

SELF-GUIDANCE CAN LEAD TO SELF-DESTRUCTION

“O LORD, I know that the way of man *is* not in himself: *it is* not in man that walketh to direct his steps.” (Jer 10:23)

Self-guidance can take us on a dangerous journey. When we are blinded to the true course of things, we can easily fall victim to the illusion of control. An illusion where we think we have all the correct answers and that we truly know what's best for ourselves. However, the truth is, many times, we don't always have the full picture or the expertise to make the right decisions in and of ourselves.

Another factor of self-guidance leading to self-destruction is the overconfidence bias. We tend to overestimate our abilities and underestimate the risks involved. This can lead us to make decisions that are not in our best interest and can have negative consequences in the long run. “There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof *are* the ways of death” Prov. 14:12.

Self-guidance can also be dangerous because of our blind spots. We all have biases and limitations that can prevent us from seeing the complete picture. By relying solely on our own guidance, we can dismiss important information or perspectives that could help us make better decisions. “In those days *there was* no king in Israel: every man did *that which was* right in his own eyes” Judges 21:25.

Our emotions can also cloud our judgment when it comes to self-guidance. We might be influenced by our fears, desires, or experiences, which can lead us astray. It's critical to recognize these emotional biases and seek objective advice before pressing on to decisions that may place us in jeopardy.

Self-guidance is dangerous because it often comes from our own limited perspective. We might have a narrow view of the situation or lack the wisdom to fully understand the implications of our decisions. Seeking input from those who watch for our souls can provide a broader perspective and aid us in making wise spiritual choices.

When we rely solely on self-guidance, we might ignore red flags that indicate potential problems. We might brush off warning signs or rationalize them away. This can lead to self-destruction as we disregard important information that could have prevented negative outcomes.

Self-guidance can also lead to a lack of accountability. When we make decisions solely based on our own guidance, we don't have anyone else to answer to. This can result in reckless behavior or a failure to take responsibility for the consequences of our actions.

Confirmation bias is another trap that self-guidance can lead us into. We tend to seek out information that confirms our existing beliefs and ignore evidence that contradicts them. This can hinder our ability to objectively evaluate options and make rational decisions.

Recognizing the limitations of self-guidance is crucial. It's essential to seek spiritual help when needed. Prayer is a wonderful aid, but the snare of praying in favor of our own desires and wishes is always a possibility. Therefore, spiritual counsel is needed to aid us in confirming our intentions. By gathering spiritual perspectives and counsel, we can make better-informed decisions and avoid the pitfalls of self-destruction.

To navigate the dangers of self-destruction, we need to understand our biases. By recognizing our cognitive and emotional tendencies, we can make conscious efforts to counteract them and make choices based on truth and not on our emotional desires.

Being humble and open to spiritual feedback is essential for avoiding self-destruction. Recognizing that we don't have all the answers and that God has given us leadership who can provide valuable insights that can lead to more effective decision-making and personal development.

When facing complex decisions, it's important to seek spiritual expertise. Trusting the process of seeking external guidance beyond ourselves is essential. It may feel uncomfortable at first, but it can lead to personal growth and better outcomes in the long run. Letting go of the need for our own will is freeing.

“In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.” (Prov. 3:6)

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