

My Mom

My boss

Someone who knows  
more than me

My partner

# Who do you go to for guidance?

Someone I trust

My friends

My counselor

My dog

**How does God**  
**guide us?**



**I am the good shepherd**, and I know mine and mine know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father, and I will lay down my life for my sheep. I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. These also I must lead, and they will hear my voice, and there will be one flock, one shepherd.

**John 10:14-16**

Abraham was old; Jacob insecure; Leah unattractive; Joseph had been bullied; Moses had a speech impediment; Gideon was poor; Samson co-dependent; Rahab immoral; David had had an affair and all kinds of family problems; Elijah was suicidal; Jeremiah depressed; Jonah reluctant; Naomi a widow; John the Baptist a bit eccentric; Peter impulsive and temperamental; Martha worried a lot; the Samaritan woman had had several failed marriages; Zacchaeus was unpopular and greedy; Thomas had doubts; Paul had poor health; Timothy was timid— **but God used each of them in his service.**

# The Five CS's

- Commanding Scripture
- Compelling Spirit
- Common Sense
- Counsel of the Saints
- Circumstantial Signs

**1**

# **Commanding Scripture**

Now someone approached him and said, “Teacher what good must I do to gain eternal life?” He answered him “Why do you ask me about the good? There is only one who is good. If you wish to enter into life, **keep the commandments**

**Matthew 19:16-17**

You have heard that it was said to your ancestors, 'You shall not kill; and whoever kills will be liable to judgement'. But I say to you, whoever is angry with his brother will be liable to judgement.

**Matthew 5:21-22**



Our Father in Heaven, hallowed be your name,

Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven

Give us today our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors,

And do not subject us to the final test, but deliver us from the evil one.

If you forgive others their transgressions, your Heavenly Father will forgive you. But if you do not forgive others, neither will your Father forgive your transgressions

- USCCB.org for daily gospel to be emailed to you
- Daily Gospel Meditations - Saint John Society (spotify, apple podcast)
- (app) Pray as you go, for audio daily reflection
- (app) Laudate, for daily gospel & reflection

2

**Compelling  
Spirit**



“I saw the sign, and it opened up my eyes”

And now, compelled by the Spirit, I'm  
going to Jerusalem

Acts 20:22



Beloved, do not trust every spirit  
but test the spirits to see whether  
they belong to God, because  
many false prophets have gone  
out into the world

1 John 4:1

3

Common  
Sense



God doesn't call us out of  
things,  
He calls us into things

4

**Counsel of  
the Saints**

The way of the fools is right in  
their own eyes, but those who  
listen to advice are the wise

Proverbs 12:15



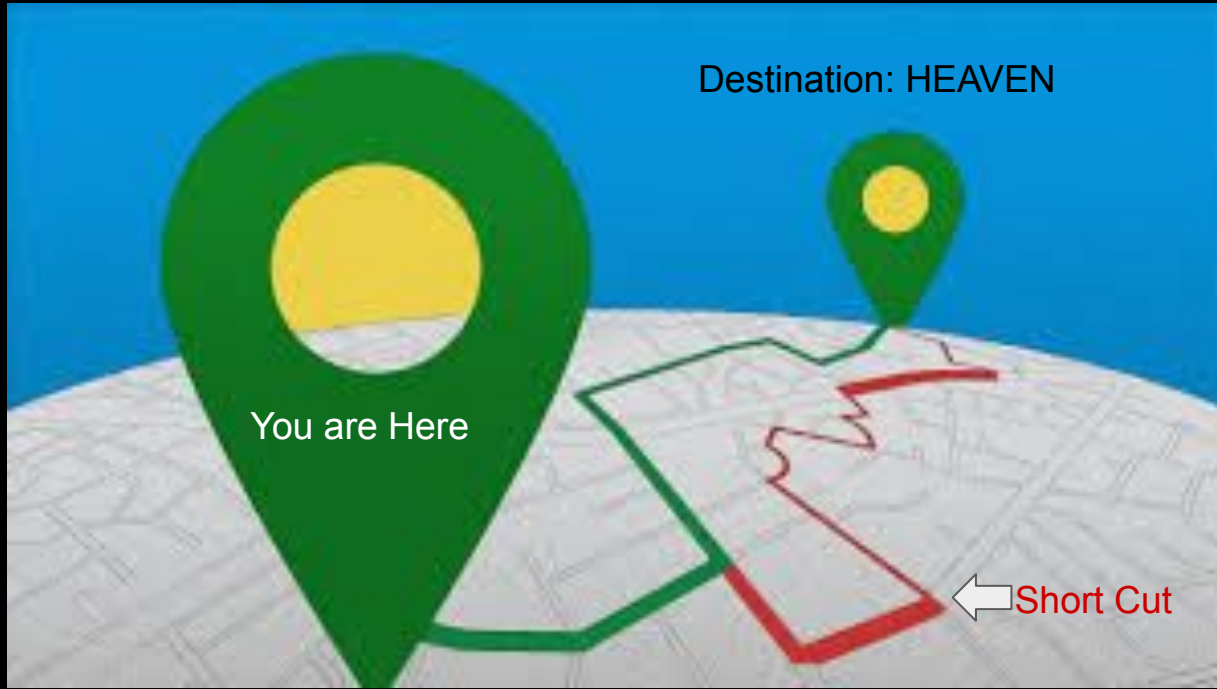
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**Circumstantial  
Signs**



*We know that all things work for good for those who love God*

**Romans 8:28**



# Putting it all together

- Commanding Scripture
- Compelling Spirit
- Common Sense
- Counsel of the Saints
- Circumstantial Signs

\* YouTube Father Mike Schmitz, “4 Helpful Rules for Discernment”



# Questions for Faith Sharing

- What resonated for you in the talk?
- Do you believe it's important to seek God's will?
- Do you think God can guide people's lives? Why or why not?
- Do you have any experience with God guiding your life? Were any of the CS's involved?
- Who's been an instrument to guide you through difficult decisions?