

BereanBibleClass.TV

Study guide



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1 Sam 14:6 - Then Jonathan said to the young man who was carrying his armor, "Come and let us cross over to the garrison of these uncircumcised; perhaps the LORD will work for us, for the LORD is not restrained to save by many or by few." His armor bearer said to him, "Do all that is in your heart; turn yourself, and here I am with you according to your desire."

Daniel 1:8 - But Daniel made up his mind that he would not defile himself with the king's choice food or with the wine which he drank; so he sought permission from the commander of the officials that he might not defile himself.

Ester 4:15 - Then Esther told them to reply to Mordecai, "Go, assemble all the Jews who are found in Susa, and fast for me; do not eat or drink for three days, night or day. I and my maidens also will fast in the same way. And thus I will go in to the king, which is not according to the law; and if I perish, I perish."

Genesis 3:6-7 "And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat. And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons."

Matthew 27:3-5 "Then Judas, which had betrayed him, when he saw that he was condemned, repented himself, and brought again the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders, Saying, I have sinned in that I have betrayed the innocent blood. And they said, What is that to us? see thou to that. And he cast down the pieces of silver in the temple, and departed, and went and hanged himself."

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Videos:

J Meyer -divine guidance	J Evans video
5 ways to know His will	A Stanley videos (4)
Gods will Skit guys	J Piper video
Dr Cho video	C Swindoll video
R Warren video	Ravi Z video
"Trying on" the will of God	E Eggerich 4 wills
"God wills it" the crusades	Discerning M Chandler
Discernment M Youssef	

Quizzes

Quiz 1 - Quiz 2
Quiz 3 - Quiz 4

How to Know If you are in God's Will

"Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done." Luke 22:14

Some things are **absolute**, some are **personal**, some are **biblical** and some are **subjective**.

- (T) (F) (?)1. It is God's will for me to be in debt
- (T) (F) (?)2. It is God's will for me to date a non-Christian
- (T) (F) (?)3. God only wants me to marry a beauty queen who is rich and brilliant
- (T) (F) (?)4. It is God's will for me to be healed of every disease
- (T) (F) (?)5. It is God's will for me to prosper and be in good health
- (T) (F) (?)6. It is God's will for me to be in the ministry
- (T) (F) (?)7. It is God's will for me to witness
- (T) (F) (?)8. It is God's will for me to suffer
- (T) (F) (?)9. It is God's will for me to be persecuted
- (T) (F) (?)10. It is God's will for me to reach out to a non-believer by dating them
- (T) (F) (?)11. It is God's will for me to make as much money as possible
- (T) (F) (?)12. It is God's will for me to be self-employed one day
- (T) (F) (?)13. It is God's will for me to be a good steward
- (T) (F) (?)14. It is God's will for me to take financial risks
- (T) (F) (?)15. It is God's will for me to be conservative and frugal

Famous Biblical Choices...

Josh 24:15 - "If it is disagreeable in your sight to serve the LORD, choose for yourselves today whom you will serve: whether the gods which your fathers served which were beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD."

Heb 11:25 - choosing rather to endure ill-treatment with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin, considering the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures of Egypt; for he was looking to the reward.

Gen 13:8 - So Abram said to Lot, "Please let there be no strife between you and me, nor between my herdsmen and your herdsmen, for we are brothers. "Is not the whole land before you? Please separate from me; if to the left, then I will go to the right; or if to the right, then I will go to the left."

Exod 18:24 - So Moses listened to his father-in-law and did all that he had said. Moses chose able men out of all Israel and made them heads over the people, leaders of thousands, of hundreds, of fifties and of tens.

Exod 32:26 - then Moses stood in the gate of the camp, and said, "Whoever is for the LORD, come to me!" And all the sons of Levi gathered together to him.

Ruth 1:15 - Then she said, "Behold, your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and her gods; return after your sister-in-law." But Ruth said, "Do not urge me to leave you or turn back from following you; for where you go, I will go, and where you lodge, I will lodge. Your people shall be my people, and your God, my God.

Revelation 2:2(amp) you cannot tolerate those who are evil, and have tested and critically appraised those who call themselves apostles (special messengers, personally chosen representatives, of Christ), and [in fact] are not, and have found them to be liars and impostors;

Acts 17:11 (amp) *Bereans* they received the message [of salvation through faith in the Christ] with great eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see if these things were so.

Galatians 1:8(amp) But even if we, or an angel from heaven, should preach to you a gospel contrary to that which we [originally] preached to you, let him be condemned to destruction!

2 John 1:10 If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching [but diminishes or adds to the doctrine of Christ], do not receive or welcome him into your house, and do not give him a greeting or any encouragement;

How do we discern? 2 ways

Either their teaching is false or their lives are in shambles

Acts 5 Ananias and Sapphira they adhered to the teaching but their motives were impure

- Integrity = what you believe and how you live must be integrated.

1 John 4:3 (amp). And every spirit that does not confess Jesus [acknowledging that He has come in the flesh, but would deny any of the Son's true nature] is not of God; this is the spirit of the antichrist, which you have heard is coming, and is now already in the world.

1 Timothy 4:1(amp). But the [Holy] Spirit explicitly and unmistakably declares that in later times some will turn away from the faith, paying attention instead to deceitful and seductive spirits and doctrines of demons.

(T) (F) (?)16. It is God's will for me to vote Republican

(T) (F) (?)17. It is God's will for me to get an abortion if I am raped

(T) (F) (?)18. It is God's will for me to marry someone if I get pregnant out of wedlock

(T) (F) (?)19. It is God's will for me to tithe 10% to the church

(T) (F) (?)20. It is God's will for me to buy designer clothes

(T) (F) (?)21. It is God's will for me to live in poverty

(T) (F) (?)22. It is God's will for me to climb the corporate ladder

(T) (F) (?)23. It is God's will for me to give my stuff to the poor

(T) (F) (?)24. It is God's will for me to attend church every week

(T) (F) (?)25. It is God's will for me to be committed to a small group

(T) (F) (?)26. It is God's will for me to volunteer at church

(T) (F) (?)27. It is God's will for me to pray all day every day

(T) (F) (?)28. It is God's will for me to be humble and not take credit for anything ever

(T) (F) (?)29. God does not care about my personal preferences

(T) (F) (?)30. My personal preferences should come second to God's will

(T) (F) (?)31. God has a very specific plan for every area of my life

(T) (F) (?)32. God created me for a specific purpose for my life

(T) (F) (?)33. If God tells me no, I should justify my choice by talking it out with a friend

- (T) (F) (?)34. I should only seek God when I am making important decisions
- (T) (F) (?)35. I should never seek people because they don't know the Holy Spirit's guidance for me
- (T) (F) (?)36. God doesn't care about my job or career
- (T) (F) (?)37. It is God's will for me to fear decision making
- (T) (F) (?)38. It is God's will for me to study topics and principles found in scripture daily
- (T) (F) (?)39. It is God's will for me to read the Bible all the way through every year
- (T) (F) (?)40. It is God's will for me to separate from ungodly friends in my inner circle
- (T) (F) (?)41. It is God's will for me to eat less carbs
- (T) (F) (?)42. It is God's will for me to stop using tobacco
- (T) (F) (?)43. It is God's will for me to challenge authorities daily
- (T) (F) (?)44. It is God's will for me to be organized and clean
- (T) (F) (?)45. It is God's will for me to make new friends
- (T) (F) (?)46. It is God's will for me to withdraw from people and pray
- (T) (F) (?)47. It is God's will for me to report any crime I witness
- (T) (F) (?)48. It is God's will for me to rescue every addict I meet
- (T) (F) (?)49. It is God's will for me to give advice and share wisdom with people
- (T) (F) (?)50. It is God's will for me to obey every law in the state.

1 John 4:1 (amp) Beloved, do not believe every spirit [speaking through a self-proclaimed prophet]; instead test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets and teachers have gone out into the world.

Discernment is a quality that ALL Believers must cultivate!

How to exercise the Gift of discernment? By comparing what you have heard or read to the word of God. If it is contrary or inconsistent with the word of God it is false. Good in parts lead to compromise.

- Many false brothers and sister practice the sin of flattery.
- Flattery is a sin don't fall for it don't practice it and do not receive it.
- Satan will take a grain of truth and wrap it up in a taco of falsehood and serve it on a silver platter.

You cannot grow up in discernment without know the word of God.

