

Means of Divine Guidance
Walter Beuttler

[Comments: 1) All scriptures are from the KJV except where noted; 2) This message has been transcribed word for word (from Beuttler's own teaching) as accurately as possible (due to the quality of the recording); 3) Beuttler had his own dictionary of favorite words he used throughout his messages, and they have been transcribed and spelled out accordingly; 4) Spelling on certain proper names, airports, hotels, locations, etc. may not be exact; 5) Messages were spoken late 1960's, early 1970's; 6) Beuttler was a Bible teacher at NBI (a.k.a. EBI, Eastern Bible Institute) for 32 years traveling worldwide since early 1950's until a year before he went to be with the Lord in 1974.]

As you know by now, we have been chatting with you concerning the very helpful subject of Divine Guidance. I do recognize that there are folk, and they appear to be on the increase, who no longer seem to feel their need to be led by God. But if you know your Bible at all, you will know that throughout the Word of God there are hundreds of occasions where men either have been led by God, or where in one form or another, the subject is definitely taught.

(Beginning of review from previous classes.)

As we have said already on one of these evenings, Jeremiah - that wonderful prophet of God - well knew the importance of being led by God, so one day he cried out to God,

“O Lord, I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps.” Jeremiah 10:23

What a wonderful sentiment! *This was a man who knew God, yet felt utterly dependent upon God.*

We have been talking about our need of being led by God. We have seen that we should know the will of God; that *we should aim for all of the will of God*; that *we can know the will of God*; that *we should learn to discern the will of God*.

We have also observed the fact that *God complains when His people do not seek counsel at the mouth of the Lord*. *God just does not like when we direct our lives independently of Him.*

Last night [message, “*Conditions for Divine Guidance*”] we noticed briefly the fact of *unconditional guidance* and the fact of *conditional guidance*. It is the latter that particularly occupies our attention.

We also noticed that we should be aware of *self-sufficiency*, of *insincerity*, of *disobedience* and of *impatience* with God in the matter of *ascertaining His will*.

I also emphasized last night quite strongly that people often say, “*Silence is consent,*” but I want to contradict that. While doubtless there are times when that may be true, I suppose it is, but it is certainly not true all the time, and *I would caution you against assuming that the silence of God necessarily denotes consent - quite the contrary.*

Sometimes when God sees that we are so persistent in having our own way, making our own choice, and then yet on top of it have the audacity to go to God and say, “*God, what is your will,*” when God knows we’ve already made the decision irrespective of what God’s will is, God may well in anger, at least in displeasure, simply keep still saying to Himself, “*What do you mean asking me for my will when you already have made your own decision irrespective of me?*” God gets insulted. God gets provoked. *To ask God for His will with such an attitude is an affront to God and in displeasure He might well say nothing.* We’ll only increase the offence. If we then assume silence is consent saying, “*Hallelujah, now I can do as I please,*” we suffer the consequences.

Last night I warned you against misinterpreting the silence of God for consent, or even for acquiescence. My friends, *sometimes the silence of God constitutes eloquent reproof. Do not proceed in presumption.*

We also observed last evening that we should not be as the horse or as the mule, which have no understanding, acting like animals. The horse is usually associated with warfare. *There are people, even Christians, who are at war with God.* They are at war with their circumstances. They are at war with themselves. That’s right. There’s a war going on. If we want to enjoy “*the guided life,*” there needs to be a spirit of submission, a will surrendered to God.

Remember what David said in Psalms 23, “**The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.**” I’m not giving that the meaning the little boy gave it in Sunday School. I assume you’ve heard it. It seems to be a common story. The teacher asked the boy to recite and he said, “*The Lord is my shepherd, I have all I want.*” Well, in a sense, that may be true. If we make the Lord our shepherd, if we enjoy what I would call “*the guided life,*” it might well be true that we have all we want, because we will no longer want what we’re not supposed to want.

“Delight thyself also in the Lord and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart” (Ps. 37:4). Now don’t say, “*Hallelujah! I’m going to delight myself in the Lord, then the Lord will give me a Cadillac, a diesellac and something else allac.*” No, No. You delight yourself in the Lord and all the desires, which are incongruous with the purpose of God, will be eliminated. They evaporate and all the desires that are in accordance with God will remain. That’s the beauty of it.

