



TIME OUT



The will of God is vast, and as it concerns the whole universe and the whole future, it is of course in its totality beyond our knowing. But we learn something of the will of God as we study the Bible, and human history, and the lives of great believers and servants of humanity. We learn something of the will of God when we consult our consciences, when we pray and ask God to show us that portion of the will of God which is our special field, and then wait in prayer so as to give Him a chance to do it. God has a will for our vocation, which gives us a little piece of His will to fulfil.⁵

Samuel M. Shoemaker

3. God may guide by stirring up your spirit

In the last lesson, we saw how each of the workers who restored the temple and Jerusalem teamed up with God to fulfill a piece of His will. The work started with Zerubbabel about 538 B.C. Remember how the Lord stirred up the workers' spirits?

So the Lord stirred up the spirit of Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and the spirit of Joshua the son of Jehozadak, the high priest, and the spirit of all the remnant of the people; and they came and worked on the house of the Lord of hosts, their God.

Haggai 1:14

The Hebrew word for stir, *ur*, is also translated “arouse,” “awaken,” or “move.” The *New Living Translation* says, “So the Lord sparked the enthusiasm of...”





Ur is used again in the book of Ezra.

Then the heads of fathers' households of Judah and Benjamin and the priests and the Levites arose, even everyone whose spirit God had stirred [ur] to go up and rebuild the house of the Lord which is in Jerusalem.

And all those about them encouraged them....

Ezra 1:5-6

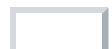
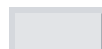
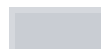
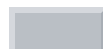
Which people did God lead to work on the restoration project?

The NIV answers, “Everyone whose heart God had moved.” Notice, God could have spoken to the people through a prophet or commanded them directly, but He did neither. Instead, He aroused an interest, a desire, a willingness within their spirits. Those whose hearts He “stirred” became motivated to put their hands to the work of rebuilding. Undoubtedly, they caught a vision for what could be done. The mental image of a new temple and a new city got them excited.

What captures your imagination? What excites you? What type of work would contribute to your desire to serve God and others? Could it be to

- assist in the healing process through nursing?
- build into the lives of students by teaching?
- help prepare accurate payroll and financial records as a bookkeeper or accountant?
- meet someone’s housing needs as a contractor, carpenter, electrician, plumber, painter, carpet layer?
- assist those whose jobs depend on computers as a computer technician or programmer?
- repair someone’s car so that they can get to their workplace by becoming a mechanic?

The list is endless.





Has there been a time when God stirred up your spirit or “sparked your enthusiasm” for a particular line of work? If yes, make a note of it.

If God would be pleased to guide by stirring up your spirit, moving in your heart, or sparking your enthusiasm, ask Him to help you tune in to His prompting.

Prayer Journal: *Date* _____