Hebrews 5:12-14 (amp) 12 For though by this time you ought to be teachers [because of the time you have had to learn these truths], you actually need someone to teach you again the elementary principles of God's word [from the beginning], and you have come to be continually in need of milk, not solid food. 13 For everyone who lives on milk is [doctrinally inexperienced and] unskilled in the word of righteousness, since he is a spiritual infant. 14 But solid food is for the [spiritually] mature, whose senses are trained by practice to distinguish between what is morally good and what is evil.

You have to grow from milk to solid food.

Deception comes in a very convincing fashion with authenticity dresses up in church clothes deception comes with credentials acceptability or church leadership

Jesus commends discernment

Gift of Discernment - Michael Youssef

Discernment is a gift and should be exercised diligently, urgently, lovingly, respectfully and forcefully.

Why Important: 2 Corinthians 11:13 (amp). For such men are counterfeit apostles, deceitful workers, masquerading as apostles of Christ.

Satan disguises himself as an angel of light therefore his servants will disguise themselves as servants of righteousness.

- If Satan cannot stop people from believing he will send deceivers to stop them from becoming growing believers.

New Testament contrast: Christ/Antichrist- True prophets/False prophets- True apostles/ false apostles- Wheat/tears- Sheep/ Wolves in sheep's clothing- Holy Spirit/ Evil Spirits- Holy Angles/ Demons.

How do we Discern?

- Discernment begins with believing the word of God is Gods self-revelation.
- Discernment begins with believing we are in a state of warfare with lying spirits

Ephesians 6:12 (amp) or our struggle is not against flesh and blood [contending only with physical opponents], but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this [present] darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly (supernatural) places.

Satan does not oppose God Directly. He seldom fights believers openly in believing churches. **HE JOINS THOSE CHURCHES AND TAKES IT FROM THE INSIDE!**

- His servants become ordained, and headmasters of Christian schools. His servants become leaders in churches, his servants speak smooth and soothing words from pulpits

Life's major questions...

In General – (worldview) settle this first

- | | |
|-------------------------|----------|
| 1. How did we get here? | Origin |
| 2. Why am I here? | Meaning |
| 3. How should we live? | Morality |
| 4. Where are we going? | Destiny |

For the Christian – universal...

1. Does the Bible dictate moral character for everyone?
2. Do I live for myself, others, or Christ?

For the Christian – specific, personal, unique, not a chapter and verse...

1. How do I obey God when surrounded by sin?
2. Does God care about my personality, culture, generation?
3. Who should I marry?
4. What is my career?
5. Where will we live?
6. How many kids?
7. Stewardship, manage my money, time, talents
8. What church should I attend, how involved do we get?
9. What translation of the Bible is best?
10. Am I allowed to have hobbies?
11. Is God into politics?

The WILL of God?

What does He want from me?

What will my future look like?

How can I learn about Gods thoughts and plans for me?

How does He reveal Himself?

How can I recognize it when I see it?

Do my actions have anything to do with my Destiny?
 What does the Bible say about wisdom? Is that better than education or IQ points? Discernment?
 Do Biblical ideals and values create a moral compass for living?
 How does God define success?
 Happily ever after looks like _____ ? marriage, kids, house, cars, career...
 Do I really want to know His mind (thoughts) and His heart more than his hand of blessings.
 Am I preoccupied with the material world? Do I live in the light of Eternity?
 Can I recognize and stand against the enemy of Gods will?
 Am I preoccupied with “*what* the rules are” or “*what* law is” more than seek to know *why* a healthy boundary exists?

Principles for walking in the WILL of God -

1. Always be growing in Scriptural knowledge
2. Ask Elders for wisdom / counsel
3. Discern and seek Spirit Led decision making

FACTS ABOUT THE WILL OF GOD:

1. Gods will never contradicts Gods word.
2. The more mature a believer becomes, the more wisdom and discernment he will have. He can recognize shallow, carnal, worldly thinking and living.
3. Maturity and wisdom come from mistakes, living, learning, discipline, suffering serving and knowing how to put the word into practice.
4. We can learn “universal principles” but only Gods spirit can reveal details about His specific will to apply in a personal situation. One will not contradict the other.
5. Obedience is not optional. Revelation never follows disobedience.
6. God is Sovereign.

Doesn't grow then it was not supposed to grow. Don't push in the flesh/carnality. Every Act has consequences. Walk sensitively with the Lord.

Q: The Role of fasting?

A: It is for the purpose of spending that time seeking Gods mind.

Q: The Balance of waiting on the Lord and waiting to be led by the Lord passionately going after 'it'.

A: Nothing wrong with the immediate as soon as you have God's assurance, 'that's what Look for the assurance. A window of opportunity. If your partner is against it, don't do it.

Q: Romans 12:2 What is the role of discernment in that verse?

A: we must discern it is the father voice. You play a role you have a mind you will know in your Heart this is a direction you should go, Seek the council of those you respect those who will Not tell you what you want to hear.

Q: how do you find the open door in a dark room, where is the light switch?

A: It is dependent on who you are. Have some good discerning friends who will help you find That door. Friends can help you talk that through. You need the council of individuals who Are not in that room.

***This last question, is a vulnerable question, all of us should be able to be that vulnerable.**

Acts 16:6-10 Paul and his companions traveled throughout the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been kept by the Holy Spirit from preaching the word in the province of Asia. When they came to the border of Mysia, they tried to enter Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus would not allow them to. 8 So they passed by Mysia and went down to Troas. During the night Paul had a vision of a man of Macedonia standing and begging him, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." After Paul had seen the vision, we got ready at once to leave for Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them.

- V: 6 The Holy Spirit Closed the Door
- V: 7 Jesus Closed the Door.
- V: 9 The Door Opens to Macedonia in a Vision a man begging Paul to come.
- Be available to the Spirit, set your plans, your wants, your wishes aside.
- Since God is sovereign He is in control.
- Since He is in control of opening and closing doors He is responsible. Don't lean on your own understanding.
- If God closes a door there He will open a good and better Door. Think of it as an opportunity.
- Not until we walk through the open door will we realize the value of the closed door.
- A Door that opens can and often will alter and change your life forever for His glory and our good.

Q: How do we interpret a closed door, when do we persevere, when do we not?

A: Prayer can be a refuge, Wife, Family close friends (close community support)

Sometimes prayer will not relieve you, it is a reminder the battle is in His hands

Q: Should we ask for confirmation?

A: Sometimes we will not know, time is the greatest of all levelers, give it time let it be. If it

Jerimiah 29:11 – I know the plans I have for you declares the Lord...
2 Peter 3:9 - He isn't really being slow about his promised return, even though it sometimes seems that way. But he is waiting, for the good reason that he is **not willing that any should perish**, and he is giving more time for sinners to repent.

1 Thess 5: Always be joyful. 17 Always keep on praying. 18 No matter what happens, always be thankful, **for this is God's will** for you who belong to Christ Jesus.

1 Thess 4:3 - **It is God's will** that you should be sanctified: that you should avoid sexual immorality; 4 that each of you should learn to control your own body in a way that is holy and honorable

1 Peter 2:12 - Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us.

13 Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every human authority: whether to the emperor, as the supreme authority, 14 or to governors, who are sent by him to punish those who do wrong and to commend those who do right. 15 For **it is God's will** that by

doing good you should silence the ignorant talk of foolish people.

James 1:5 - If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you. 6 But when you ask, you must believe and not doubt, because the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. 7 That person should not expect to receive anything from the Lord. 8 Such a person is double-minded and unstable in all they do.

Prov 3:5,6 - Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; 6 in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.

John 14:23 - Jesus replied, "Anyone who loves **me** will **obey** my teaching.

Revelation from God -

Matt 1:25 - You have hidden these things from the wise and intelligent and have revealed them to infants.

John 14:26 - But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you.

Matt 16:17 - Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven.

Eph 1:17 - the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of Him.

1 Cor 2:10 - For to us God revealed them through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches all things, even the depths of God.

Amos 3:7 - Surely the Lord GOD does nothing Unless He reveals His secret counsel To His servants the prophets.

LED BY THE SPIRIT:

Luke 4:1 - And Jesus being full of **the** Holy Ghost returned from Jordan, and was **led by the Spirit** into **the** wilderness,

Rom 8:14 - For as many as are **led by the Spirit** of God, **they are the** sons of God.

Ps 143:10 - Teach me to do Your will, For You are my God; Let Your good Spirit lead me on level ground.