But here with “**The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want,**” I would suggest to you that only the fully “*guided life*” is a truly contented life. I think that’s what you have here in, “**The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.**” *Only the fully or completely guided life is a truly contented life.* I think that is probably the essence of that verse.

I have already told you that in these notes there is far, far more material than we're able to cover. Usually it takes me one week to go through these things about 3 hours a day in mostly overseas work, so I don't want you to be disappointed because I'm not covering everything. I'd have to be with you a week and then some.

Last night I had told you that this morning I wanted to chat with you about the means of guidance. I haven't covered all the conditions, but I want to touch on the means. Neither will I be able to talk with you about all of the means of divine guidance, so I have selected the most important.

(End of Review)

Some years ago I was crossing the Mediterranean over to Algeria for some ministry. We were going by boat, the interpreter and myself. I went to bed early, but close to midnight he came to my cabin and said, "*Brother Beuttler, would you like to get up and see the islands?*" You know that the islands are in the middle of the Mediterranean.

"*Oh sure, I didn't mind.*" So we got up and to my great delight, I saw a phenomena (if that is the word for it) of which I had heard, had read, but never observed. As we were approaching those islands, particularly the port of Palma, I noticed on the island, three very strong lights. They appeared to be a considerable distance from each other. The boat came alongside the island at some distance, then made a wide arc, came around toward the port and, as far as the eye could observe, those three lights that were so bright, so distinct at some distance from each other, seemed to be moving together. Now that was the way it appeared to be. They weren't moving together, but they appeared to. I saw as the boat turned, these three lights in the bow coming together, and together, and together and finally all I saw was one light. I thought, "*Hallelujah! Now I've seen it.*" I guess some of you have already caught on to what it is.

The three lights were built stationed on the island. By night it would be difficult for a pilot to get into that port and stay in the deep channel, so he takes his ship out and maneuvers it in such a way until he sees all three lights directly behind each other as though they were one. As long as he sees the one light, he knows his ship is on course into the harbor, and all he does is make sure he sees only the one light. If the light seemingly spreads apart, he knows that he's obviously over to the side and has to see to it that he follows what appears to be one light. As he follows that one light it's going to bring him safely into the harbor. I was so glad that it was my privilege to observe that in the middle of the night.

While God uses numerous means of guidance, I have listed eight for you. Even that list is not exhaustive, but we're going to use three of them. I can't do it all this morning. I think this morning I'll take one of the three and deal with the other two this evening.

But for now, *there are three lights which God has given to us to direct us.* Sometimes we move, as it were, in the dark and we need special help from God. The most important

means of guidance as I see it, and I doubt very much that anybody would challenge that, are (in order of importance I would judge)

- 1) The Word of God;
- 2) The Spirit of God;
- 3) Divine Providence.

The Word of God can guide us; the Spirit of God can guide us; divine providence can guide us, but we humans can make mistakes even in our interpretation of what appears to be divine guidance. So God in His wisdom, and I'll put it this way, has given us *three lights*: The Word, the Spirit and divine providence. With these three, we have what might be called a factor of safety, namely He's giving us three lights so that when we're in difficulty and want to be extra sure of moving in God, *when the Word, and the Spirit and divine providence agree as one, you don't have much to worry about*. In fact you need not worry. *If the Word of God gives light or guides, the Spirit of God bears witness to the same thing, and divine providence through our circumstances adds up to the same thing, you have a three-fold factor of safety and can be reasonably sure that this must be God.*

Quite some years ago when our ships didn't have these modern gadgets of navigation as they do today, I came on a boat. I like to learn and look around. I pick up a lot of information in my traveling. I asked permission to go to the pilothouse and it was granted. While there I noticed that over the wheel in front of the wall there were *three clocks*, time clocks. They all gave exactly the same time. Being nosy and curious, inquisitive, wanting to learn, I said, "*Will you tell me why you have three clocks to tell you the time? Isn't one good enough?*"

He said, "*Oh no! In order to fix our position we need to be absolutely sure of our time. One clock might go wrong without our noticing it and if we base our position on the wrong time, there could be disaster. Two clocks perchance might go wrong at the same time, not likely, but it could be possible two clocks might be wrong. But we're not even depending on two clocks. We use three clocks on the theory that it is most improbable, extremely unlikely (although I wouldn't say impossible, but extremely unlikely) that all three clocks will go wrong at the same time. Therefore as long as the three clocks show the same time, we do not fear that something is wrong with the clocks and we can set our course or fix our position accordingly.*"

For illustration, *God has given us three clocks like with the lights*. We have,

- 1) The Word,
- 2) The Spirit and,
- 3) Divine Providence.

