

Decision Making and the Will of God

1) Introduction

- a) What are some of the decisions that you struggle with?
- b) If God wanted for us to know His will, and He does, where would he put it so that we would be sure to find it? Answer: _____

2) 5 Flawed decision-making approaches:

- i) _____ - Philippians 4:6-7
- ii) _____ - Judges 6:11-40, Gideon
- iii) _____ - Acts 14:27, 1 Corinthians 16:9, 2 Corinthians 2:12, Colossians 4:3
- iv) _____ - Acts
- v) _____ -

What's wrong with these decision making approaches?

Bottom line: the Bible must be _____ with care.

2 Timothy 3:16-17, All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness;¹⁷ so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.

3) Two categories of God's will:

- a) God's **will of** _____ (also known as God's sovereign will)
- b) God's **will of** _____ (also known as God's moral will)

John MacArthur summarized God's moral will with 6 principles:

- (1) **Be** _____
 - (a) 1 Timothy 2:3-4
 - (b) 2 Peter 3:9
- (2) **Be** _____
 - (a) Eph 5:17-18
 - (b) Colossians 3:16
- (3) **Be** _____
 - (a) 1 Thessalonians 4:3
 - (b) 1 Corinthians 6:18

- (4) **Be** _____
(a) James 4:7
(b) Hebrews 13:17
(c) 1 Peter 2:13-15

- (5) **Be** _____
(a) 1 Peter 3:17, 2:20, 4:19, 5:10
(b) 2 Corinthians 12:7-10

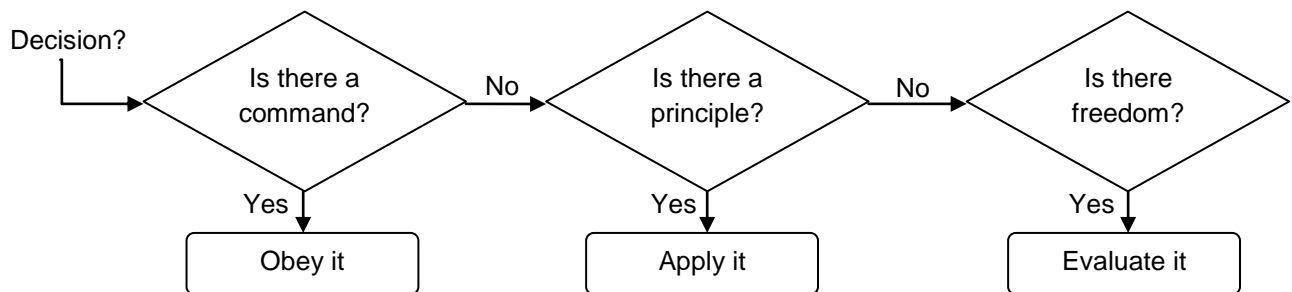
- (6) **Be** _____
(a) 1 Thessalonians 5:18
(b) Ephesians 5:4, 20

c) What about all those decisions that aren't addressed in the bible?

- i) Matthew 6:25-34
ii) Psalm 119

The bible never urges us to find God's will or to seek some new revelation. Rather, the bible always urges us to obey what God has already revealed in His word!

4) Decision making flow chart:



Resources:

1. *Just Do Something - A Liberating Approach to Finding God's Will or How to Make Decisions without Dreams, Visions, Fleeces, Impressions, Open Doors, Random Bible Verses, Casting Lots, Liver Shivers, Writing in the Sky, Etc*, by Kevin DeYoung
2. *Found: God's Will - Find the Direction and Purpose God Wants for Your Life*, John MacArthur
3. John MacArthur, Taking the Mystery Out of Knowing God's Will
<http://www.gty.org/resources/sermons/80-310>
4. *Decision Making God's Way - A New Model for Knowing God's Will*, Gary T. Meadors