Gal 5:18 - But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the Law.

Acts 8:26 - Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Go south to the road—the desert road—... 29 The Spirit told Philip, "Go to that chariot and stay near it."

Acts 10:19 - While Peter was reflecting on the vision, the Spirit said to him, "Behold, three men are looking for you. "But get up, go downstairs and accompany them

Acts 13:2 - While they were ministering to the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them."

Acts 20:22 - "And now, behold, bound by the Spirit, I am on my way to Jerusalem, not knowing what will happen to me there,

The Mystery of Gods will - Charles Swindoll

Many of us think or believe if we check things off along the way, if we find the right bible verse talk to the right people, pray and seek with the right heart a direction to go then we would walk into the will of God. THAT IS NOT TRUE.

- The plan of God is full of surprises.
- God is sovereignly in control of our lives.
- It is for His glory and our Good.
- We think that we are in charge.
- It is good to remind ourselves He is the master we are the servants.
- We struggle to give up what we call our 'rights' which are really our wishes and wants and my plans.

Job 23:10-12 But he knows the way that I take; when he has tested me, I will come forth as gold. My feet have closely followed his steps; I have kept to his way without turning aside.

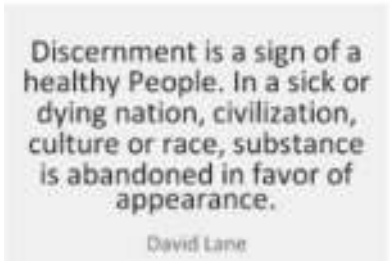
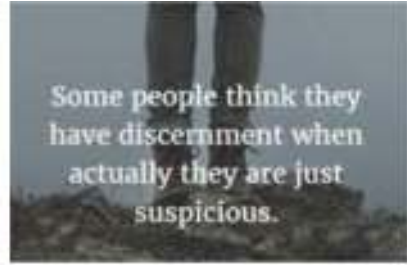
I have not departed from the commands of his lips; I have treasured the words of his mouth more than my daily bread.

Romans 11:33 Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable his judgments and his paths beyond tracing out!

- If it is unsearchable and unfathomable, there is then a mystery.
- As we live our lives we discover his will more clearly and realize that it led in a path that we would have never expected.

Revelation 3:7 To the angel of the church in Philadelphia write: These are the words of him who is holy and true, who holds the key of David. What he opens no one can shut, and what he shuts no one can open.

- Holy, Sinless, True
- Key of David= authority
- "He Holds the Key" The door and Key are figurative- If He opens the door it stays open until he closes it. If He closes it, you cannot open it
- You are here because it is His will



“Some people think they have discernment when actually they are just suspicious.. Suspicion comes out of the unrenewed mind; discernment comes out of the renewed spirit.”
— Joyce Meyer, [Battlefield of the Mind](#):

“Wise men are not pacifists; they are merely less likely to jump up and retaliate against their antagonizers. They know that needless antagonizers are insecure enough.”

Therefore, in the present case I advise you: Leave these men alone! Let them go! For if their purpose or activity is of human origin, it will fail. But if it is from God, you will not be able to stop these men; you will only find yourselves fighting against God.” Gamaliel Acts 5:38

Rev 4:2 - Immediately I was in the Spirit; and behold, a throne was standing in heaven, and One sitting on the throne.
Rev 11 & 17 - And he carried me away in the Spirit into a wilderness; ... And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great and high mountain

GOOD...PLEASING...PERFECT - WILL of God

Is this all-inclusive? Or is it Progressive? First good, then pleasing, then perfect?

(salad, entrée, desert?) (good, better, best) (survive, arrive, thrive)

Rom 12:2 –

...Then you will be able to know the will of God—what is good and is pleasing to him and is perfect.

Everyone would agree that the ultimate goal of every Christian is to find the will of God. Why don't they then?

1. They think it is going to be confusing or hard to understand.
2. They think God is going to tell them to do something that they don't want to do.

The will of God is the greatest wealth you can have –if we find the will of God.

Hebrews 10:7 says that Jesus came to the earth to do God's will. There is joy, peace, fulfillment, blessing and abundance in the will of God.

Heb 10:36 – You need to persevere so that when you have done the will of God, you will receive what he has promised.

There are three stages of the will of God. There are steps or stages to being in the will of God. Let's use money as an example because it's something we all can relate to. Three stages of the will of God for your finances are:

The Good Will of God: taking in more than is going out. Keeping your expenses below your income. You're not in the will of God at all if you spend more money than you make.

Acceptable Will of God: your assets outweigh your liabilities. This is one step better. You own more than you owe. If I wanted to sell my house, it has more value than what I owe on it, so now I'm in the acceptable will of God.

Perfect Will of God: Not only do I have more coming in than what's going out, and not only do I own more than I owe, but I don't owe anybody anything, except to love them. That's the perfect will of God concerning money.

That's why I don't want anyone to be condemned if you owe some money to somebody. You can still be in the will of God and have debt. You might be in the good will of God, or the acceptable will of God, but the perfect will of God where money is concerned is to have no debt.

If you find the will of God, that's where you'll find your spouse, the job you need, and all that God has for you. So now let's find out how we experience that.

Steps to Finding the Will of God:

1. Change by changing the way we think. Romans 12:2 says to be changed by the renewing of your mind. That's where change begins.

Futher examples of discernment

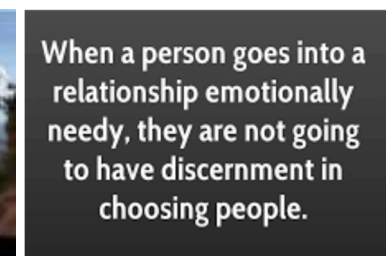
[2Sa 14:18-20](#) David sees through Joab's ruse; [1Ki 3:24-28](#) Solomon discerns a child's true mother; [Ne 6:12-13](#) Nehemiah sees through the plot against him.

Lack of discernment

Young children lack discernment [Dt 1:39](#) See also [Isa 7:15-16](#); [Jnh 4:11](#)

Israel's lack of discernment [Dt 32:28](#); [Lk 12:54-56](#) See also [Isa 1:3](#); [Isa 5:13](#); [Isa 44:18-19](#); [Eze 12:2](#); [Ac 28:27](#); [Isa 6:9-10](#)

Those who lack judgment [Pr 6:32](#); [Pr 10:21](#) See also [Pr 7:7](#); [Pr 9:4](#); [Pr 12:11](#); [Pr 18:1](#); [Pr 24:30](#)



God's discernment

[Ps 139:1-4](#) See also [Job 31:4](#); [Job 34:21](#); [Heb 4:13](#); [1Jn 3:20](#); [Ps 19:12](#)
God alone knows our hidden faults.

Jesus Christ's discernment

[Jn 2:25](#) See also [Mt 9:4](#) pp [Mk 2:8](#) pp [Lk 5:22](#) Jesus Christ discerns the thoughts of the teachers of the law; [Mt 16:23](#) pp [Mk 8:33](#) Jesus Christ discerns the source of Peter's words; [Mt 22:18](#) pp [Mk 12:15](#) pp [Lk 20:23](#) Jesus Christ discerns the true motive of his questioners; [Jn 1:47](#) Jesus Christ sees into the heart of Nathaniel; [Jn 8:16](#) Jesus Christ has perfect discernment of right and wrong.

Evil spirits' discernment

[Mk 1:23-24](#) pp [Lk 4:33-34](#) See also [Mk 1:34](#) pp [Lk 4:41](#); [Ac 16:17](#)

Discernment in those who govern

Joseph: [Ge 41:39](#); [Ac 7:10](#) Solomon: [1Ki 3:12](#); [2Ch 2:12](#)
[Job 12:20](#) elders

Examples of spiritual discernment

[2Ki 4:9](#) See also [Jn 4:19,42](#)
[1Ki 22:19-23](#) pp [2Ch 18:18-22](#) Micaiah discerns that a lying spirit is responsible for false prophecy. See also [Jer 23:16-22](#) Jeremiah knows that the false prophets' message is not from God; [Ac 5:3](#) Peter is aware of the deception of Ananias and Sapphira; [Ac 8:23](#) Peter discerns the true condition of Simon's heart; [Ac 16:18](#) Paul discerns the spiritual source of a girl's fortune-telling ability.

