

## HOW TO KNOW GOD'S WILL FOR YOUR LIFE

(Most Asked Questions Series...#7)

Like many pastors, I am often asked the question, "How can I know the will of God?" This question usually comes from the heart of one who knows Christ as Savior and desires to please the Lord. Usually this question relates to making some of the difficult choices in life. Should I go to college, and if so where? What should I study? Should I marry? If so whom? What job does the Lord want me to take? Where should I live, etc?

Unfortunately, there is a lot of fuzzy thinking about knowing God's will. These vary from thinking that God's will is something that must be discovered by you, to the thinking that if you miss His best, you are consigned to second best forever. God's wonderful Word guides us in this important area of life.

### TWO QUESTIONS HELPING US TO UNDERSTAND GOD'S WILL FOR OUR LIVES.

Most of us hunger for God's guidance in life as we make our decisions.

#### I. How Are We To Understand What Is Usually Meant By "God's Will?"

- A. God's sovereign will. The Bible clearly teaches this.
  - 1. This is God's predetermined plan devised before time.  
It is certain, yet, it is unknowable to us. Some call it "God's secret plan."
  - 2. Scriptures teach that:  
Daniel 4:35 "God does as He pleases...no one can hold back His hand."  
Eph. 1:11 "in Him we were chosen having been predestined...according to His will."
  - 3. The problem for us: we cannot know this ahead of time...only after the fact.
- B. God's moral will. This is revealed to us only in the Bible. It is complete.
  - 1. This will is God's moral commands that teach us how we ought to live.
  - 2. Some verses actually tell us, "it is God's will..."  
1 Thess 4:3 "it is God's will that you...avoid sexual immorality..."  
1 Thess 5:18 "give thanks in all circumstances...for this is God's will for you..."
  - 3. Other verses give us God's moral commands that are given in a general way.  
2 Corinth 6:14 "do not be yoked together with unbelievers."  
Exodus 20 – the 10 Commandments
  - 4. As Christians we are to know God's moral will and live accordingly. "Live under it"
- C. God's individual will for each of us. This is the idea of God's detailed life-plan encompassing every decision we make and is the basis for daily guidance.
  - 1. God certainly has a sovereign will for us...but it is hidden and unknowable to us.
  - 2. The idea of an individual will that must be discovered is unbiblical. This is not found in Scripture. You are free to live, serve, and chose within the boundaries of God's moral will. God has not given us a specific road map, but a compass to live by.

3. Some texts that are often used to support the idea of individual will:  
 Proverbs 3:5-6 "Trust in the Lord...He will guide your steps." He will make your steps "smooth." The idea, those who trust God will reap a life that is successful...  
 Psalm 32:8 "I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go..." ex. David  
 Colossians 1:9 "filled with the knowledge of His will" This is God's moral will. (10-11)

**II. What Are Some Principles That Can Guide Us In Making Wise Decisions?**

- A. In using your freedom to choose, limit your choices by the law of love. (Romans 14:21)
- B. Use your God-given intelligence so that you know your strengths and weaknesses.
- C. Do not consider circumstances "the voice of God." What about "open doors?"  
 At times Paul went through "open doors" (1 Corinth 16:7-9), and did not at other times (2 Corinth 2:12-13)  
 God does work through our circumstances, but we are not always aware of how... ex. Paul
- D. Beware of "impressions," those inner feelings. They are not the voice of God. Is it indigestion?
- E. Seek wise counsel from others. Seek it from your parents, from those who shared a common experience, or from one skilled in the area you are wondering about. (Proverbs 1:7)
- F. God will never lead you contrary to His Word.  
 You are free to make your decisions within the boundaries of God's moral will. In the process, help yourself to the principles given above, and remember you are responsible to God for the decisions you make. Choose wisely!

**LESSONS FOR OUR LIVES:**

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