

69: WHAT HAPPENS WHEN GOD LEADS FIRST

By John Leavy

In Week 14: Scripture & Prayer Together

3 Min read



“Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labor in vain. Unless the Lord watches over the city, the watchman stays awake in vain.” — *Psalm 127:1*

We often ask God to bless our plans instead of inviting Him to shape them. We make the decision, choose the direction, and begin walking the trail. Only after we encounter difficulty do we stop and ask for His help. Yet Scripture teaches a different pattern. God was never meant to be a traveling companion we call on when the path becomes difficult. He is the Guide who determines the path from the very beginning.

Psalm 127:1 reminds us, “Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labor in vain.” The principle reaches far beyond construction. It applies to our marriages, work, friendships, ministry, and every decision we make. Activity without God’s direction may look productive, but it rarely produces what lasts. This verse has always been a favorite. It’s the verse God gave me when I started my first company. I printed it out and taped it in plain view on our roll-top desk.

Strong disciples learn to pause before they proceed. They seek God’s wisdom before speaking, serving, leading, or reacting. They understand that every trail eventually reveals whether it was chosen by personal ambition or by faithful obedience. The man who consistently invites God into each moment discovers something remarkable. He spends less

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time recovering from unnecessary detours and more time walking the path God intended all along.

APPLICATION

One of the things rarely discussed is that inviting God into our lives is not something reserved for life's biggest decisions. More often, it happens in the ordinary moments that never make the headlines. It is choosing to pause before speaking, seeking His wisdom before giving advice, and asking for His direction before taking the next step. Dependence on God is not measured by the length of our prayers but by how often we recognize our need for Him.

Many wrong turns begin with confidence rather than rebellion. We assume we can read the trail because it looks familiar. We trust our experience, our instincts, or what seems like the obvious path. Yet discipleship teaches us that yesterday's direction is no substitute for today's guidance. The safest men are not those who know the trail best but those who never stop looking to the Guide.

That kind of dependence also changes the way we see interruptions. A delay may be God's protection. A closed door may be His redirection. An unexpected conversation may become the very assignment He planned for the day. Men who walk closely with Christ learn that not every change of plans is a distraction. Sometimes it is the trail itself.

Every day offers countless opportunities to acknowledge the Lord, not just with our words but with our choices. Those moments may seem insignificant on their own, but over time they shape the direction of a man's life. The trail is rarely changed by one dramatic decision. More often, it is shaped by the quiet habit of inviting God to lead the next step before we take it.

LIVE IT OUT

Before making your next decision today, stop and invite God into the moment. Ask Him for wisdom, direction, and the courage to obey whatever He shows you. The strongest disciples are not those who make the quickest decisions, but those who refuse to walk ahead of their Guide.

PRAY THIS...

"Lord, help me not to run ahead on the trail but to wait patiently."

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***Information lays the foundation—
Practice builds the man.***

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