When you change the way you think, then you'll change your behavior. John 5:5 says "And a certain man was there, which had an infirmity 38 years," and goes on to describe his thinking. He thinks, "If I'm the first one in the water, I'm going to be healed." Jesus challenges his way of thinking and He will challenge the way we think, because when we change the way we think –it will be easy to change our actions.

2. Have the desire. Jesus said to him, "Will you be made whole?" We have to change what we are desiring. When we have desire, and when we change the way we think, that's when we will be willing to do whatever it takes. A lot of Christians like the path of least resistance. Often times the path of greatest resistance yields the greatest reward.

3. Stop blaming other people. Jesus asked, "Will you be made whole?" And the impotent man said, "I have no man." In other words, he says, "Nobody loves me. Nobody cares." Blaming other people is a way of thinking. When we stop blaming people in our thinking, then we'll experience the miracles God wants us to have.

4. Jesus said, "Rise, take up your bed, and walk." Jesus said you've got to take the first step. He didn't say run yet. He didn't say fly. He just said, "Get up."

Good Will of God:	Rise Up!
Acceptable Will of God:	Take up Thy bed.
Perfect Will of God:	And Walk!

PERMISSIVE? - or BENEFICIAL?

1 Cor 10:23 - “We are allowed to do anything,” so they say. That is true, but not everything is good. “We are allowed to do anything”—but not everything is helpful. None of you should be looking out for your own interests, but for the interests of others. You are free to eat anything sold in the meat market, without asking any questions because of your conscience. For, as the scripture says, “The earth and everything in it belong to the Lord.” If an unbeliever invites you to a meal and you decide to go, eat what is set before you, without asking any questions because of your conscience. But if someone tells you, “This food was offered to idols,” then do not eat that food, for the sake of the one who told you and for conscience' sake— that is, not your own conscience, but the other person's conscience. “Well, then,” someone asks, “why should my freedom to act be limited by another person's conscience? If I thank God for my food, why should anyone criticize me about food for which I give thanks?” Well, whatever you do, whether you eat or drink, do it all for God's glory. Live in such a way as to cause no trouble either to Jews or Gentiles or to the church of God. Just do as I do; I try to please everyone in all that I do, not thinking of my own good, but of the good of all, so that they might be saved.

NIV

The Believer's Freedom

²³ “I have the right to do anything,” you say—but not everything is beneficial. “I have the right to do anything”—but not everything is constructive. ²⁴ No one should seek their own good, but the good of others. ²⁵ Eat anything sold in the meat market without

1. Peter discerned Jesus' identity in __Matt 16:13__ who do you say?
2. Pharisees could not discern - __John 5:39__ you search the scriptures daily...
3. Paul discerned the woman with the spirit ____Acts 16:17
4. Demons discerned the sons of Sceva ____Acts 19:15 ____

Wisdom: (like logos) general for everyone all the time

The gift of wisdom gives you insight into God's purpose and will and shows you how to resolve the everyday problem for you and for other people. It goes without saying that you are resolving them according to the Holy Spirit's guidance and God's will. Mind you Solomon squandered it and solved problems apart from God as he followed after other gods. However, we can have wisdom without the gift of discernment, because the gift of discernment goes further, but we cannot have the gift of discernment without wisdom

Discernment: (like rhema) specific for a person for rite now

Consists of what people calls word of knowledge, it also comprises distinguishing amongst spirits etc. While some people separate them, the Holy Spirit taught me they are one in the same because what we are doing is seeing through others with the very eyes of the Holy Spirit. As we grow in the Lord and walk with Him daily, the gift keeps growing as well. We have insight into the purpose and the will of God about us and other people. We can see their motives, sometimes even their thoughts etc. We really have insight on people and things that only God would know.

Discernment -

1 Cor 2:14 -

1 cor 12:10 -

1 cor 14:29 -

1 John 4:1 -

1 Kings 3:9 -

1 Thess 5:21 -

Heb 5:14 -

Hosea 14:9 -

John 7:24 -

Matt 10:16 -

Prov 15:14 -

Psalms 119:125 -

Phil 1 :9,10 -

discernment, examples of

Perfect discernment is displayed by God and Jesus Christ. Evil spirits also have discernment, about the person and work of Christ.

Discernment has been evident in the rulers and spiritual leaders of God's people, but Israel, like children and the foolish who lack judgment, failed to discern God's purpose and truth.

raising questions of conscience, ²⁶ for, "The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it."²⁷ If an unbeliever invites you to a meal and you want to go, eat whatever is put before you without raising questions of conscience. ²⁸ But if someone says to you, "This has been offered in sacrifice," then do not eat it, both for the sake of the one who told you and for the sake of conscience. ²⁹ I am referring to the other person's conscience, not yours. For why is my freedom being judged by another's conscience? ³⁰ If I take part in the meal with thankfulness, why am I denounced because of something I thank God for? ³¹ So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God. ³² Do not cause anyone to stumble, whether Jews, Greeks or the church of God—³³ even as I try to please everyone in every way. For I am not seeking my own good but the good of many, so that they may be saved.

Lawful? Expedient? Necessary? Permissible? Beneficial?

- **Lawful-** legitimate, legal, permissible, permitted, allowable, rightful, sanctioned, authorized, warranted.
- **Expedient-** convenient and practical, (*although possibly improper or immoral*). Convenient, advantageous, (*in one's own interests*), useful, of use, beneficial, of benefit, helpful
- **Necessary-** required to be done, achieved, or present; needed; essential. Obligatory, requisite, required, compulsory, mandatory, imperative, needed, de rigueur; essential, indispensable, vital
- **Permissible-** permitted, allowable, allowed, acceptable, legal, lawful, legitimate, admissible, licit, authorized, sanctioned, tolerated
- **Beneficial-** favorable or advantageous; resulting in good. Advantageous, favorable, helpful, useful, of use, of benefit, of assistance, valuable, of value, profitable, rewarding, gainful

1. **Freedom** – The power or right to act, speak, or think as one wants without hindrance or restraint. independence, self-government, self-determination, self-rule, home rule, sovereignty, nonalignment, autonomy;
2. **Permission** – Authorization, consent, leave, authority, sanction, license, agreement, approval, seal/stamp of approval, endorsement, blessing, clearance, allowance, tolerance, empowerment
3. **Necessary** – Required to be done, achieved, or present; needed; essential. Required, compulsory, mandatory, imperative,
4. **Beneficial** – favorable or advantageous; resulting in good.

CONVICTIONS: For me, for others around me? Witness?

Food, pagan foods, fear factor foods, healthy foods...

music, secular Christian, metal, rap, country, worship...styles of worship?

drink alcohol, hold my beer, just a little, social drinking, too much? Any?

party, go to a party but refrain, don't go at all, go and be a witness?

dress, modest, sexy, formal, casual, holiness?

Financial lifestyle? Beneath your means, cars you drive, toys you own, give to missions or tithe?

Rom 14 - Accept the one whose faith is weak, without quarreling over disputable matters. ² One person's faith allows them to eat anything, but another, whose faith is weak, eats only vegetables. ³ The one who eats everything must not treat with contempt the one who does not,

Procrastination –

1 Cor 14:40 –

Ecc 9:10 –

Ecc 11:4 –

Gal 6:9 –

Hosea 10:12 –

James 4:7 –

John 9:4 –

Luke 12:35 – 40 –

Prov 10:4 –

Prov 12:24 –

Prov 13:4 –

Prov 14:23 –

Prov 18:9 –

Prov 20:4 –

Eph 5:15-17 –

Luke 9:59-62 –

Prov 24:30-34 –

much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!”

- We Need the Holy Spirit and his fruit

Galatians 5:22-23 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

- Pray for newness
- How does the Holy Spirit do that?

2 Corinthians 3:18 And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.

Decision deferment – not discernment –

but Pawning it off on God to avoid responsibility!

Decision - a conclusion or resolution reached after consideration. the action or process of coming to a judgment

Deferment – putting something off to a later time; postponement. Suspend, delay, procrastinate

Discernment – the ability to judge well. perception in the absence of judgment with a view to obtain spiritual direction and understanding.

Responsibility – a duty and obligation to deal with something or having control over a decision. being accountable or to blame liability. make decisions without authorization. a moral obligation to behave correctly, maturely, and wisely.

and the one who does not eat everything must not judge the one who does, for God has accepted them. ⁴ Who are you to judge someone else’s servant? To their own master, servants stand or fall. And they will stand, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

⁵ One person considers one day more sacred than another; another considers every day alike. Each of them should be fully convinced in their own mind. ⁶ Whoever regards one day as special does so to the Lord. Whoever eats meat does so to the Lord, for they give thanks to God; and whoever abstains does so to the Lord and gives thanks to God. ⁷ For none of us lives for ourselves alone, and none of us dies for ourselves alone. ⁸ If we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord. So, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord. ⁹ For this very reason, Christ died and returned to life so that he might be the Lord of both the dead and the living.