When all three clocks say the same thing, you don't have to spend another week in fasting and prayer. You might as well eat and go on your way in accordance with the three clocks.

This morning I want to touch particularly on *the second one*. I think we can work it best that way considering the time, and that is guidance by the Spirit of God. Of course you might think, "*What if the Spirit leads and that's the end of it and there shouldn't be any necessary confirmation?*" Well now, it's possible for us to misinterpret some things.

One year I was on Long Island and attended a church, a very large church. The pastor knew me, but I didn't want to preach. I wanted to go on a "*bus mentality*." Do you know what that is? That's when a bus driver rides somebody else's bus just for the fun of it. I was afraid I'd be asked to speak, and was particularly afraid because I had a message. I just knew I had a message, but I didn't want to preach. I wanted a holiday. My, *it's hard for preachers to get a holiday!* Isn't that right, brother? Whew! It's a job to escape the job.

I have to do it overseas. I told the missionary in Tokyo last time when I went. He said to me, "*Brother Beuttler, anytime you pass through Tokyo be sure to give me a ring and we'll have you stay in our home.*" I know what that means. Let's have a meeting tonight.

I said, "*Brother, when I pass through Tokyo none of you ever know it. I've been here time and again, but never called you up.*"

"*Do you mean you stop in this city and don't contact us?*"

I said, "*That's right. I go down to my hotel and make a rest stop for a day or two. I want to be left alone.*" That's *the only way* I can operate. It's the same down in Rio de Janeiro.

The missionary said, "*I heard you were in town.*"

"*That's right.*"

"*And you never called me.*"

"*No.*"

"*Why not?*"

"*I wanted to be left alone for just 24 hours.*"

If you don't do that you'll go coo coo after awhile. I don't want to go coo coo. It's the same with Honolulu. I never stop in that church. I know what it means. *I shut myself up*

in the hotel and take a day or two of rest and go on my way and nobody ever knows I'm there. I'd go coo coo.

So that morning I wanted a holiday, but I wanted to go to church. I knew they knew me so I was sitting behind a pillar in the church so nicely placed that just by moving my head a little bit I could see the preacher, but when he looked my way I'd be safely hidden behind the post. It's awful when you have to go to church like that. *How I wish people would just leave you alone for once. I don't want to be bothered; I want to be left alone.* I'm a funny man! What are you going to do with me?

I had a message burning in here (stomach area). I knew I did, and I said, *"Oh God, please not today. Well anyhow he'll never know I'm here until it's too late."* Do you know that man was leading the song service and they were singing, and singing, and singing, and singing.

I thought, *"Oh God, that man is marking time. He knows there's somebody here."* They sang so much I knew he was marking time. He kept looking over that congregation and I kept dodging him behind that pillar. Ha Ha! Finally somebody gave me away and it was too late.

He said, *"You know I felt that God had somebody in the congregation this morning with a message. Beuttler, why did you hide?"*

Then I had to confess. But I had said this, *"God, if it's really you, they've got to find me. I'll hide all I can, but they've got to find me."* And they did - *providence*. The other clock said yes also.

I went to a council meeting in a camp and on the way the Lord gave me a message. That was many years ago and I knew nobody would ask me to speak. Of course not, but I had a message. We were eating breakfast before the morning service and *this message was just burning in here*. I heard somebody go around from preacher to preacher.

They said, *"The superintendent isn't coming. We need a speaker."*

I thought, *"Well I'm safe. They'd never ask me. I'm just a little small fry."* I still am, of course. So I was safe.

But I heard them go on, *"Hey will you speak this morning?"*

"No sir-re. Get out of here."

"Will you speak?"

"Nothing doing."

"How about you?"

“Nix.”

They went right down the line and then they came over to the table where the small fries sat. I thought, “*They’re getting too close for comfort. Let me get out.*” And I got out with my message, went back to the car, sat on the floor and said, “*God please, not me!*”

Who wants to talk to a bunch of preachers who sit there with their “*Do you think that’s homiletical?*” (homiletics is the study or art of preaching) And I don’t pay attention to homiletics. I never thought of the thing. I can’t be pestered with it, so who wants to talk to them? “*What do you think of his sentence construction?*” Well, I don’t think of that.

