
God's leading in the daily grind

Ephesians 5:15-17 " See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be unwise, but **understand what the will of the Lord is.**"

I. God's will of decree or **sovereign** will

God sovereignly directs of all that comes to pass (Isa.46:10). Sometimes that is beyond our understanding. It was His will that Jesus was crucified in payment for sins. He used the evil desires of Roman and Jewish leaders to accomplish His redemptive plan. Acts 2:23-24 "Him, being delivered *by the **determined purpose and foreknowledge of God***, you have taken by lawless hands, have crucified, and put to death; whom God raised up...."

Often **God's sovereign will** is made known "after the fact," if at all.

James 5:11 "...You have heard of the perseverance of Job and seen **the end intended by the Lord...**" Job never knew God's intention for his prolonged testing. We have profited from it!

Herman Bavinck: [God] "governs and rules all things in such a way that they all cooperate and all converge upon **the purpose He has established**. Behind all secondary causes there lurks and works the almighty will of an almighty God and a faithful Father."

God's sovereign will includes the day of our birth, the day of our death and everything in between.

Job 14:5 "Since his days are determined, The number of his months is with You; **You have appointed his limits**, so that he cannot pass."

Deuteronomy 29:29 "The **secret things belong to the LORD our God**, but those things which are **revealed** belong to us and to our children forever, **that we may do all the words of this law.**" This text leads us to

II. God's will of **command** or His preceptive will

This is contained in His inspired, infallible, all-sufficient, written Word. We can choose to disobey it and reap the consequences. Galatians 6:5-7 "Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for **whatever** a man sows, **that** he will also reap. For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life. And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season **we shall reap** if we do not lose heart."

God's will of command includes daily holy living

I Thessalonians 4:3 "For **this is the will of God, your sanctification**: that you should abstain from sexual immorality...."

I Peter 2:15 "For **this is the will of God**, that by **doing good** you may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men."

How do we accomplish this?

Romans 12:1, 2 [English Standard Version]

“I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as **a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God**, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the **renewal of your mind**, THAT by testing you may **discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.**”

The words “living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, good and perfect” in Romans 12:1, 2 “describe a life that is morally and spiritually spotless, just as the (Old Testament) sacrificial animals were to be.” (MacArthur)

As we shall see, God’s will is that our ambitions, attitudes, actions, answers, associations and appearance reflect the **fruit of the Spirit** in our lives **by means of a renewed mind.**

How can we live out Romans 12:1-2? Some priorities and principles 

I. Confirm assurance of salvation

II Peter 1:10-12 “Therefore, **brethren**, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble; for so an entrance will be supplied to you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.”

Jerry Bridges: “The **gospel** is the very lifeblood of our walk with God. It is the key to our **salvation**, for sure, but it is also the power for our **daily progress in holiness.**”

2. Confess all sin daily.

Isaiah 59:2 “But your iniquities have separated you from your God; And your sins have hidden His face from you, So that **He will not hear.**” [Unconfessed sin hinders prayer and fellowship with God.]

Psalms 69:5 “O God, You know my foolishness; And my sins are **not hidden from You.**”


Recognize sin in your life: “admit knowledge of; notice taken.” Psalm 32:1-5 “I **acknowledged** my sin....”

Repent of sin in your life: “A change of mind in respect of sin, of God and of self.” Recognition without repentance is rebellion. I John 1:9-10

Resist sin in your life. Romans 7:21-25 Daily warfare with your flesh will last a lifetime! Victory is found in repeatedly deciding to glorify God with the help of His Holy Spirit! Example: Psalm 119:32 **I will** run the course of Your commandments, **For You** shall enlarge my heart.

3. Call upon God from a mind renewed in His Word.

Pray for wisdom: Proverbs 3:5-7 “Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on your **own understanding**; In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths. Do not be wise in your own eyes; Fear the LORD and depart from evil.” [James 1:5 “Ask of God....”]

Ponder the directives found in God’s Word. Psalm 119:105 “Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path. 133 Direct my steps by Your word....” 