¹⁰ You, then, why do you judge your brother or sister? Or why do you treat them with contempt? For we will all stand before God’s judgment seat. ¹¹ It is written:

“‘As surely as I live,’ says the Lord, ‘every knee will bow before me; every tongue will acknowledge God.’”

¹² So then, each of us will give an account of ourselves to God.

¹³ Therefore let us stop passing judgment on one another. Instead, make up your mind not to put any stumbling block or obstacle in the way of a brother or sister. ¹⁴ I am convinced, being fully persuaded in the Lord Jesus, that nothing is unclean in itself. But if anyone regards something as unclean, then for that person it is unclean. ¹⁵ If your brother or sister is distressed because of what you eat, you are no longer acting in love. Do not by your eating destroy someone for whom Christ died. ¹⁶ Therefore do not let what you know is good be spoken of as evil. ¹⁷ For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit, ¹⁸ because anyone who serves Christ in this way is pleasing to God and receives human approval.

¹⁹ Let us therefore make every effort to do what leads to peace and to mutual edification. ²⁰ Do not destroy the work of God for the sake of food. All food is clean, but it is wrong for a person to eat anything that causes someone else to stumble. ²¹ It is better not to eat meat or drink wine or to do anything else that will cause your brother or sister to fall. ²² So whatever you believe about these things keep between yourself and God. Blessed is the one who does not condemn himself by what he approves. ²³ But whoever has doubts is condemned if they eat, because their eating is not from faith; and everything that does not come from faith is sin.

Rhema or Logos - Dr Yongi Cho

1. written or **inspired** (revealed)
2. practical or **personal**
3. don't try to walk on water just cause it's in the Bible (you could drown)
4. Peter did not walk on water because the Israelites crossed the red sea
5. the word must come alive and be **specific** for you.
6. ask God for **specifics** in your life.
7. practice hearing from God, faith comes from hearing...
8. "knowledge" (of Bible) if not internalized and personalized, can be fake faith
9. 7,000 promises in the Bible are "potentially" yours, the Holy Spirit can make them "actual"
10. divine healing can be scriptural, but don't presume to go off your meds!

Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

- God is not bent on brining you into an increasing awareness of his secret will for tomorrow.
- What you need in order to discern what will happen tomorrow is not a renewed mind but a crystal ball.
- There is no virtue in seeing tomorrow's events in a crystal ball. Something witches and Satan do.
- God wants your mind to be renewed not to know the sovereign will of God tomorrow, but to know the moral will of God the moral will of command.

- 3 stages of the moral will of command-

1. It starts with the bible decisively.

2 Timothy 3:16-17 All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking,

correcting and training in righteousness, 17 so that the servant of God[a] may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

2. You must choose to do many things which the bible does not give you instruction. House, car, marriage, job, etc...

3. You do not premeditate and decide to do 95% of what you do. Most of your thoughts and feelings are just there, and a tiny handful you think about.

What is the implication for most things (95%) for proving the will of God in your life? Pride, proud, anger, joy, anxiousness

- **Romans 12:2** "be transformed by the renewing of your mind."

- **Ephesians 4:23** "be renewed in the spirit of your minds." —an act of the Holy Spirit.

- **Psalms 51:10** "Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right[b] spirit within me".

- Prayer is the pervasive activity of the Christian life

Luke 11:13 "If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how

- Israel was called by God for a purpose when they stepped out of His will God did not change His plan, He fulfilled his plan in a different way.
- God never revokes his call when we make mistakes. He never throws us away. He always recalculates a way to get us back.

God will never revoke His call on our life He will turn our messes into a ministry.

- **Abraham-** was a Liar
- **David-** was immoral and a murder
- **Peter-** was a coward
- **Paul-** was a legalist and a murder

Some of the people who did the worst things God used to do great things. He Did Not throw them away

4. God releases the knowledge of His will and activates us into it as we surrender to Him.

Jeremiah 29:13 And you will seek me and find Me, when you search for me with all your heart.

Proverbs 16:3 commit your work to the Lord, and your thoughts will be established.

A reason we wonder away: we are not serious about our relationship with God

God love you more than you love yourself. God will bless you more than you bless yourself.

Gods will for your life is better than your own will for your life.

Peace – Shalom: to be overwhelmingly blessed in every area of your life.

J Piper – the will of God:

Romans 12:2 Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. 2

11. rice or cooked rice, only one of them you can eat (showbread in tabernacle)

12. Dr Cho waits and prays 3 to 5 hours in prayer every day before hearing.

Devotional Guide - application -

Understanding “Logos” and “Rhema”

In your daily WORDview Quiet Time you are especially looking for a “rhema” from the Lord...

Matt. 4:4- “It is written, ‘MAN SHALL NOT LIVE ON BREAD ALONE, BUT ON EVERY **WORD** (“rhema”) THAT PROCEEDS OUT OF THE MOUTH OF GOD.’”

Eph. 6:17- “...take the sword of the Spirit, which is the word (“rhema”) of God,...”

Important Concept: “Logos” vs “Rhema”

“Logos”

“Rhema”

Rom. 10:17 says “...**faith** comes by **hearing**, and hearing by the **word** of God.”

“The significance of rhema (as distinct from logos) is exemplified in the injunction to take “the sword of the Spirit, which is the word (“rhema”) of God,” (Eph. 6:17); here the reference is not to the whole Bible as such, but to the individual scripture which the Spirit brings to our remembrance for use in time of need...”

Vine Expository Dictionary

“The significance of rhema can be illustrated by its first occurrence.

Challenged by

Satan in the wilderness, Jesus responded that man is to live by every “rhema” that comes from the mouth of God” (Matt. 4:4). He then proceeds to counter Satan’s temptations by applying very specific words from Scripture to each situation that Satan creates.”

WARNING!!!

“Truth out of balance is Heresy.”

A “rhema” from God would never contradict the “Logos” of God!

Daily “Manna” from heaven...

I Cor. 10:11- “Now these things happened to them as an example, and they were **written for our instruction**...”

Ex. 16:4-5; 8; 26: “Behold, I will rain down **bread** from heaven for you; and the people shall go out and gather a day’s portion every day, that I may test them, whether or not they will walk in My instruction. 5 On the sixth day, ..., it will be twice as much as they gather daily.” 8 ... **bread to the full in the morning**... 18 had just what (was) needed. 26 ...Six days you shall gather it, but on the seventh day, the Sabbath, there will be none.”

Deut 8:3- “And He humbled you and let you be hungry, and fed you with manna..., **that He might make you understand that man does not live by bread alone, but ... by everything (rhema) that proceeds out of the mouth of the LORD.**”

Matt. 6:11- “...give us this day our **daily bread**...”

2 Tim. 3:17- “...that the man of God may be **adequate, equipped** for every good work.”

The objective of your daily WORD - view Quiet Time is to gather your daily “manna,” your daily “rhema” from the LORD, for that day, one day at a time, that will equip you for what you need for that day, as you walk in dependence on the LORD.

Gods will can be “hidden” because: Or Revealed because:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. The worlds influence | 1. Withdrawl / solitude |
| 2. Lack of Biblical knowledge | 2. Read scripture |
| 3. Traditions | 3. New experiences |
| 4. Hard heart | 4. repentance |
| 5. Apathy / disobedience | 5. obedience |
| 6. Reasoning / rationalizing | 6. Spirit led living |
| 7. Busy-ness | 7. Slowing our routines |
| | Be still and listen |

• Gen Ch 3 started in a paradise with God, the devil accused God to Adam and Eve. Every Sin, tragedy, failure is an open door for the devil to whisper a lie to your soul to cause you to not be able to relate to God or each other.

The devil will use that open door to convince us that God is finished with us, cannot love us and we are under judgement.

God says I know the thoughts I think towards you. We think he is done. He thinks Peace not evil, a Future and a hope for you.

2. Gods will for our life was established in our mother’s womb and has never changed.

Psalm 139:14-18 I will praise you for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; marvelous are Your works, and that my soul knows very well.

15 my frame was not hidden from you when I was made in secret, and skillfully wrought in the lowest parts of the earth.

