

K Knowing the Will of God

Principles for discerning the will of God for my life



Romans 12:1-2 *“I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that **good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.**”*

Please Note: For this study you will fill in the blanks as you watch Pastor Simeon Western’s teaching video for this lesson. You will then have a session with your mentor to discuss it. It may be a suggestion to watch it together.

Introduction:

There are _____ to the will of God.

1. The _____ will of God - That which is clearly revealed in Scripture and applies to all Christians. E.g., Church attendance, giving, missions, witness, respect for authority etc...

2. The _____ will of God - Relates to the decisions I must make in my life that are not clearly spelled out in Scripture. E.g., which career should I pursue? Who is my future spouse?

Aim: This study will focus primarily on the key Biblical principles that will equip us for discerning God's will as it relates to the _____ will of God for our lives. We will consider **four principles** that will help us to discern God's will for our lives. The first three points are preparatory, dealing with some needed heart preparation and the final point is practical, dealing with the mechanics of how to discern God's will for our lives.



PRINCIPLE # 1 _____ GOD HAS A SPECIFIC PLAN FOR YOUR LIFE

Key thought: Coming to the realization that God has a plan for my life will start me on the quest to find God's will.



A. God has a _____ will for our lives.

Romans 12:1-2 *"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, **that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.**"*

Remember, God's will for your life IS BEST!

B. God has a _____ for our lives

Ephesians 2:10 *"For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath **before ordained that we should walk in them.**"*

Note: The word 'workmanship' has the idea of a work of art, that which is crafted/created by God.

C. God's plan was made _____ we were even born

Consider the following examples:

_____: Judges 13:1-5 *"And the children of Israel did evil again in the sight of the LORD; and the LORD delivered them into the hand of the Philistines forty years. And there was a certain man of Zorah, of the family of the Danites, whose name was Manoah; and his wife was barren, and bare not. And the angel of the LORD appeared unto the woman, and said unto her, Behold now, thou art barren, and bearest not: but thou shalt conceive, and bear a son. Now therefore beware, I pray*

*thee, and drink not wine nor strong drink, and eat not any unclean thing: For, lo, thou shalt conceive, and bear a son; and no razor shall come on his head: **for the child shall be a Nazarite unto God from the womb: and he shall begin to deliver Israel out of the hand of the Philistines.***"

_____ : Jeremiah 1:5 "**Before** I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and **before** thou camest forth out of the womb **I sanctified thee, and I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations.**"

_____ : Luke 1:13-17 "*But the angel said unto him, Fear not, Zacharias: for thy prayer is heard; and thy wife Elisabeth shall bear thee a son, and thou shalt call his name John. And thou shalt have joy and gladness; and many shall rejoice at his birth. For he **shall** be great in the sight of the Lord, and **shall** drink neither wine nor strong drink; and he **shall** be filled with the Holy Ghost, even from his mother's womb. And many of the children of Israel **shall** he turn to the Lord their God. And he **shall** go before him in the spirit and power of Elias, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just; to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.*"

D. God wants to _____ our lives like _____ in the potter's hand

Jeremiah 18:1-6 "*The word which came to Jeremiah from the LORD, saying, Arise, and go down to the potter's house, and there I will cause thee to hear my words. Then I went down to the potter's house, and, behold, he wrought a work on the wheels. And the vessel that he made of clay was marred in the hand of the potter: so **he made it again another vessel, as seemed good to the potter to make it.** Then the word of the LORD came to me, saying, O house of Israel, cannot I do with you as this potter? saith the LORD. **Behold, as the clay is in the potter's hand, so are ye in mine hand,** O house of Israel."*

PRINCIPLE # 2 _____ COMPLETELY TO GOD'S WILL

Key thought: We cannot possibly enjoy the blessings of God's will for our lives if we do not first of all, place our lives completely in His hands.



A. The example of _____

Hebrews 10:7 *"Then said I, Lo, I come (in the volume of the book it is written of me,) to do thy will, O God."*

John 6:38 *"For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me."*

Matt 26:39 *"And he went a little further, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt."*

B. The example of _____. Psalm 25:4 *"Shew me thy ways, O LORD; teach me thy paths."*

C. The example of the _____. Acts 9:6 *"And he trembling and astonished said, Lord, what wilt thou have me to do? And the Lord said unto him, Arise, and go into the city, and it shall be told thee what thou must do."*

Philippians 1:21 *"For me to live is Christ, and to die is gain."*

PRINCIPLE # 3 _____ DOING WHAT YOU ALREADY KNOW TO BE GOD'S WILL (I.E., HIS GENERAL WILL)

Key thought: God reveals his specific will to those who are serious about obeying His general will.



A. Living a S_____ Life – Romans 12:1-2 *"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, **that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, **that ye may prove** what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God."***

Psalm 25:14 *"The secret of the LORD is **with them that fear him**; and he will **shew them** his covenant."*

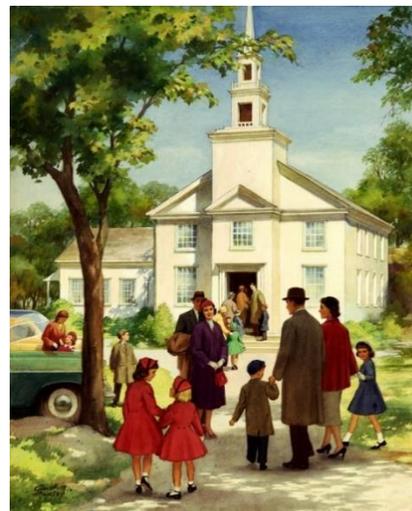
B. Living a S_____ Life – Acts 13:1-2 *"Now there were in the church that was at Antioch certain prophets and teachers; as Barnabas, and Simeon that was called Niger, and Lucius of Cyrene, and Manaen, which had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. **As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them."***

What are some things we know are God's will for every Christian that we can get involved with?

