Becoming Human Again: a Theology of Sanctification Lesson 10: On Discerning the Will of God, & the Leading of the Spirit [Part 2]: Critique of the Mystical Method

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Problems commor	to the mystica	I methods of disco	erning God's t	third will
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Problems common to the mystical methods of discerning God's third will					
I.	Supposing (for the sake of argument) that we are to find God's decretive plan for us by means of extra-biblical "directives," what happens when we <i>decide not to act</i> on them?				
II.	Again, supposing (for the sake of argument) that we are to find God's decretive plan for us by mystical means, what happens when we <i>miss</i> it and make a "wrong turn"?				
III.	None of them provide a basis for confidence, since none of them carry clear and reliable marks of being from God				
IV.	All of them can lead to false guilt and anxiety, as well as unwarranted disappointment and anger toward God				
V.	All of them tend toward self-deception and the justification of selfish, foolish, self-destructive decisions				

They all tend toward individualistic piety and lack of accountability, since there is no VI. corporate and public method for verifying (or falsifying) them

There is no biblical precedent for such methods; no categories in scripture that correspond to them; instead, they have more in common with pagan superstition and divination
ring to each of the mystical methods in turn:
Circumstantial signs and coincidences?
Impressions, "funny feelings," and thoughts "placed upon our hearts"
"Sense of peace"?
"Open doors"/"closed doors"?
Objections from proponents of mystical methods: A. "Are you saying God <i>cannot</i> do such things?" B. "How can you prove the universal negative that God <i>does not</i> do such things?"