16 Your eyes saw my substance, being yet unformed. And in Your book, they all were written, the days fashioned for me, when as yet there were none of them. 17 How precious are your thoughts towards me, O God! How great is the sum of them! 18 If I should count them, they would be more in number than the sand; when I awake, I am still with you.

We are not after thoughts. Our desire is to compare ourselves to others. We let someone else tell us how we should be and it is a comparison trap. Something will never be right between us and God until we can thank him for how he made us

3. Our mistakes and the devil’s attacks don’t cancel out Gods will for our lives.

Romans 11:29 The gifts and calling of God are irrevocable

Jeremiah 29:14 I will be found by you, says the Lord, and I will bring you back from captivity; I will gather you from all the nations and from all the places where I have driven you, says the Lord, and I will bring you to the place from which I cause you to be carried away captive.

Romans 8:28 And we know that all things work together for god to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purposes

Psalm 27:11 “Teach me Lord what You want me to do, and lead me down the right path.”

How does he do that-?

The Holy Spirit reminds us what we have read in the Bible. You have to get in the book. If your not in the book you get nothing.

God puts impressions or ideas in our mind. The devil puts Temptations. How do I get Gods ideas quicker? Ask humbly

Psalm 25:9 “God Guides the humble in what is right and teaches them His way.” Ask in Faith.

James 1:5-6 If you want to know what God really wants you to do, ask Him, and He will gladly tell you, for He is always ready to give a bountiful supply of wisdom to all who ask Him; but...be sure that you really expect Him to tell you...If you don’t ask in faith, don’t expect the Lord to give you any solid answer.”

5. If I want to be led by God’s Spirit I must listen for God’s response.

Quiet time daily

Job 33:14 “God does speak- sometimes one way and sometimes another- even though people may not understand it.”

Psalm 77:19 (NLT) “Your road led by a pathway through the sea- a pathway no one knew was there!”

He will make a pathway through the sea

The Good news of Gods will for your life. Jimmy Evans

1. God Loves You and Always has a Good plan for your life.

Jeremiah 29:11 (msg) I know what I am doing I have it all planned out plans to take care of you

and not abandon you plans to give you the future that you hope for.

- Your concept of who God is the most important thing in you being able to hear God. If you believe God is a loving God, it will be easy to hear God

- It’s the devils full time job to distort our concept of God, Pain, failure and sin is how he does it. Any time we fail he is always there to interpret it and tell us about God, ourselves and others in a distorted way

Hidden / Hindered:

To get in the way, delay progress, interfere, obstruct,

Disobedience – Duet. 1:26,43,45 / 1 Sam 13:12,13, & 14:36

Prov 28:9, Ezek 20:1-3

Secret sin – Psalm 66:18-20 / Josh 7:6-10

Indecisiveness – James 1:6-8

Family dissension – 1 Peter 3:7

Unforgiveness – Matt 5:23,24 / 6:14,15

Worry / doubt – Matt 6:25-34

Selfish motives – James 4:3

See also – matt 20:20-22 / Duet 3:23,26 / 2 sam 12:16 / 2 cor 12:7-10

Examples of God Revealing Himself:

Matt 7:7 - 7 “Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. 8 For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.

Jer 29:13 - You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.

John 10:27 - 27 My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me:

Acts 17:27 - God did this so that they would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from any one of us. 28 ‘For in him we live and move and have our being.’

Heb 11:6 - And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.

James 4:8 Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you.

Ephesians 3:3 How the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I have written briefly.

John 14:26 But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.

Amos 3:7 “For the Lord God does nothing without revealing his secret to his servants the prophets.

Isaiah 55:8 For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the Lord.

Romans 1:20 For since the creation of the world God’s invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse.

For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse.

John 1:9 - The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. 10 He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. 11 He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. 12 Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— 13 children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband’s will, but born of God. 14 The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. 15 (John testified concerning him. He cried out, saying, “This is the one I spoke about when I said, ‘He who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.’”) 16 Out of his fullness we have all received grace in place of grace already given. 17 For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. 18 No one has ever seen God, but the one and only Son, who is himself God and is in closest relationship with the Father, has made him known.

John 8:12 Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”

John 4:24 God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.”

Common mistake: ‘let you conscious be your guide, just because you think it doesn’t make it true. Just because its popular or someone else thought it does not make it true. Truth is simply true.

Most people make decisions based on how they feel. You cannot make a decision based on how you feel, you must have more information.

Proverbs 14:12 (CEV) “You may feel you’re on the right road and still end up dead.”

Isaiah 53:6 (living bible) “we’ve all strayed away like sheep! We have left God’s paths to follow our own.

Five things to Start Doing.

1. I must want to be led .

Desire, longing, craving- when you are desperate.

Psalm 40:8 “My god, I want to do what you want. Your teachings are in my heart.”

2. I must be willing to do what God says

Decide in advance ‘YES’ I surrender my life completely

John 7:17 (TEV) “Whoever is willing to do what God wants and chooses it will know if what I teach comes from God.”

3. I must look to Gods Word

Psalm 119:105 “Your word is a lamp to guide me and a light for my path.”

Psalm 119:133 “Guide my steps by Your Word, so I will not be overcome by any evil.”

a. **Gods will is found in God’s Word** when you open your bible God opens His mouth. Stop listening for a voice and start looking for a verse. **God expects me to obey what I already know before he shows me something new. START DOING WHAT YOU ALREADY KNOW IS GODS WILL.**

b. **GOD’S WILL NEVER CONTRADICTS GOD’S WORD.** What does the bible say?

4. If I want to be led by God’s Spirit, I must ask the Holy Spirit to be my Guide.

He is our guidance counselor.

James 4:2 “You do not have because you do not ask God for it.

Do you pray to God then read a horoscope? You cannot believe in both... Divination, or fortune telling, is trying to find out about (predict) your future without going to your creator.

Substitutes for God are called idols!

Ezekiel 21:21 (NIV) "The king of Babylon now stands at a crossroad, uncertain whether or not to attack.... So his advisors will cast lots by shaking arrows from the quiver and will inspect the livers of sacrificed animals. This is called divination

Examples today: Palm reading tarot cards, horoscopes, psychic readings, crystal ball, séances, outjie boards...

Deuteronomy 18:10-12 "Never look to psychics or séances or fortunetelling or the stars or people who claim to contact the dead. People who do these things are doing evil and God hates it with a passion."

You are never going to know Gods will through these means!

4. If I want to be led by god's Spirit, I must stop being led by my circumstances

When you build your life around your circumstances you are on shaky ground. 'It must be God's will'

Acts 27:10, 13-15 "Paul said, 'Men, If we sail now, the voyage will be a disaster. We'll lose the ship, the cargo and maybe even our own lives...but when a gentle breeze came up, they thought. This is exactly what we wanted,' so they launched out, thinking it would be smooth sailing. But at sea, a violent typhoon storm arose which made it impossible to control the direction of the ship. 'So we gave up and just let her drift...'"

Open door circumstances can be found out as trap doors. Don't use circumstances to discern Gods will, use circumstances to confirm God's will.

5. If I want to be led by Gods Spirit I cannot be led by my feelings

Your feelings lie to you all the time! Feelings good or bad they will not last. Elation, panic, depression they will not last at the same intensity its not permanent.

Odd things that happened in the Bible – Not principles or Logos / not generally for everyone

Principle - a fundamental truth or proposition that serves as the foundation for a system of belief or behavior or for a chain of reasoning.

Doctrine – set standard or belief as a guide or rule, main theological position

Law - the system of rules that a particular country or community recognizes as regulating the actions of its members

The following singular events happened at Gods "prerogative"

1. A Bush talked with Moses Exod 3:1-17
2. Balam's donkey talked Num 22:21
3. Prophet marries a prostitute Hosea 1:1-3
4. Isaiah walked naked for 3 years Isa 20:3
5. Everyone looked at a bronze snake on a pole for healing Num 21:8,9
6. King Saul demands as a bride price of 100 foreskins 1 Sam 18:25
7. Bear is told to maul kids who mocked Elisha for being bald 2 Kings 2:23
8. Ezekiel has to lay down on his left side for 390 days Ezek 1:1-16
9. Lots wife turned to a pillar of salt Gen 19:1-26
10. Coins appear in a fish to pay taxes Matt 7:24-26
11. Axe head floats on water 2 Kings 6:1-7
12. Boy raised from dead and sneezed 7 times 2 Kings 4:35
13. Gideons fleece was wet to reveal Gods will Judges 6:36-40

- 14. Choosing fighting men by the way they drink
Judges 7:5-7
 - 15. Using urim and thummim stones
Exod 28:30
 - 16. Disciples cast lots for Gods will
Acts 1:26
-

Can God do “odd” things for you / with you Whenever He wants, However He wants?

