

72. GUIDANCE: HOW TO FIND the WILL OF GOD

Bible Reading: I Thessalonians 5:12-23.

Aim: As Christians, we must renounce our will and be committed to doing God's will all our life. A problem every Christian faces is how to find God's will in daily decision making. Jesus Christ always fulfilled God's will for His life. "I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do." John 17:4. "I come to do thy will, O God." Hebrews 10:7.

As Jesus was assigned a specific task to perform on earth, so each Christian is also assigned a special task. It is our responsibility to find and obey God's plan for our life.

I. GOD HAS A PLAN FOR EACH LIFE.

1. This plan is **suited to our talents**, personalities, needs, potential and environment. "For we are his **workmanship**, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them." Ephesians 2:10.
2. There is a **different plan** for each one of us. Paul said, "I have finished my course." II Timothy 4:7. "Let us run with patience the race that is set before us." Hebrews 12:1. "The God of our fathers hath chosen thee, that thou should know His will." Acts 22:14. God wanted Paul (and us) to know God's particular will for our lives. "I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way that thou shalt go: I will guide thee with my eye." Psalm 32:8.
3. God's plan is **very detailed**, step by step. "The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord." Psalm 37:23. God doesn't always reveal the distant future, but He leads us step by step, day by day.
4. God's plan is **continuous**. "The Lord shall guide thee continually." Isaiah 58:11.
5. God's plan is **definite** and specific. "Thine ears shall hear a word behind thee saying, this is the way, walk ye in it." (Isaiah 30:21). The Lord guides us by His Holy Spirit through His Word.
6. God wants us to **enquire** about His plan and its daily details. "Cause me to know the way wherein I should walk." Psalm 143:8.
7. The will of God for you is always **good, acceptable and perfect**. "That ye may prove what is that good, acceptable and perfect will of God." Romans 12:2.

II. GOD'S PLAN CAN BE MISSED.

Sadly, it is possible for us to miss God's plan in our selfish and stubborn ways to do our own planning. "O that thou hadst hearkened to my commandments, then had thy peace been as a river." Isaiah 48:18.

III. GOD'S PLAN ALWAYS INCLUDES CERTAIN FEATURES.

1. **Sanctification** and **separation** from sin unto holiness. "For this is the will of God, even your sanctification." I Thessalonians 4:3. God is holy and He wills us to be holy.
2. **Supplication**, prayer and thanksgiving. "Pray without ceasing." I Thessalonians 5:17.
3. Be **Spirit filled**. "Quench not the spirit." I Thessalonians 5:19.
4. Be **submissive** to the Word of God. "Despise not prophesyings." I Thessalonians 5:20.

5. Be **saying thanks**. "In everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you." I Thessalonians 5:18.
6. Be **sexually pure**. "This is the will of God.....that ye should abstain from fornication." I Thessalonians 4:3.
7. Be **sober**. "Let us.....be sober." I Thessalonians 5:8.
8. Be **serene**. "Comfort one another." I Thessalonians 4:18. "Be at peace among yourselves." I Thessalonians 5:13.
9. Be **suffering**. "We told you before that we should suffer tribulation." I Thessalonians 3:3,4.
10. Be **surrendered**. "That ye should walk worthy of God." I Thessalonians 2:12.
11. Be **well doing**. "For so is the will of God, that with well doing ye may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men." I Peter 2:15.
12. Be **saved**. "Not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance." II Peter 3:9.

IV. METHODS OF GUIDANCE.

Question: How do we find God's will for our life in any situation?

How does God reveal His will to the seeking individual? God's methods are:

1. The **Bible**. Ask: "What Bible verses relate to this question that I need to apply?" Saturate yourself with the Word of God so that God can bring relevant verses to your mind. God's will is never contrary to the Bible.
2. **Circumstances - open or closed doors**. God, by circumstances, closes one door and opens another. "A great door and effectual is opened unto me, and there are many adversaries." I Corinthians 16:9. "I have set before thee an open door." Rev. 3:8. Nothing happens to Christians by accident. Each item is planned by God. We accept circumstances as guideposts in His leading. In driving, red lights are equally valuable as green lights. When we get a stop sign, we must wait patiently for God.
3. **Prayer**. "Ye have not because ye ask not." James 4:2.
 - i) Don't worry: be careful for nothing.
 - ii) Pray about everything: by prayer and supplication.
 - iii) Be thankful for past and present blessings: with thanksgiving.
 - iv) Let your requests be made known unto God.
 - v) Results: the peace of God that passes all understanding shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:6,7.
4. **Peace of God** must be sought before acting. How do we get the peace of God?
 - a) Be **filled with the Spirit** then you'll exhibit the fruit of the Spirit of love, joy, peace. Gal. 5:22.
 - b) **Occupation with Christ**. "He is our peace." Ephesians 2:14.
 - c) Endeavour to keep the **unity** of the Spirit in the bond of peace. Ephesians 4:3.
 - d) Be **crucified to the world**, and **glory in the cross**. "God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world. As many as walk according to this **rule, peace** be on them and mercy." Galatians 6:14-16.

- e) **Preach the Gospel of peace.** "Feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace." Eph. 6:15
 - f) **Prayer** brings the peace of God that passes understanding. Philippians 4:6,7.
 - g) **Think** on things that are **true, honest, just, pure, lovely, good report, virtue and praise**....the God of peace shall be with you. Philippians 4:8,9.
 - h) Be **content.** "I have learned in whatsoever state I am therewith to be content." Philippians 4:11.
 - i) Put on **mercy, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering, forbearing and forgiving** one another. **Put on charity.** Be thankful. Let the peace of God rule in your hearts. Col. 3:12-15.
 - j) **Esteem the pastor** very highly in love for his work's sake. Be at peace among yourselves.
I Thessalonians 5:13. If church members all submit to the pastor, as the pastor walks with the Lord, you'll have peace in your church.
 - k) **Live peacefully** with all men. Romans 12:18.
 - l) **Don't have fights** with people. Revelation 6:4.
5. **Good Advisors** - "In the multitude of counsellors there is safety." Proverbs 11:14.

V. QUESTIONS TO ASK TO DISCOVER GOD'S WILL.

Q1: Will it hinder my service to God? Is it a **weight**? Hebrews 12:1.

Q2: Does it **advance God's plans** for my life?

Q3: Am I **yoking up with unbelievers**? II Cor. 6:14-18. Unbeliever's goals are to make money for themselves. Your goal is to serve God. **Don't ever enter a business partnership or marriage with an unbeliever!** You will lose and have a fight.

Q4: Am I **listening to the advice** of the **ungodly or unbelievers**? Psalm 1:1.

Q5: Is someone telling me a **lie**? Can I trust them? How do I know? How well do I know them? Are they experienced over many years in their field?

Q6: What **future problems** will this action lead to? (eg. who can stop my project, extort money or charge me excessively if a problem arises?).

Q7: How much will it cost EXACTLY? Are there any hidden costs or extras?

Q8: Why must I decide now? **Wait** up to one week after gaining all the facts to make your decision if it will **bind** you, so that you can reflect, get more information and ask more people. Keep your options open. Try to make the deal less binding rather than more binding.

Q9: Is this decision going to **bind me** in some way to other people who can hurt me? eg. they may get me over a barrel and extort money out of me, or do evil things to me.

Q10: Are people putting pressure on me to decide quickly to their advantage? Why?

Q11: Is it the voice of **my desires**, or is it what **God wants** me to do?

Q12: What **other options** exist?

Q13: Have I discussed this with three other expert advisors?

Q14: If in doubt, **DON'T!!!!** Wait on God. You might find a better opportunity shortly.