A. _____

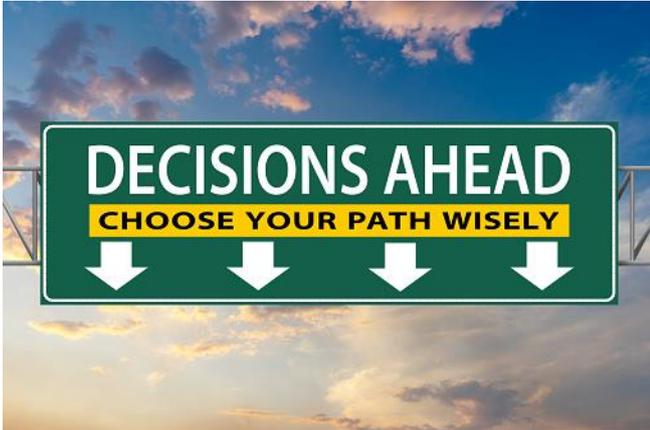
B. _____

C. _____



D. _____

PRINCIPLE # 4 _____ TO RECOGNIZE THE SIGNPOSTS OF GOD'S WILL



Key thought: There are at least four Scriptural principles that can help us discern the will of God for our lives. **Remember!** Make sure you use all four, not just one!

A. The Guidance of the _____

Has God spoken to me through His Word about this decision (e.g., through my daily devotions or through a sermon)?

Psalm 119:105 *"Thy word is a **lamp** unto my feet, and a **light** unto my path."*

Psalm 119:130 *"The entrance of thy words **giveth light**; it giveth **understanding** unto the simple."*

B. The Leading of the _____

Do I have the peace of God about this decision or do I sense the inner promptings of the Spirit, warning me I may be going the wrong direction?

Remember, the Holy Spirit will never lead you contrary to the Word of God.

Acts 13:2 "As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, **the Holy Ghost said, Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them.**"

Acts 16:6-7 "Now when they had gone throughout Phrygia and the region of Galatia, and **were forbidden of the Holy Ghost to preach the word in Asia, After they were come to Mysia, they assayed to go into Bithynia: but the Spirit suffered them not.**"

C. The Counsel of the _____

Have I sought sound counsel/advise before making this decision?

Consider several important truths about counsel from the Scriptures:

1. The Counsel of Sinners – A _____ it!

- Psalm 1:1 "**Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.**"
- Proverbs 19:27 "**Cease, my son, to hear the instruction that causeth to err from the words of knowledge.**"
- Illustration: Athaliah. 2 Chronicles 22:2-3 "Forty and two years old was Ahaziah when he began to reign, and he reigned one year in Jerusalem. His mother's name also was Athaliah the daughter of Omri. He also walked in the ways of the house of Ahab: for **his mother was his counsellor to do wickedly.**"
- Illustration: Jonadab's wicked advice to Amnon. 2 Samuel 13:3 "**But Amnon had a friend, whose name was Jonadab, the son of Shimeah David's brother: and Jonadab was a**



very subtil man."

- Illustration: King Rehoboam chose the wrong counsel (Read 1 Kings 12:6-15).

List some examples of people/sources we should **NOT** seek counsel/guidance from:

1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____ 4. _____
5. _____ 6. _____ 7. _____ 8. _____

2. The Counsel of the Scriptures – R_____ it!

- Psalm 16:7 *"I will bless the LORD, who hath given me **counsel**: my reins also instruct me in the night seasons."*
- Psalm 119:24 *"Thy **testimonies** also are my delight and my **counsellors**."*

3. The Counsel of the Saints – S_____ it!

- Proverbs 11:14 *"Where no **counsel** is, the people fall: but in the multitude of **counsellors** there is safety."*
- Proverbs 15:22 *"Without **counsel** purposes are disappointed: but in the multitude of **counsellors** they are established."*
- Proverbs 24:6 *"For by wise **counsel** thou shalt make thy war: and in multitude of **counsellors** there is safety."*
- Proverbs 27:9 *"Ointment and perfume rejoice the heart: so doth the sweetness of a man's friend by hearty **counsel**."*
- Some things to bear in mind with getting counsel. You need to:
 - Ask for it – Prov. 20:5 *"**Counsel** in the heart of man is like deep water; but a man of understanding will **draw it out**."*
 - Hear it – Prov. 19:20 *"**Hear counsel**, and receive instruction, that thou mayest be wise in thy latter end."*
 - Test it – 1 Thess. 5:21 *"**Prove all things**; hold fast that which is good."*

List some examples of the sort of people we should go to for counsel:

1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____
4. _____ 5. _____ 6. _____

D. The Direction of _____

Do I have an open door from the Lord to go this direction?

Revelation 3:7-8 *"And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write; These things saith he that is holy, he that is true, he that hath the key of David, **he that openeth, and no man shutteth; and shutteth, and no man openeth; I know thy works: behold, I have set before thee an **open door**, and no man can shut it: for thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name."***



1Corinthians 16:9 *"For a great **door** and effectual is **opened** unto me, and there are many adversaries."*

Conclusion:

1. An illustration (traffic light) to consider.

Am I getting green lights from the Lord in the above four areas?



I.e., the Scriptures, peace from the Spirit, counsel and circumstances are lining up?

2. Some questions to ponder.

- Has there ever been a time in your life where you have said a complete _____ to the will of God?