So there I sat with this thing burning in my heart. I said, “*God I know I’m supposed to speak, but not me. If that’s you, they’ve got to find me here.*” And I sat on the floor of my vehicle. The bell rang, the song service started, and I thought, “*Well, now they’ve got somebody. The service has started so I’m safe.*” I got up and came out of the door and bumped into a preacher.

“*Beuttler, so here you are. Where have you been? You’re the last man we’re asking. That’s a compliment, isn’t it?* Ha Ha! I got caught. But I’ll tell you God gave us a wonderful meeting. It just flowed like a river.

This is what I’m getting at; don’t miss the point. Even though I felt this was God, yet I didn’t want to, divine providence brought about the circumstances that, in this case *compelled yielding*, constituted to me final confirmation that this was God. So God is giving us the *three lights*, the *three clocks*, and I’ll deal more with the Word and circumstances or providence this evening.

For now, we’ll look at a few things about *the leading of the Spirit*. There I’ll take you to Romans 8:14, not that you have ever known the words. I suppose you already know what I’m referring to.

“For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.” Romans 8:14

To do justice to the Word here, I want to point out that *this leading in this particular case in the light of the context, is the leading of the Spirit of God with respect to our sanctification. If we obeyed the leading of the Spirit, we would bypass many pitfalls that “unsanctify” us in the way.* That’s the primary intent of the writer in the context, but I want to take the principle and rightfully apply it to the general subject of guidance of the Spirit. There certainly is such a thing as the leading of the Spirit of God.

A few years ago I was sitting at the airport in Rome, Italy by night on my way to the island of Ceylon. Of course I’m going there with the national workers. I was waiting on my plane to come down from Amsterdam. I had to change there. I was sitting there by myself with the blues. I get them sometimes. I was particularly troubled because just awhile before I had been told by the passport people that my papers for Ceylon were not

in order. Our office in New York made a mistake and I just didn't check, which was my foolishness. I knew that some of these countries were very rough on you, very officious, especially new countries. They like to throw their official weight around. I was distressed because it meant that I would have to get out of Ceylon just halfway after my stay. That would throw the whole thing into confusion and I didn't know what mercy they would show me over there. It was my first visit to the island at that time.

While I was sitting there, the Spirit of God gave me some help. I began to notice a chorus. *The Spirit often directs me with choruses in my own spirit.* The chorus came along, "I know the Lord will make a way for me." You know that chorus, "I know the Lord will make a way for me." That went around inside like a little organ. At first I paid no attention, but when it became persistent, I began to recognize, "Why" the Spirit of God is talking to me. "I know the Lord will make a way for me." I recognized that what the Spirit actually wanted to impress me with was that I shouldn't worry, that He'll make a way for me, that He'll undertake. So that gave me great peace of mind and with that I went.

After two nights and a day more of flying (in those days we had propeller planes), I got there early in the morning. There sat this little officious looking official going through my papers and I said, "Oh God, now is your chance to help me." So with that prayer, I told him that I had a difficulty. He wanted to know what it was and I pointed it out.

That man looked at me with such a benign smile and asked me what he could do for me. So I told him what he could do, he smiled, took his pen and wrote his signature, put some stamps on and handed me my passport and said, "Good luck to you, sir, and welcome to Ceylon." I felt like giving him a hug and then hit the ceiling. They just don't normally act that way. Whew!

Some of those fellows are mean, pestiferous, officious. They just let you sit. "Well now, I want you to know that we're an independent people, no more colonies. Mr. American, you just sit and wait until I'm ready to finish my papers and have a cup of coffee." Finally, "Yes sir, and what do you want?" Ugh! It could burn you up, but if you burn up every time, they'll be nothing left, so you just wait.

Those are little things, but careful things in which the Spirit of God does His leading.

In Acts 8:29 we have a more phenomenal example.

"Then the Spirit said unto Philip, Go near, and join thyself to this chariot." Acts 8:29

You can say here what you like, but the Spirit of God speaks. Listen friends - *The Spirit of God is not restricted to Bible quotations.* I don't know where some people get some of their ideas.

