

“When you come to a fork in the road, take it.” -- Yogi Berra



Discovering God's Will



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When It's Time to Decide

How God helps us make Will of God decisions

His Word

His Spirit

His People

Personal Will of God Decisions

God's Moral Will

God's Moral Will

What God is up to

What God is up to



The Word of God

Hebrews 4:12 *For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.*

13 *Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account. (NIV)*

The Word of God

2 Timothy 3:16-17

*All Scripture is God-breathed
and is useful for*

☐ *teaching,*

☐ *rebuking,*

☐ *correcting*

and

☐ *training in righteousness,*

*so that the man of God may be thoroughly
equipped for every good work. (NIV)*

The People of God

Proverbs

15:22 *Plans fail for lack of counsel, but with many advisers they succeed.*

15:23 *A man finds joy in giving an apt reply-- and how good is a timely word!*

27:6 *Wounds from a friend can be trusted, but an enemy multiplies kisses.*

27:17 *As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another.*

27:19 *As water reflects a face, so a man's heart reflects the man. (NIV)*

The People of God

Hebrews 3:12 *See to it, brothers, that none of you has a sinful, unbelieving heart that turns away from the living God.*

3:13 *But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called Today, so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness.*

10:25 *And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. (NIV)*

Why we don't do this

- ❑ New idea - just learning how to do the following Jesus journey
- ❑ Pride – I can do my life by myself
- ❑ Fear – Don't want to be seen or known. Fear others will laugh or turn away.
- ❑ Rebellion – Don't want to hear challenging truth. I've already decided and don't want to be deterred.

Some Practical Suggestions

1. Be Open – trust that God might want to speak to you through people.
2. Ask trusted & respected people (more than one) – Look for people:
 - Tuned in to God - where you want to be or heading there.
 - Interested in your best.
 - With nothing to gain or lose by telling you the truth.

3 Questions to ask:

Share your situation with them then ask:

1. Do any of my options seem outside the boundaries of Scripture?
2. Is there anything I'm not seeing or paying attention to that I should be?
3. Based on what you know of me what do you think is the wise thing is for me to do? - or - What would you do if you were me in this situation?

The Spirit of God

1 Corinthians 2:14 *The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned.*

15 *The spiritual man makes judgments about all things, but he himself is not subject to any man's judgment:* 16 *"For who has known the mind of the Lord that he may instruct him?" But we have the mind of Christ. (NIV)*

How does this work?

Galatians 5:16 ... *live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature.*

25 *Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.*

Ephesians 5:15 *Be very careful, then, how you live-- not as unwise but as wise, 16 making the most of every opportunity,*

17 *...understand what the Lord's will is. 18 ...be filled with the Spirit. (NIV)*

Will of God and the Spirit

Acts 16:6 Paul and his companions traveled throughout the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been kept by the Holy Spirit from preaching the word in the province of Asia.

7 When they came to the border of Mysia, they tried to enter Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus would not allow them to.

8 So they passed by Mysia and went down to Troas. (NIV)

Will of God and the Spirit

Acts 16:9 During the night Paul had a vision of a man of Macedonia standing and begging him, "Come over to Macedonia and help us."

10 After Paul had seen the vision, we got ready at once to leave for Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them. (NIV)

Prayer & God's Gift of Peace

*Philippians 4:6-7 Do not be anxious
about anything,*

but in everything,

by prayer and petition,

with thanksgiving,

present your requests to God.

*And the peace of God, which
transcends all understanding, will guard
your hearts and your minds in Christ*

Jesus. (NIV)

Discovering God's Will starts in our Hearts

Proverbs 3:5-6

*Trust in the LORD with all your heart
and lean not on your own understanding;
in all your ways acknowledge him,
and he will make your paths straight.*

(NIV)

It's an ongoing process

Romans 12:2 *...be transformed by the renewing of your mind.*

Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is— his good, pleasing and perfect will. (NIV)

God's Will for You is:

- Always In Tune with God's
Word
- Often Confirmed by God's
People
- Sometimes Directed by God's
Spirit
- Always Protected by God's
Peace



Discovering God's Will



Next Week: **GOD'S WILL & UNITY**