



EQUIPPING THE SAINTS

BIBLE STUDY: KNOWING GOD'S WILL

Sometimes it may seem to you that God's will is hidden in a buried treasure chest and you have only small portions of the map to find it. But is this true? Is God keeping His plans from you as some hidden secret? Or will He allow you to follow Him, and lead you step by step?

Proverbs 3:5,6 can clear up misconceptions about knowing God's will. Meditate on it carefully:

Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.

The Revealed Will of God

1. What should be one of your desires as a follower of Christ? Ephesians 5:17

2. What does God promise you concerning His will for your life? Psalm 32:8

3. What does God reveal about His will for you in the following verses?

1 Thessalonians 4:3 _____

1 Thessalonians 5:18 _____

1 Peter 2:15 _____

4. What was the psalmist's attitude toward God's will in Psalm 40:8?

What actions help produce this attitude? _____

5. Who is your source of strength to do God's will?

Philippians 2:13 _____

John 15:5 _____

*The will of God is not like a magic package let down from heaven by a string....
The will of God is far more like a scroll that unrolls every day....
The will of God is something to be discerned and to be lived out every day of our lives.
It is not something to be grasped as a package once for all.
Our call, therefore, is basically not to follow a plan or a blueprint,
or to go to a place or take up a work,
but rather to follow the Lord Jesus Christ.
—Paul Little**

We often face decisions on issues which the Scriptures do not provide specific instructions for. In these cases, a Christian should apply the principles of decision-making which are contained in Scripture.

Principles of Decision-Making

Objectives from Scripture

God has given particular commandments which can help you make decisions concerning your activities. If a particular course of action is inconsistent with the Bible, then you know it is not His will for you.

6. Using the following verses, state in your own words some of God's objectives for you. God wants you to...

Matthew 6:33 _____

Matthew 22:37-39 _____

Matthew 28:18-20 _____

1 Peter 1:15 _____

2 Peter 3:18 _____

* From *Affirming the Will of God* (Downers Grove, Illinois: InterVarsity Press, 1971), page 8.

Ask yourself some questions based on these and similar verses to determine your course of actions:

- a. Am I putting God's desires ahead of my own?**
- b. Will it help me to love God and others more?**
- c. How does this action relate to my personal involvement in fulfilling Christ's Great Commission?**
- d. Will this help me lead a more holy life?**
- e. Will this course of action increase my personal knowledge of Christ?**

Honestly answering these questions will help you make a decision in accordance with God's Word.

7. Using the following verses, develop questions that will help you discern God's will.

1 Corinthians 6:12 _____

1 Corinthians 6:19,20 _____

1 Corinthians 8:9 _____

1 Corinthians 10:31 _____

Obedience to God

If you refuse to obey God in what He has already shown you, why should God give you further direction? Obedience to the known will of God is important in receiving further guidance.

8. How do you gain an understanding of God's will? _____

Psalms 37:31 _____

Psalms 119:105,130 _____

9. What other action can you take to learn God's will?

Psalms 143:8 _____

James 1:5 _____

Openness to God's Leading

Many difficulties in determining the Lord's will are overcome when you are truly ready to do His will, whatever it may be.

14. You may not always know all of the possible alternatives in determining what to do. By what means may you gather additional information? Proverbs 15:22

Counsel should be obtained from mature Christians who have committed themselves to the will of God and who know you well. It helps to talk with others who have previously made decisions in matters you are presently experiencing.

15. Explain the principle Jesus used in answering those who were questioning him. John 7:17

How does this apply to knowing God's will? _____

16. When you know what God wants you to do, how should you do it? Ephesians 6:6

17. What are other factors that can help you discern God's leading? Match the following verses with the appropriate phrase.

- | | |
|---------------------------------|----------------------|
| _____ Careful and wise thinking | a. Colossians 3:15 |
| _____ Inner spiritual peace | b. Romans 13:1 |
| _____ Legal obligations | c. Ephesians 5:15-17 |

Principles in Practice

18. Examine the following examples from the Bible and ask yourself these questions: What decision was made? What was the major issue in this decision?

Person		Decision
Gideon	Judges 6:25-28	
Moses	Hebrews 11:25,26	
Demas	2 Timothy 4:10	

19. The following chart may be helpful in determining God's will for a particular decision you now face.

Spiritual Objectives	Yes	No	Neutral
Am I putting God's desire ahead of my own?			
Will it help me love God and others more?			
Will it help me to fulfill the Great Commission?			
Will it help me lead a more holy life?			
Will it help me further my Christian training?			

Decision I am facing: _____

Other questions: _____

Obedience to God

Are there other areas in which I need to obey God before determining this decision?

What have I seen recently in the Scriptures that relates to this decision?

Have I prayed about this decision? _____

Openness to God’s Leading

What are the various options I have in making this decision?

Options	Advantages	Disadvantages

Am I truly willing to do whatever God wants me to do? What counsel have I received from others?

With what decision do I feel inner spiritual peace? _____

What circumstances relate to this decision? _____
