will receive not only wisdom, but strength. Power for
244 obedience, for service, will be imparted to them, as Christ has promised.
245 Whatever was given to Christ--the "all things" to supply the need of fallen
246 men--was given to Him as the head and representative of humanity. And
247 'whatsoever we ask, we receive of Him, because we keep His commandments,
248 and do those things that are pleasing in His sight.'" 1 John 3:22."—*Desire of*
249 *Ages*, p. 668

250
251 "Those who turn away from the light which God has given, or who neglect to
252 seek it when it is within their reach, are left in darkness. But the Saviour
253 declares: "He that followeth Me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the
254 light of life." John 8:12. Whoever is with singleness of purpose seeking to do
255 God's will, earnestly heeding the light already given, will receive greater light;
256 to that soul some star of heavenly radiance will be sent to guide him into all
257 truth."—*Great Controversy*, p. 312.3

258
259 "...like the stars in the vast circuit of their appointed path, God's purposes
260 know no haste and no delay."—*A Call To Stand Apart*, p. 5.2

261 *Obeying God Regarding Employment Contracts*

262 "Human beings belong to the Lord, body, soul, and spirit, and they are to be
263 guided and controlled by him. He has bought us. We are under obligation to

265 be laborers together with him. No one should bind himself to serve for a
266 certain number of years in any institution.

267
268 I know that some have thought it advisable for the workers in our sanitariums
269 to sign certain contracts. But I know also that it is not in accordance with
270 God's plan for the workers to sign these contracts. They are pledged to God,
271 and if he moves upon them to take the message to a certain place, shall they be
272 bound by a pledge that hinders them from going? Never, never, We are not
273 our own, and we are not to bind ourselves to human beings by signing
274 contracts to do this or that. We are to work under our Master, Christ Jesus,
275 looking to him for directions. We are to pray and work and believe, following
276 always the course that he marks out."—*Spaulding Magan Collection*, p. 307.4

277 *Be Exact In Following Divine Arrangements With Tithe*

278
279 "You may say, I have not large means and can do but little with the little I
280 have. All the Lord asks of you is to be a faithful steward, to render to God a
281 tenth of all your increase without stopping to measure the matter to see how
282 you are coming out. You have but little means, render back to him the portion
283 belonging to him; for it is not yours. It is a serious matter to rob God. Thus
284 you deprive yourself of the blessing he has promised to bestow if you exercise
285 faithful stewardship. If you have been untrue to God, if you show that you will
286 not do according to the agreement he has made with you, will he bless you
287 with facilities of obtaining more means? You keep yourself under
288 condemnation as unfaithful stewards by working contrary to a "Thus saith the
289 Lord." You deprive the treasury of God of your proportion of his agreement
290 with you, because you choose to walk in the light of the sparks of your own
291 kindling. In your finite wisdom, you think you are making better terms with
292 yourself than God has made with you. How then, if you are unfaithful steward
293 with the least, can the Lord entrust to you larger responsibilities?

294
295 God wants all his stewards to be exact in following divine arrangements. They
296 are not to offset the Lord's plans with some deed of charity, some gift, or some
297 offering, done or given when and how, the human agents, shall see fit. God
298 has made his plan known, and all who co-operate with him will carry out his
299 plan, instead of daring to attempt to improve on it, by their own arrangements.
300 Those who honor a "Thus saith the Lord," who accept exactly what the Lord
301 has devised, will be according to God's plan. God will honor them, and work
302 in their behalf: For we have his pledged word that he will open the windows of
303 heaven and pour us out a blessing, such as there will not be room enough to
304 receive.

305
306 It is a very poor policy for men to seek to improve on God's plan, and invent a
307 makeshift, averaging up their good impulses in this and that instance, and
308 offsetting them against all that is required of God. God calls upon you to give
309 every jot of influence to his own arrangement and ordinances. We are to strike
310 true and faithful figures in tithing and then say to the Lord, I have done as thou
311 hast commanded me. If you will honor me by trusting me with thy goods to