For instance, somebody said, “*The Spirit always quotes the Word and if He doesn’t quote the Word, it’s not the Spirit.*” What a foolish idea! What scripture did the Spirit quote when He said, “**Go join thyself to this chariot?**”

Some of you that were here with me before might recall how one year I was in Germany and the Spirit said so clearly these words, “*Go to Amsterdam on New Year’s Day about the middle of the afternoon by air.*” He gave it to me just the way I give it to you. Those words just stood there so vividly in my consciousness. I don’t mean I heard a sound, I didn’t, but it was in my consciousness so strong, so vivid, so distinct, so clear, so authoritative, “*Go to Amsterdam on New Year’s Day about the middle of the afternoon by air.*” I think I told you but couldn’t swear to it. If you recall, God directed me there in Amsterdam to a Mohammedan, who had been seeking the way to true peace.

My friends, the Spirit of God speaks. He speaks in many different ways.

He speaks within our consciousness;

He speaks by suggesting;

He speaks by giving us a word from the Word;

He speaks by giving us a chorus;

He speaks by witnessing.

I don’t have time to go into all of these areas.

One year I was down in Valparaiso, Chile and I was so homesick that time. It was a long summer, although the summer had only started. What made it so hard I think, at least in part, was my little girl. She had put some notes in my suitcase, “*Daddy, I love you. Come home soon. Daddy, I’m waiting for you.*” After awhile it got to me and I got so homesick I bawled most of the way down from Rio de Janeiro to Santiago on the plane. I just cried until tears wouldn’t come anymore. My tear bucket ran empty. Maybe you think I’m silly, but anyhow, it hit me. I carried on meetings there and I was homesick. Homesickness is an awful thing. All I wanted was to go home. I had traveled enough.

One night I got up and said, “*God, this will never do.*” And the Spirit spoke immediately. Do you know what He said? It was a scripture quotation, “**My presence shall go with thee, and I will give thee rest.**” With those words, the homesickness disappeared and hasn’t returned since. It’s remarkable how the Spirit of God can bring to us a word of life.

On another occasion, I was down in Uruguay on my way to Paraguay. I don’t know what had happened, but it was the days when they were hijacking some Americans down there. I was at the airport at 5:00 o’clock in the morning. It was bitter cold. There was heavy frost on the ground. When I got there, there were no passengers. I couldn’t understand

it, “*No passengers for Asuncion! What is this?*” Nobody spoke English and I felt so desolate. There was hardly anybody around.

Finally an airline girl came around. She said, “*Are you the passenger to Asuncion?*” (passenger—singular)

I said, “*Yes, I’m the passenger, but where are the other passengers?*”

She said something, but I didn’t understand it. She motioned for me to come with her, so I went with her. We went down the corridors and out to the airfield. It was still pitch dark, bitter cold, wind blowing up from the South Pole. I thought, “*Where is this girl taking me?*” I was glad she was in uniform or I would have wondered what was up. She took me out to a small plane and there were some men standing outside the plane arguing like everything. They yelled at each other. They shouted. She motioned for me to wait a minute. So I waited while they yelled.

Finally one of them motioned to me and I walked over. They gave me a little push, pushed me into the plane, slammed the door behind me and I was in the plane all by myself. Oh, was I scared! The whole plane was full of crates and boxes. There was only one seat - for me. And the door was shut. Ahooh! I thought, “*Dear God! What did I get into? Is this a kidnapping?*” I’ll tell you, I was worried. There wasn’t a soul in that cabin. I didn’t know what to do.

I thought, “*Screaming won’t help. I’m all shut in.*” Lo and behold the plane took off. Nobody was around. Everything was empty and the engines roared off. They went into the night with Beuttler in the midst of the crates by himself, locked in. I couldn’t do anything.

After awhile a man came around and quietly handed me a cup of coffee. I tried to probe him. I tried to ask questions. I only got a smile. Was I scared! Did I do some praying!

I thought, “*My poor family. They’ll never find out where these people are taking me. This could be the end. Who knows?*” Nobody took me to the airport. They had asked, “*Shall we accompany you?*”

I said, “*No, I don’t need anybody else. I know my way.*” So nobody knew where I was.

