



# Discovering the Will of God

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In this lesson, we are going to talk about how to find the wonderful will of God through:

- ~ The Word of God
- ~ Prayer
- ~ Led by the Spirit
- ~ Confirmation from others
- ~ Your giftings
- ~ Faithful in small things
- ~ Renewing our mind

Before we do, though, let's talk about the importance of doing God's will.



# Doing God's will is the fulfillment for our lives!

John 4 gives an account of how Jesus talked with a woman about her spiritual condition. She accepted Him as her Messiah and was dramatically saved. His disciples meanwhile, were off eating and returned with food for Him. They returned just when He was finishing ministering to the woman. His mind was not upon food! When they offered Him something to eat, He responded by saying:

“I have food to eat that you do not know about. My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to accomplish his work.”

John 4,32 & 34



# The Blessing of Knowing and Doing God's Will

Other blessings of doing God's will are:

Fulfilled in God's purpose for your life.	John 4,34
Able to work through adversity.	Colossians 1,9-11
Fruitful to God; a great blessing to others.	Genesis 1,28
Use talents and abilities to full potential.	Romans 12,3-7
A supernatural life of adventure	Acts 13,2
Greatly rewarded in eternity	Matthew 25,21; I Corinthians 3,10-13

# Judged according to God's will

Another important aspect about the will of God is that each one of us will be ultimately judged by whether or not we have done His will.

Not everyone who says to me, "Lord, Lord," will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. Matthew 7,21

Each one of us will give an account of himself to God.  
Romans 14,12

This should not be a surprise! We are "judged" our entire lives, to see if we have done what we should have. Who "judges" us?! Our parents, our teachers, our employers, our government.

And we are either blessed positively or negatively, depending if we met their expectations. So it is with God!





Three steps to doing  
God's will

In Luke 12, 35 to 48, Jesus gives an extended teaching on stewardship and doing the will of God. He explained that we were stewards of the things He has done for us and what He has given us. In the middle of this, He said that there are three steps to doing His will:

And that servant who knew his master's will but did not get ready or act according to his will....



The rest of this lesson will focus on knowing the will of God!

# Step 1: The Word of God



# The Word of God is the foundation

Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path. Psalm 119,105

The will of God can only be accurately known through the Word of God. For instance, it is through His Word we understand His commandment to reach the Lost. Through His Word, we understand our financial responsibility in the Kingdom of God.

But that is not the only reason it is vital. A person must be shaped by the Word of God in order to qualify to carry its message. He must also be able to accurately report what the Word of God says. Therefore, the Word of God is essential to knowing and doing to will of God.

All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work, 2 Timothy 3,16-17

For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts, Isaiah 55,8-9

Jesus said, “God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.” John 4,24

In order to fulfill this requirement, we must come to a full knowledge of Him and His ways.

And this can only be accomplished with a thorough investigation of God’s Word!

Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. (KJV) 2 Timothy 2,15



# Step 2: Prayer

We have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to Him, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God, Colossians 1,9-10

Prayer is also vital to the discovery of God's will. We should not automatically think we know what He wants us to do. Ask God and He will show you.

Doing His will involves not only the “what” but also, the “when,” “where,” “how” and with/for “whom.” These are discerned through prayer.



If you really do not know the will of God about something- especially regarding relationships- it is very important to call out to God until you get a clear understanding about the will of God.



Proverbs 2,2-11 gives great counsel about seeking the will of God. It says that we should incline our ear to wisdom and apply our heart to understanding. We should cry out for discernment and lift up our voice for understanding. We should seek for it as for silver and search for it as for hidden treasure.

After we do these things, we will receive wisdom and knowledge from the Lord, and understand every good path!

Christians have really lost the art of seeking God. But if you will genuinely search for Him with your heart- like the Scripture says, you will find Him and His will!

Call to me and I will answer you, and will tell you great and hidden things that you have not known. Jeremiah 33,3

# Step 3: Led by the Spirit

As many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are the sons of God. Romans 8,14

One of the greatest privileges we have as Christians is being led by the Spirit. This is where the Holy Spirit speaks to your spirit regarding His will.

While Peter thought about the vision, the Spirit said to him, "Behold, three men are seeking you...arise and accompany them without hesitation, for I have sent them. Acts 10,19-20

You will learn to do this as a Christian! It is God's will that we learn and recognize His voice.

