



Word Notes: Sunday 21/01/18

Helen Parker: Signposts 2 – Choose the right door

- Series text: Rev 3:7,8; Topic text: 1 Sam 28:3-20

In 2018 at Newmarket Community Church, God is saying we have an open door in front of us, how many of us know it can be difficult to decide which door to plough through! People have sought guidance throughout the ages and in many ways - tealeaves, entrails, tarot, etc. People want to know the right way, dabbling in some of these can open a door for the enemy. There is a difference between faith and superstition. Superstition seeks to use the supernatural for MY purposes as simple confirmation of what we thought in the first place. That's like reading your horoscope in 5 different newspapers until we find the one you like. Faith seeks to surrender to God's purposes, asking: "God what would you like me to do?" – then DO IT!

Study & Application

1, Saul's bad decision

- Why do you think God was silent when Saul asked for guidance in 1 Sam 28:5?
- Saul then decides to consult a medium, Samuel did apparently appear to Saul – was that supportive of his actions? What should Saul have done?
- Is that what you do when God appears to be silent? What do you do?

2, Practical decision making

Helen suggested two ways to assist our hearing God and decision making: 1, practise on the small things* and 2, allowing time and energy for the big decisions, involving other, wise believers.

- How might you challenge yourself to hear God more clearly in the small things?
- How will you judge your growth?
- What role do you give others in your decision making, how do you choose who to involve and what value do you place on their wisdom and guidance?

*Book reference – Helen has been reading *"The 10-Second Rule: Following Jesus Made Simple"* by Clare De Graff, available on Amazon and Kindle

Prayer

Share in your group any decisions great or small that you are facing. Pray for God's wisdom and ask others for guidance and support.

Please pray for the Leaders as they hold their annual conference Friday 26th to Sunday 28th Jan. This will very much be at the heart of our time away together. This year we have invited a couple of others to come and reflect with us for one afternoon, pray they too will hear from God and encourage us in His plan.