Should we live for strange miracles and revelations?

Did the Pharisees look for and demand a “sign” from Jesus? How did He respond?

Matt 16:1-4 – Knowing seasons or patterns are wisdom

Sons of Issachar were wise because they knew the “signs of the times” and they knew what Israel should do – 1 Chron 12:32

Does God have practical principles for stewardship, obedience, and our calling?

**See page on Revelation (led by the spirit) for asking God’s will today.*

4 Wills of God - 5 “I Wills” of Satan - 7 “I wills” from Jesus

Pride / or Humility / self-serving / or living for others?

- 1. John 6:40 - salvation
 - 2. 1 Thess 4:3 – sanctification / purity
 - 3. 1 Thess 5:18 - thanksgiving
 - 4. 1 Peter 2:13-15 – yield and submit (obedience)
-

Politically correct? Culturally correct?

You **cannot** conform to the culture and **be just like everybody else** and be led by the Holy Spirit.

Romans 12:2 (NLT) **“Do not copy the behavior of the values of this world. Instead, let God**

transform you into a new person by changing the way you think.

Then you will know what God wants you to do, and you will know how good and pleasing and perfect His will really is!”

God’s will for your life is good, pleasing and perfect.

1 John 2:17 (NIV) “The world and its desires pass away, but whoever does the will of God lives forever”.

2. If I want to be led by God’s Spirit, I can’t follow friends who aren’t led by God .

Peer Pressure,

1 John 3:7 (new century version) “Do not let anyone lead you the wrong way! Christ is righteous, so **be like Christ**, you must **do what is right**. And anyone who keeps on sinning is being led by the Devil.”

Proverbs 13:20 (CEV) “Keep company with wise friends and you will become wise. But **if you associate with fools, your life will suffer great hurt**”.

Psalms 14:1 (NIV) “The fool says in his heart, “There is no God. They are corrupt, they do abominable deeds; there is none who does good.

YOU NEED TO CHOOSE YOUR FRIENDS WISELY!

Think about this: believers who go get counseling from nonbelievers God wants you have friends that are nonbelievers however...

Jeremiah 15:19 (NIV) “...you will be my spokesman. **You are to influence** them but **do not let them influence you!**”

1 John 2:15 “Do not love the world or anything that belongs to the world! If you love the world, you cannot love the Father.”

Two worlds

a. world, value system ---we are to hate

b. world, the people --- we are to love

3. If I want to be led by Gods Spirit, I can’t look to other sources besides God .

you permit it wisely if you're God — and then it wisely fits into the overall pattern of what you are planning and doing.

Let me end with a statement and a question. The statement is that human beings are responsible, accountable, praiseworthy, or blameworthy for what they do. God's sovereignty does not diminish human accountability. That's the statement.

The question is, which world would you rather live in? One where humans or Satan or chance govern what happens to you? Or one where an infinitely good, infinitely wise, infinitely powerful God works everything together for the good of those who trust him and for his glory?

Learn How to Be Led by God's Spirit. / Rick Warren

Life is a Journey

The Bible is a road map, and a compass God gives us a personal guidance counselor in the Holy Spirit.

How do we let God lead? ,Why is it so difficult?, We often look for the wrong thing from God.

Psalms 23:1-3 (ceV) The Lord is my shepherd, I have everything I need. He makes me lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside still waters. He restores my soul. He leads me in the right paths for His name sake.

One proof or evidence you are in God's Family is that He guides you

Romans 8:14 (ceV)

"Only those people who are led by God's Spirit are God's children".

How do I get God's guidance in my life? 5 things to stop doing .

1. If I want to be led by God's Spirit, I can't follow a culture that doesn't follow God

Exodus 23:2 (niv) "Do not follow the crowd in doing wrong".

Most people make decisions based on what is acceptable, fitting in, pressures to conform.

Isa 14:13,14 (Satan)

1. **I will** ascend into heaven,
 2. **I will** exalt my throne above the stars of God;
 3. **I will** also sit on the mount of the congregation In the sides of the north;
 4. **I will** ascend above the heights of the clouds,
 5. **I will** be like the Most High.
-

Exodus 6:1-8 from God (contrast)

1. **I will** bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians (vs 6)
2. **I will** take you to Me for a people (vs 7)
3. **I will** be to you a God (vs 7)
4. **I will** bring you in unto the land (vs 8)
5. **I will** give it to you for a heritage. (vs 8)

The Seven "I Wills" of Jesus

1. **I will** make you fishers of men. ([Matt 4:19](#))
2. **I will** give you rest ([Matt 11:28](#))
3. **I will** keep you. ([John 6:37](#))
4. **I will** love you ([John 14:21](#)).
5. **I will** do what you ask in my name. ([John 14:14](#))
6. **I will** come again and see you again ([John 14:3](#), [16:22](#))
7. **I will** send the [Holy Spirit] to you. ([John 16:7](#))

The Seven "I Am" Statements of Jesus

1. **I am** the bread of life ([John 6:35](#))
2. **I am** the light of the world ([John 8:12](#))
3. **I am** the gate for the sheep ([John 10:7](#))
4. **I am** the good shepherd ([John 10:11](#))
5. **I am** the resurrection and the life ([John 11:25](#))
6. **I am** the way and the truth and the life ([John 14:6](#))
7. **I am** the true vine ([John 15:1](#))

MY "I Wills"...

1. I will marry so and so
 2. I will work at such and such
 3. I will spend my money on...
 4. I will come and go when and where I want
 5. I will live at this house
 6. I will attend or not attend this church
 7. I will have _____ kids
 8. I will do what's good for me
 9. I will speak what's on my mind
 10. I will believe what I want about...
 11. _____
 12. _____
-

EBOOK summary on the will of God

- Knowing the will of God comes from a prayerful and thankful heart, a renewed mind, and a wise, circumspect and holy lifestyle.
- God's will indicates a divine calling on a human life ordering it into a divine pattern.
- God's Will indicates God's moral law such as abstaining from fornication, or an appropriate Christian attitude such as thankfulness
- The concept of the will of God also involves difficult and arduous obedience under trial for which we will receive a reward. This is something we should "stand in" and "fulfill"
- The will of God has an almost mystical level to it, bringing entrance into eternal life and causing us to "abide forever"
- The will of God is primarily revealed to us so we can become holy His will is about becoming obedient, holy, wise and enduring saints of God.

"Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. (Matthew 7:21 ESV)

Jesus here explicitly says that **not everyone is doing the will of God, not even among Christians.**

John Piper, John MacArthur, RC Sproul, ... CALVANISM...

"The Bible sweepingly says that everything human beings do is, in the end, the will of God."

"It's arrogant to think you're in control. God is in control."

[James 4:13-15](#): "Come now, you who say, 'Today or tomorrow we will go into such and such a town and spend a year there and trade and make a profit' — yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes. Instead you ought to say" — this is what the biblical inspired writer James says we ought to say — "If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that."

Permitting or Controlling?

Lastly, God's permission for Satan or man to act is nevertheless part of God's ultimate design and final control. I'm trying to respond here to someone who says, "Well, God doesn't control everything, but he permits lots of things." I'm saying that's right. He certainly does permit lots of things. How should we understand an all-knowing God with perfect foreknowledge permitting something in his infinite wisdom?

Even in situations where God is *permitting*, he is *permitting by design*. When you permit something and you know what it's going to do and you know all of its outcomes and you go ahead and permit it,

Armenians – Free will or Sovereign control? (Like 2 pedals on a bike) Can things happen outside of God's will?

Is everything that happens **God's will**, or can things happen which are **not God's will**?

For whoever does the will of God, he is my brother and sister and mother.” (Mark 3:35 ESV)

Is everyone on earth doing God's will? If so, is everyone Jesus' brother and sister and mother?

They will put you out of the synagogues. Indeed, the hour is coming when whoever kills you will think he is offering service to God. (John 16:2 ESV)

Was it God's will to kill Christians? And yet, this still happened.

but whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a great millstone fastened around his neck and to be drowned in the depth of the sea.