J.Piper: “What is necessary is that we have a **renewed mind**, that is so shaped and so governed by the revealed will of God in the Bible, that we see and assess all relevant factors with **the mind of Christ**, and discern what God is calling us to do. The Word does not direct who to marry, where to live, what job to take, but it does give you guiding commands.” In “the vast majority of living...there is no conscious reflection before we act. That is, most of your thoughts, attitudes, and actions are spontaneous. They are ... spillover from what’s inside...”



J. MacArthur: “That kind of transformation can occur only as the Holy Spirit **changes our thinking** through consistent study and meditation of Scripture.”

Psa.119:10-11 “With my whole heart I have sought You; Oh, let me not wander from Your commandments! Your word I have hidden in my heart, That I might not sin against You!”

A renewed mind thinks what is true, noble, just, pure, lovely, of good report, morally excellent, praiseworthy (Phil.4:8).

Profit from mature believers. Hebrews 13:7 “Remember those who rule over you, who have spoken the word of God to you, whose faith follow, ***considering the outcome of their conduct.***” Proverbs 1:5 “A wise man will hear and increase learning, And a man of understanding will **attain wise counsel....**”

Praise God for His goodness. I Thessalonians 5:16-18 “Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, **in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God** in Christ Jesus for you.”

4. Concentrate on life from God’s perspective.

Ecclesiastes 12:13-14 “...**Fear** God and **keep** His commandments, for **this is man’s all....**”

The fear of God is a reverent attitude of awe and adoration whereby the child of God guards and guides his thoughts, words and deeds by the Word of God for the glory of God.

Our priority is growing, giving and “glowing” by the grace of God, not worldly wisdom, prominence, or riches (Jer.9:23-24).

5. Commit your way unto the Lord

Psalm 37:4-5 “**Delight** yourself also in the LORD, And He shall give you the desires of your heart. **Commit** your way to the LORD, **Trust** also in Him, And He shall bring it to pass.”

Delight: “Men who delight in God desire or ask for nothing but what will please God.”^{Spurgeon}

Commit: “Cast away anxiety, resign thy will, submit thy judgment, leave all with the God of all.”^{Spurgeon}

Proverbs 16:3 “Commit your works unto the Lord and your thoughts will be established.”

6. Consider providential circumstances

Be alert to the obstacles and opportunities that God brings into your life.

Romans 8:28-31 Trials as well as triumphs are under His sovereign control for His glory!

Example: I Corinthians 16:8, 9 “But I will tarry in Ephesus until Pentecost. For a great and effective door has opened to me, and there are many adversaries.”

Be alert to the natural abilities and spiritual gifts that God has given to you.

Abilities: Exodus 31:1-6 Artisans, *each **gifted by God***, built the tabernacle.

Gifts: I Corinthians 12:4 “There are **diversities of gifts**, but the same Spirit. 5 There are **differences of ministries**, but the same Lord. 11 “But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually **as He wills.**”

Be alert to people and places God brings into your life.

1. Psalm 37:23 “The **steps** of a good man are **ordered** by the LORD, And He delights in his way.”

Ordered: “established; fixed; prepared; rendered sure”

2. David: sling, lion/bear/Goliath, Saul, palace, harp, Jonathan....

3. BJU, roommate’s sister (wife-to-be), intramural soccer (coaching), Helder’s (ACS), Beacon (We had many church options back in 1978!)

7. Content yourself with growing, giving and serving

Are you active in and faithful to this local **church** where the Word of God is central?

Do you have consistent, meaningful **devotions**?

Do you maintain an attitude of **prayer**?

Are you an active **witness** for the Lord?

Have you **yielded** your life to God's will for today?

"Lord, give me **wisdom** to think, say and do that which honors you today."

By grace, and through His Word, God is conforming you to the image of Christ!

We are daily, life-long debtors to grace!

God's Righteousness At Christ's Expense [salvation]

God's Resources And Christ's Enabling [sanctification and service]

God's Riches At Christ's Exaltation [glorification]

Trust, obey and take the next step for God's glory....

Example: Genesis 24:27 "And (Eliezer) said, 'Blessed *be* the LORD God of my master Abraham, who hath not left destitute my master of his mercy and his truth: *I being in the way, the LORD led me* to the house of my master's brethren.'" "All the way my Savior leads me..."