The sheep follow Him, for they know His voice, John 10,4.

# Recognizing the voice of the Spirit

You want to obey the voice of the Spirit just as you do the Word of God.  
However, we must be sure that it is the Holy Spirit we are listening to!  
Here are some tips to help:

- ~ He never contradicts the Word. (John 6,63)
- ~ He speaks in a pure & gentle way! (James 3,17)
- ~ You should test the leading you are getting.  
(1 Thessalonians 5,21)
- ~ God will often confirm what you hear in your Spirit by either the Word or another person.  
(2 Corinthians 13,1)
- ~ If you are not sure about something being from God, wait and pray! (1 John 4,1)

## More Tips

- 1) Being led by the Spirit is often described as having an “impression.”
- 2) In contrast, if it is not God’s will, it is described as having a “check” in the spirit.
- 3) The peace of God is a great indication if you are in the will of God or not.
- 4) Pay attention when the same thing keeps coming to you on a regular basis.



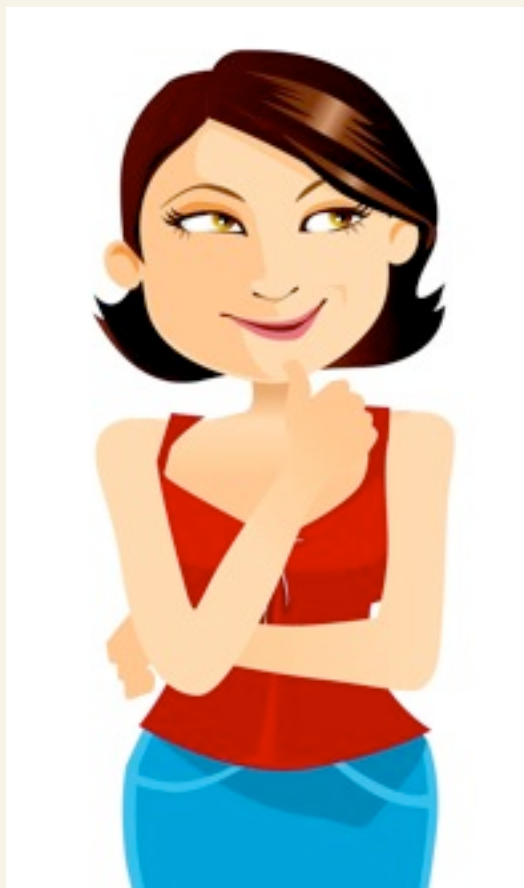
# God's Word has priority over “impressions.”

Some things might seem that they are from God when they really are not. And you do not have to pray whether something is God's will when it is clearly stated in His Word. In fact, praying about being able to do something when it is contrary to God's Word can lead someone into a strong deception. Some examples are:

<u>Situation:</u>	<u>The answer is already in:</u>
Should I marry an unsaved person?	2 Corinthians 6,14 (no!)
Should I tithe to my local church?	Malachi 3,10 (yes!)
Should I attend church?	Hebrews 10,25 (yes!)
Should I be baptized after being saved, even though I was as an infant?	Acts 2,38 (yes!)
Is it alright for me to smoke?	1 Corinthians 6,19 (no!)

# What are the sources of all those “impressions?”

A person must discern where his “impressions” are coming from because they do not all come from God! Here are some of the possibilities!

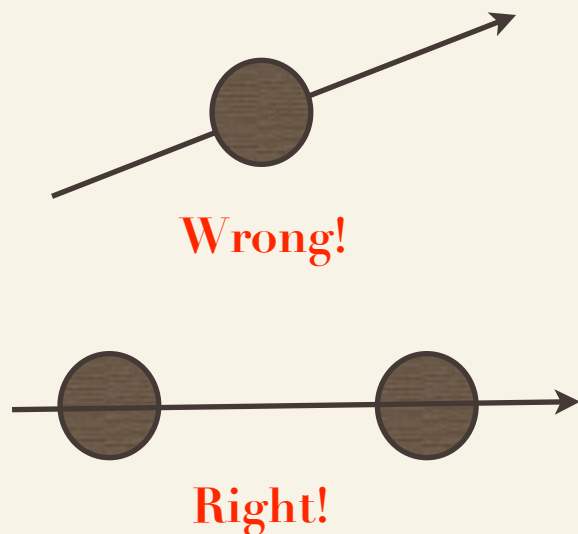


- ~ Our old sin nature, Romans 8,5; James 1,4
- ~ The devil, 2 Corinthians 11,14; 1 John 4,1
- ~ Influence of others, Psalm 1,1
- ~ Our own emotions, Hebrews 4,12
- ~ Our own thoughts, 2 Corinthians 10,5
- ~ Reaction to fear, Luke 12,32
- ~ Reaction to needs & desires, Matthew 6.32

