

A life invested in doing the will of God will lead to the personal fulfillment and satisfaction of a life well spent.

Some Questions that May Help You Find God's Will

When you are sincerely trying to determine God's will for any matter in your life, asking the following questions may be helpful.

1. Do you believe that God has a plan for you in this matter?
2. Do you really want to find God's will? How badly?
3. Do you trust God to know what is best for you?
4. Are you earnestly praying and seeking His will?
5. Are you obeying everything He has shown you until now?
6. Are you willing to commit yourself to do His will before you know what it is?
7. Is there anything you are not willing to do?
8. Do you have any personal ambitions that could cause you to miss God's will?
9. Do you have any commitments or personal relationships that could get in the way of doing God's will?
10. Are you living close enough to God that He can easily communicate His will to you?
11. Do you believe you are in God's will at this point? If not, why not?
12. Is the proposed action in conflict with any Biblical principles?
13. Is it rational?
14. Do you feel peace as you yield to what seems to be the prompting of the Spirit?
15. Is the direction you think you are being led constant and consistent?

If you have any doubts or uncertainties about your answers to the above questions, it may give you a clue as to where you need to focus your prayers.

If your answers are all satisfactory, and you still do not feel clear about it, you may need to just wait while continuing to pray and search. Sometimes certain circumstances may need to change before God can make it clear to you. You may need to grow more in Christian maturity before you are ready. Or, perhaps a closed door must open before God can tell you to go through it. In this case, be patient. The time will come if you will continue to sincerely seek for it. Do not give up! You are no doubt in God's will today as you seek His will for tomorrow. Your obedience today will pave the way to His guidance tomorrow.

Lesson Six Discovering God's Will

Other than finding Christ as Savior, there is nothing more important in your life than being able to determine God's will. In this lesson we will try to help you do it.

God's General Will

There are some things that God wills for all human beings. They are the same for everybody. He has made those things very clear in His Word. For example:

It is God's will that all men and women should be saved. "The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance" (2 Peter 3:9).

It is God's will that all men and women should be sanctified. "It is God's will that you should be sanctified" (1 Thes. 4:3).

It is God's will that everyone should be blessed. "...no good thing does he withhold from those whose walk is blameless" (Psa. 84:11).

On the above examples there can be no doubt. God has already made His will clear.

God's Specific Will

There are other areas where God's will may not be as obvious as His general will. For example, questions like:

What should I do with my life?

Whom should I marry?

Is God calling me to Christian service?

In these areas and others like them, God's will varies a lot from person to person. We need to make an effort to *find* God's will.

What are the conditions to be met in order to find God's will?

Obedience. Are you already walking in all the light God has given you (complete obedience)? He is not likely to reveal new things to you until you are responding to the guidance He has already given.

Living close to God. Communication from God is much easier when you are living in close fellowship with Him. Are you listening attentively to what He wants to say? Is God able to get your attention?

Willingness to receive His will. Are you committed to accept His will before you know what it is? Is your heart really open? Can God count on you to do His will after He shows it to you?

Seeking with all your heart. God's word says, "You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart" (Jer. 29:13). Are you serious about it? Do you really want to know God's will? Do you trust Him to know what is best for you?

Some Tests of God's Will

God's will is never in conflict with Biblical principles. God will never guide you to do anything that is contrary to His Word. No matter how much emotion may be involved, it is never His will to lie or steal or commit adultery (to mention just a few of His laws).

God's will is not irrational. We may not always understand the reasons for some things, but if it is of God there will not be anything in it that is basically irrational.

A communication from God will be persistent. It does not change. It will stay with you.

Opening and closing doors will confirm God's will. God does not call a person to impossibilities. If the door does not open to make possible what you believe to be God's will, the voice you have been hearing may be coming from another source.

A person will feel peace while yielding to God's will. When you start in the direction of doing God's will, as you move ahead, you will feel a growing peace about it.

Daily Guidance

As you live your life day by day under the control of the Holy Spirit, you will almost automatically be led to God's will, not only in the

major decisions of life but even in the smaller matters. You will often be prompted by the Holy Spirit when a decision must be made.

The Means of Guidance

God often guides through the reading of His word. When you are going through a period of seeking His will in a matter, you may be reading the Bible when suddenly a certain verse speaks directly to your heart and you know you have found the answer.

God sometimes speaks during prayer. It is just as important to listen as it is to speak to God when we pray. It is hard to describe, but at times when we are in moments of communion with God, a strong inner compulsion comes over a person. It is the voice of God speaking to our spirit.

God may also use the counsel of a godly person to guide you. We must be assured that the person is a spiritual and mature Christian before accepting his/her counsel. We must also submit it to the normal tests, and confirm it in prayer until it becomes the voice of God in our own heart.

More Thoughts About God's Will

One of the major ministries of the Holy Spirit is to guide us into God's will.

God often guides a person only one step at a time. His guidance on the next step may depend on our obedience to the previous one.

God wants us to know His will. We do not have to persuade Him to reveal it — only allow Him to do it.

In God's will is the best place to be. That is where He can bless and use us.

If we have sincerely sought and consistently obeyed God's will, we can be confident at any moment that we are where God's wants us to be.

There are certain moments that if we miss God's will we can never completely recover it. We may get back in it again, but it will be second-best. However, even God's second best is better than any other alternative at that point. Nevertheless, it is far better to find it the first time around.

God's grace will always be sufficient to enable us to do His will. His Spirit will never lead us where His grace cannot keep us.

We will always be successful doing God's will. Perhaps not by worldly standards, but from God's perspective we will be rewarded according to our faithfulness.

