

Discerning God's Will

“God’s will isn’t so much a place, an assignment, or a major decision as it is our relationship with Him, growing in Christ and allowing Him to produce His life in us”.

Characteristics of God's Will

It can be:

Known	Romans 2:18
Proven	Romans 12:2
Done	Mathew 6:10

It is sovereign over:

Nations	Daniel 4:35
Individuals	Acts 21:14

With this knowledge, let’s simplify God’s will into two basic categories: one would be His as flat out blatantly spelled out in the Bible and the other would be the kind we have to figure out.

Examples of God's Will blatantly stated in Scripture

1 Thes. 5:16-18	defines God’s will in terms of thanksgiving
1 Thes. 4:3	defines God’s will in terms of sanctification
Eph. 1:4	we should be holy and blameless before Him

But how do we make decisions on things not spelled out in Scripture?

Making Decisions

- 1. Prayer:** prayer is vital in seeking the Lord on an issue
In order to maximize our communication with God...
 - a. There must be unconfessed sin in your life
 - Psalms 66:18 tells us that God does not hear those who harbor sin in their heart
 - b. Make sure we are filled with the Spirit
 - not only is it a command from God (Eph. 5:18)...
 - but just as turning the steering wheel of an automobile doesn’t alter its direction unless it’s moving, God can’t direct our lives unless we’re moving for Him
- 2. Claim His wisdom**
James 1:2-6 What does this passage say about discerning God’s will in difficult situations? What do we know about God’s promises?
- 3. Claim sound judgment**
2 Timothy 1:7
Don’t confuse a sound mind with common sense because common sense is wisdom of man without the benefit of God’s wisdom and power that we do find in what the Bible calls sound judgment

4. **Faith:** make a decision in faith that God will guide
Proverbs 3:5-6

Questions to ask yourself

1. Am I searching God's Word to see if it has anything to say regarding this decision?
 - Faith must have an object. As Christians, our faith is built on the authority of God's Word and not on emotional experiences
 - As Christians we are to live by faith and faith comes through an understanding of the Word of God, it is impossible to over-emphasize the importance of Scripture in our lives if we want to know and do the will of God.
2. Have I diligently sought out God on this decision in prayer?
 - 1 John 5:14-15 confirms that He hears us and will answer our prayers
3. Am I thinking self-priority (making decisions in light of my own ambitions) or kingdom priority (in light of eternity)?
4. Have I sought the council of Spirit-filled believers?

Side notes :

1. God never contradicts Himself. He never leads to do anything contrary to the commands of His Word
 - do not be deceived because Satan and his helpers often disguise themselves as "angels of light" (2 Corin. 11:14)
2. Circumstances do not necessarily mean God's will
 - don't have a hit and miss attitude
 - seek God's best first
3. Difficulties do not mean a closed door
 - obstacles help us grow in the Lord as we depend on Him to guide us