# Let God confirm His will to you!

How do you test an “impression,” if it is really from God? The Bible says, “In the mouth of two or three witnesses, shall every word be established.” (KJV) God will confirm His will to us in different ways, with His Word being the primary way.

You need 2 points in order to draw a straight line. Don't be in a habit of running with 1st impressions! Let God confirm His will to you with two or more “points.”



Here are some of these “points” that He gives us.

- ~ His Word
- ~ Mature believers, such as Pastors, Teachers
- ~ Time
- ~ The Holy Spirit speaking to you or through someone else



Step 4: Confirmed  
through others



It can be very helpful to include others in seeking the will of God. In Acts 13,4 we read that Paul and Barnabas were sent out from Antioch on their first missionary journey. They discerned they should do this because prophets and teachers from their church fasted and prayed with them. The Holy Spirit then spoke, telling them to send Paul and Barnabas out.

And leaders can often see things in us that we do not see. For instance, God showed Samuel about both Saul and David being kings before they even thought about it.

# Leaders impart spiritual gifts and direction to us

It is important to maintain good relationships with our leaders. Part of their job is to commission us and equip us, that we are prepared to do the work God has called us to do. The following are some examples:

God gives us apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, teachers to equip believers to do the work of the ministry.	Ephesians 4,11-12
Saul & Barnabas were sent out on their 1st missions trip, after fasting and praying with various prophets and teachers.	Acts 13,1-4
Timothy received a spiritual gift when the elders laid hands on him.	1 Timothy 4,14
Paul instructed Timothy to pass on what he learned from him to faithful men, who in turn would also pass it on to others.	2 Timothy 2,2
Moses laid his hands on Joshua, commissioning him to lead God's people. As he laid his hands on him, God filled Joshua with the necessary wisdom.	Numbers 27,23 & Deuteronomy 34,9



Steps 5 & 6: Your  
Giftings & Faithful in  
small things

# Using your gifts for the Kingdom

A very large part of discovering and doing God's will has to do with simply starting out with what you have, and being faithful to use it. This could mean simply to clean the bathrooms! As you are faithful, God will bless what you do, multiply your abilities, talents & effectiveness and open more doors for you.

No one wakes up one morning to find themselves in charge of a great ministry. They all start off being faithful on the smallest of levels. As they do this, promotion comes!

It is often said that the best ability is availability. Attend church when it is open, serve however you can and give to every cause! God will multiply it back and make your calling clear!

“Pay attention to what you hear: with the measure you use, it will be measured to you and still more will be added to you.”

Mark 4,24

Please see the teaching, “Stewardship and the Will of God” for a more in-depth discussion.

# Step 7: Renewing your mind

Romans 12,2: 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. (KJV)

Romans 12,2 has a wonderful promise, that if we would renew our mind, we would discover the will of God.





# Renewing your mind

When we are saved, God's Spirit comes into our lives. We are born again spiritually. And while this has a great impact on how we view things, our salvation experience is just the beginning. Our mind must go through a renewal process so that we see things from God's point of view and not from the way we learned from all the various influences in our lives. Romans 12,2 promises that as we renew our minds, we will discover the will of God.

This truth is clearly brought out in Psalm 1, 1-3:

Here, the Psalmist shares how important it is not to take our counsel - our attitudes and views - from the ungodly, but rather from the Word of God. As we do this - by meditating consistently in His Word - God makes all of our ways prosperous.

Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers;

but his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night.

He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers.



### Discovering the Will of God

- 1) The Word of God\*
- 2) Prayer\*
- 3) Led by the Spirit\*
- 4) Confirmation from others
- 5) Your Giftings\*
- 6) Faithful in small things\*
- 7) Renewing our mind

\*Please also see the related teachings/study guides.

Each of these topics could be studied individually. And many of them do have their own studies.

Seek the Lord and His will. It is the best and most rewarding adventure you could ever have for your life!

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