

Do You Want the Control?

(Psalm 119:105)

- Introduction:
1. There was a time when God directed his people with a cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night.
 2. Imagine how clear it must have been to them that he was with them.
 3. Yet they still struggled and complained.
 4. Today, God still directs his people, and we too struggle his direction
 5. Let's consider a few facts concerning God's leadership.

I. Don't Judge Israel for Failing to Follow

- A. (Matthew 7:1-5).
- B. We can say, but they had a physical reminder of his presence every day!
- C. What do you think we have that sits on our bedside table every day?
- D. (2 Peter 1:19; 1 Peter 1:10-11).

II. Realize His Leading Doesn't Mean Our Comfort

- A. (Exodus 14:1-30).
- B. God led Noah but it meant building an ark (Genesis 6-8).
- C. God led Paul but it meant suffering (2 Corinthians 11:22-28).
- D. Following Jesus doesn't mean life will get easier.

III. His Leading Will Result in Our Good

- A. (Romans 8:28).
- B. He's a father that will only give us what we need.
- C. (Matthew 7:7-12).

IV. We Have a Choice Whether to Follow or Not

- A. Israel often rebelled, and sometimes we do too.
- B. In spite of our unfaithfulness, God hasn't given up on us (Hosea).
- C. God won't force any of us to follow him (Revelation 22:17).

- Conclusion:
1. Friends, God is a God who wants to lead us.
 2. Today, he doesn't lead through a cloud and pillar of fire, but through his word.
 3. (2 Timothy 3:16-17).
 4. There are many competing voices in the world today, calling upon you to follow.
 5. Just make sure the voice you're listening to is God's voice.