After awhile the sun came up. I could tell the sun was over to the east and I thought, “*At least we’re going in the right direction.*” I did some praying. You know as I sat there almost in panic, *the Spirit of God came with such a presence and so hushed my spirit* (now there wasn’t any word to it), *but it so hushed my spirit, that I knew the Spirit would have said if He had spoken, “There is nothing to worry, just be still.” It calmed my spirit and we went on.*

Finally we landed somewhere in the jungles in a grassy place with no airport and I wondered, “*Now what is this?*”

When they opened up the crate there were two men standing outside. One of them spoke English and he gave me an explanation that they had put me on a freighter and that those freighters normally just don't take any passengers because nobody uses them. Somehow I got onto one of them, but how I'll never know. My! How we need the Spirit of God in the crisis of life.

Here particularly I want to use the time to talk with you about that aspect of the guidance of the Spirit, which I think is the most useful and the most common in our usual experience. *I know the Spirit of God restrains: for instance when Paul wanted to go into Asia, the Spirit "forbid them."* In another case, **"The Spirit suffered us not" or "did not permit us"** (see Acts 16:6-7). *The Spirit restrains; the Spirit alters; the Spirit prompts; the Spirit speaks within us.*

One year crossing the Atlantic on a TWA Constellation in the middle of the night (and I don't exaggerate here friends), the Spirit spoke right in here (stomach area) in words that I heard. I heard them. In fact, the voice in there was so clear that it was as sharp as a razor and as clear as a bell. That's the only way I can put it. And the Spirit said, *"I have sent thee on a journey."* I'll never forget that. It was so clear. I don't suppose that's the usual, but the more usual along the line of the guidance of the Spirit we find in Colossians 3:15. If I cannot finish that this morning, we'll finish it this evening.

"And let the peace of God rule in your hearts." Colossians 3:15

I could not overemphasize the help that this truth has been to me. **"Let the peace of God rule in your hearts."** If you'll permit me to make a few shortcuts without reading scriptures, it will help us.

Before we can talk about the peace of God as a means of guidance, we must be clear as to the nature of the peace of God - what the peace of God is. Will you please get this differentiation?:

There is "peace with God" and there is the "peace of God."

I am not talking about "peace with God." That doesn't enter this directly. I am talking about the "peace of God."

"Peace with God" has to do with our relationship to God.

The "peace of God" has to do with our state.

We have peace with God through the blood of Christ, whereby the enmity between us and God on account of sin is removed. We have peace with God through the sacrificial work of Christ. Peace with God comes first.

The peace of God should follow after, but not all Christians who have “peace with God” also have the “peace of God.” All who have the peace of God have the peace with God or they couldn’t have the peace of God. But it does not follow if we have peace with God that we also have the peace of God.

*The peace of God comes through walking in the Spirit. The fruit of the Spirit is peace. The peace of God is a state of tranquility, a state of rest produced in our own hearts by the Spirit. It is a supernatural peace. It’s the **“peace that passeth all understanding,”** and in case you need it, all *misunderstanding* too. It’s a peace that keeps us at rest in the midst of conflict. Have you ever experienced that?*

Did you ever know of people who are seasick? Have you ever seen people that get seasick? On some boats now they have what they call stabilizers. We had a boat like that just this summer from France to North Africa with stabilizers to keep the boat relatively calm in the rough seas so passengers won’t get seasick.

Did you ever have seasick people in Washington? When they’re seasick, when they’re upset, when they’re disturbed, of all the things they come out with. *“I’ll tell you, it’s terrible, this church is full of hypocrites.”* They’re seasick.

I was on a boat one year. I had been sick, but got over it. That particular day all the sailors got done was sweeping the decks. Must I say of what? They just had to sweep the decks, because people were trying to feed the fishes and didn’t reach the railing. Do you understand now? Well I was at the railing feeding fishes, and when I had no more food left for them, I decided it was time to go back to my cabin. As I turned around, just then a lady rushed out of the door to get to the railing and didn’t quite make it. The result? Whew! My nice suit got the fish food. Ha Ha! They get relief. (Makes sounds describing relief) Did you ever meet Christians like that?

I had some meetings out in Minneapolis. They had two pastors in the church. It was a large assembly. It didn’t justify two pastors, but they had them. Neither one wanted to go. A lady met me on the street in the afternoon and did she ever talk.

“I’ll tell you, brother this...” She went at it. Was she seasick and I got it all over me.