So it is not the will of my Father who is in heaven that one of these little ones should perish. (Matthew 18:6, 14 ESV)

Was it God's will for those little ones to sin and perish? And yet, this still happened to some.

For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you abstain from sexual immorality; (1 Thessalonians 4:3 ESV)

Now, we all know that some Christians have committed sexual immorality. Some even did so in the pages of the Bible. And yet, God's will is the **opposite**.

- The will of God is to be loving, forgiving, kind, thankful, and pure in heart and life
- Sometimes the will of God is not about “which one” but rather “which attitude”.

Out of the will of God?

- One area that many people are out of the will of God is in the area of selfishness.
- Another serious area where people get out of the will of God is in wrong inner attitudes such as unforgiveness, bitterness, clamor, wrath and the desire for revenge. Impurity, lust, fornication, pornography, the occult and so on are also things that can lead us far from God's will. Thus the will of God is not so much about making the “right decision” (regarding career, marriage, house, church and so forth) as it is about being the “right person”
- So in knowing God's will we should start with what the Bible says. If further guidance is necessary we should pray for wisdom and guidance. God may reveal through a strong inner impression, a dream or vision, a word of knowledge or wisdom, advice from mature and wise counsel, and sometimes through circumstances

Questions to ask

- Is this in line with the revealed will of God in Scripture?
- Does it glorify God?
- Is it making me a good person? Is it bearing good fruit?
- Is it something Jesus would do?
- Am I walking in the light?
- Is it pure, truthful and honest?
- Is it in line with my calling and with the prior work of God in my life?
- Is it full of quietness, confidence and rest - or is it noisy, clamorous, proud, striving and ambitious?
- Is lust, greed, anger, envy or selfish ambition involved?
- Am I being stubborn and willful?
- Can I face Jesus with this decision on the Day of Judgment?

Moral or Missional Will?

“Who we are” as a person (universal) or

“what we do” in activity (personal)

WHO WE ARE... moral

Having an internal moral compass
2 / 10 commandments / or 613 laws
Character, integrity
Heart after God
Motives behind the behavior
Automatic standards for conduct

**God's will is for me to be
a good (Godly) person*

WHAT WE DO... missional

Spiritual gifts for acts of service
Teaching, Leading
Giving to widows, orphans, poor
Assignment
Operation of a duty
Ambition to accomplish tasks
Calling to action

**God's will is for me to do good
(Godly) things*

1 Tim 2:3,4 This is good, and pleases God our Savior, ⁴ who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.

2 Peter 3:9 The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.

1 Thess 5:18 give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

1 Thess 4:3 It is God's will that you should be sanctified: that you should avoid sexual immorality;

Heb 13:20,21 Now may the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, ²¹ equip you with everything good for doing his will, and may he work in us what is pleasing to him,

James 1:5 If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you.

1 Peter 2:15 For it is God's will that by doing good you should silence the ignorant talk of foolish people.

Matt 6:10 your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Luke 22:42 - "Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done."

Micah 6:8 He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you?

To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.

Heb 10:36 You need to persevere so that when you have done the will of God, you will receive what he has promised.

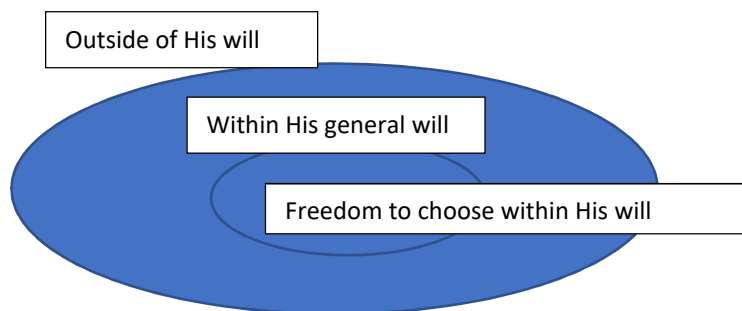
Gods Plan vs Gods specific will (within the boundaries or confines)

His Plan is the same for us all, specific will must be acquired personally

General PLAN

Specific will

- | | |
|-------------------------|--|
| 1. You to be saved | 1. You to be Baptist, Methodist, etc? |
| 2. You to holy | 2. Single, married, quit lusting |
| 3. You to have purpose | 3. Mechanic, artistic, musical, builder? |
| 4. You to have friends | 4. Friends you need, those who need you |
| 5. You to steward well | 5. Job, house, car, stuff, give |
| 6. Godly character | 6. Personality type |
| 7. Endurance | 7. Don't quit job, marriage, etc |
| 8. Do good works | 8. Serve others |
| 9. Yield control to God | 9. Ask and Do what He wants |
| 10. Grow in wisdom | 10. Continued education |



Matt 7 - ²¹ “Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one **who does the will** of my Father who is in heaven. ²² Many will say to me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name and in your name drive out demons and in your name perform many miracles?’ ²³ Then I will tell them plainly, **‘I never knew you.** Away from me, you evildoers!’

Luke 10 - As Jesus and his disciples were on their way, he came to a village where a woman named Martha opened her home to him. ³⁹ She had a sister called Mary, who **sat at the Lord’s feet listening** to what he said. ⁴⁰ But Martha was distracted by **all the preparations that had to be made.** She came to him and asked, “Lord, don’t you care that my sister has left me to do the work by myself? Tell her to help me!” ⁴¹ “Martha, Martha,” the Lord answered, “you are worried and upset about many things, ⁴² but few things are needed—or indeed only one. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her.”

Gal 5 - It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery... You who are trying to be justified by the law have been alienated from Christ; you have fallen away from grace... So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. ¹⁷ For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh. They are in conflict with each other, so that you are not to do whatever you want. ¹⁸ But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law...the fruit of the spirit is _____

James 2 - What *does it* profit, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can faith save him? But someone will say, “You have faith, and I have works.” Show me your faith without your works, and I will show you my faith by my works.

SEVEN REALITIES FOR EXPERIENCING GOD

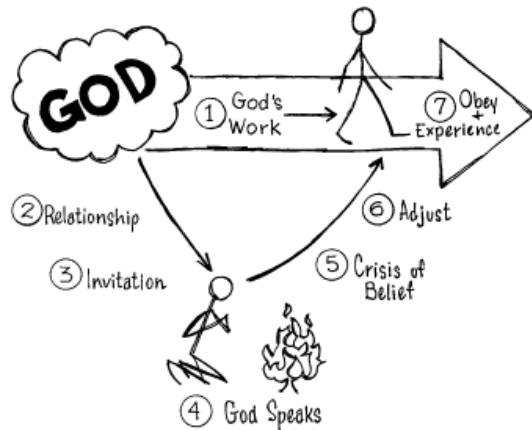
How to Know and Do the Will of God

Blackaby

Begin with A God-Centered Life

1. God's Work
2. Relationship
3. Invitation
4. God Speaks
5. Crisis of belief
6. Adjust
7. Obey and experience

A GOD-CENTRED LIFE



Throughout Scripture a common pattern surfaces that I call the Seven Realities for experiencing God. The Seven Realities identify ways God works to involve people in His activity.

1. God is always at work around you.
2. God pursues a continuing love relationship with you that is real and personal.
3. God invites you to become involved with Him in His work.
4. God speaks by the Holy Spirit through the Bible, prayer, circumstances, and the church to reveal Himself, His purposes, and His ways.
5. God's invitation for you to work with Him always leads you to a crisis of belief that requires faith and action.
6. You must make major adjustments in your life to join God in what He is doing.
7. You come to know God by experience as you obey Him, and He accomplishes His work through you.

These Seven Realities describe the ongoing experience of a God-centered life

Decision making guides

Isa 30:21 - Whether you turn to the right or to the left, your ears will hear a voice behind you, saying, "This is the way; walk in it."

Ben Franklin Decision-Making Job Aid

Decision:		Pros				Cons			
Cost	Benefit	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4

Total Pros/Cons: Pros: _____ Cons: _____
 Total Pros/Cons: Pros: _____ Cons: _____

Personal Reflection Questions:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How do you feel about this decision? 2. Do you feel confident about the final consequences of your decision? 3. Do you feel responsible for this decision in the future? 4. How do you feel about the consequences? 5. How do you feel about the decision? 6. How do you feel about the decision? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7. How do you feel about the decision? 8. How do you feel about the decision? 9. How do you feel about the decision? 10. How do you feel about the decision? 11. How do you feel about the decision? 12. How do you feel about the decision?
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