I didn’t want to hear, I don’t want to hear things. I’m so glad when people put me up in a hotel so I don’t hear nothing. Please excuse my grammar. I know better. Do you know what I mean? Who wants to have their ears full? She thought I did, so when I had my chance I said, *“Wait a minute sister. Suppose we go over to the pastor’s house and you finish your story there.”*

“Oh Brother Beuttler! What time is it?”

“It’s 7:00.”

“Oh, I’ve got to go home and make supper for my husband. Goodbye!”

I was going to take her to the pastor's house to finish her story, but she had to make supper. Well, that's what I was after. But my clothes, my spirit had been dumped on. Do you know what I mean? She was seasick.

The peace of God keeps us at rest in the midst of conflict and difficulties. It's that glow within that in the midst of trouble enables you to say, "Praise God!" Do you know what I mean? It enables you to keep still and calm in the Lord. And **"let the peace of God rule in your hearts."**

"Let the peace of God rule." Now this word rule literally means "arbitrate." Oh, what a help that is! *Let the peace of God arbitrate.* It stands to reason *we must first have the peace of God or it cannot arbitrate. You know what an arbitrator is. It's an arbiter. Some groups have a fight. The government calls in an arbitrator and he gets the two heads together, blends them together, makes a decision and they all have to abide by that.* That's what the Spirit of God does. *The Spirit of God is an arbitrator, but you have to have the peace of God first, so that when you are up against a decision - you don't know whether to choose this course or that course.* Neither one of them is in itself wrong.

Incidentally, *the Word of God cannot guide us in every problem.* That's sounds like heresy, but we better get some heresy if that's what it is. *The Word of God is not sufficient to help us make every decision.*

Some years ago I was leaving a pastorate. Word got around and I had an offer to take another pastorate. I had an offer to teach in a Bible school (not EBI, Eastern Bible Institute). I had an offer to go out to the Midwest to do some itinerating among the Swedish Assemblies. The Word of God couldn't help me. There was nothing wrong with the pastorate. The Bible school offer wasn't wrong. Itinerate teaching wasn't wrong. The Word of God couldn't shed any light on it. I had to find another way and did - *the peace of God.*

Because I was interested in Bible school work then, I said to Wife, "*Let's go and visit the school since they want an interview.*" So we went there. Wife sat in the car and I went in. *The more they talked, the more unrest I had in my spirit.* I knew I had the peace of God. I knew I was at rest, so I sat there and listened. They gave me my subject, my salary, my living quarters, vacation, this and that and the other. They were quite anxious to have me come. *The more they talked, the more unsettled I became.* Do you know what I mean? It just didn't register. I didn't feel at ease. I had an uncertainty. There was no response.

Finally they said, "*What's your answer?*"

I said, "*I don't usually answer at the moment. I would like to sleep over it.*" I knew what the answer was, but I didn't want to give it hastily, so I went out to Wife.

I said, "*Elizabeth, how do you feel?*"

She said, “Daddy, you know I don’t have any rest about accepting this offer.”

I said, “Neither do I. Let’s go home and tell them we’re not coming.” That was it.

We need such a deep peace. Now you see the peace of God in this case was arbitrating all the time saying, “No, No.”

Some years ago at EBI, I was a bit discouraged with some situations. Lo and behold, a pastor of a large church came and said, “Brother Beuttler, my church has asked me to see you. I want to go into evangelistic work, and they want to know whether you’d consider being their pastor.”

Well, they hadn’t had any candidates. They were just making me the offer outright. I never candidate anyhow and I don’t suppose I would. I said to the pastor, “Tell me the whole story.” Actually I was just waiting for time to give the peace of God a chance to say either “Yes or No.”

He talked. We have this, and we have that, our congregation is this and so and so, and so and so. He talked and I watched inside. There was something inside that just didn’t register with his proposition. I didn’t feel at rest.

Finally he said, “Brother Beuttler, what is your answer?”

I said, “Brother, I have listened carefully to what you have said and frankly, what you have said just doesn’t click with my clicker. Do you understand?”

He said, “I understand.” So that was that.

I think I’ll add more things this evening, but for this morning bear in mind that *the peace of God is one of the forms of the leading of the Spirit restraining us by an inner unrest, uncertainty, dispeace, or confirming a certain course of action by a witness, a satisfaction, a rest, a peace that knows this is God.*

That’s all for this morning. I hope I haven’t wasted your time altogether. Brother Jolly, it’s all yours.