

Christian Life Center Men's Ministry

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### HOW CAN WE KNOW GOD'S WILL?

Certain decisions are easily guided by God's will. Much of the time doing what's right will take care of some of it. However, when it comes to major life decisions, a career change, marriage, etc., God's will may not be as clear. So, how do we determine God's will for our lives? Is it automatic or is it a partnership?

#### Read Exodus 33:12-23

How can *not* knowing God's will affect the believer in life and in eternity? (Proverbs 29:18) And alternatively, what *can* be the result of knowing and doing His will?

- Describe the motivation of Amos 8:11-12; 1 Chronicles 28:9; Hebrews 11:6.

It all begins with the prayer pattern Jesus gave His disciples to follow in **Matthew 6:10**, *Your kingdom come. Your will be done.* This is the second of a series of petitions in the pattern where we are asking God to reveal His will to us and in us. Or, more accurately, for us to experience it collectively as a Body of Believers.

- As we discover His will for the Church we actually His will for our own lives! See the body illustration in 1 Corinthians 12:12-26

**Romans 12:1-21.** This powerful chapter gives us insight on how we can better understand and experience the Father's will, individually and as a member of His Body. Here are four important keys from the chapter...

1. Through the power of God's Word, and our active obedience, we are transformed to understand His Will. (Verses 1-2)
  - By giving ourselves to His purposes (to the best of our understanding) as a living sacrifice and allowing the Word of God to transform us from within (Metamorphoo: to be transfigured, Luke 9:28-36), we are changed to be able to understand the depth of God's will. (Ephesians 3:14-21)
  - His Word is active and powerful, able to change a person's nature! Hebrews 4: 12 *For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart.*
  - Our thinking influences our will and decisions which, in turn, dictate our actions.
2. Ministry in the Body of Christ is accomplished as we understand *and express* who we are in the context of our spiritual gifts. (Verses 3-8)

- The motivational gifts of the Father created in the new birth. These are our basic motivations. (John 3:3; Romans 12:3-8)
  - The office gifts given by Christ to the Body to equip (train, build up) believers to serve Christ and His people. (Ephesians 4:11-13)
  - The spiritual enablement of each believer in the Body of Christ gives us joy (charis) as they given and empowered by the Holy Spirit. (1 Corinthians 12:1-11, 27-31)
3. Our behavior is transformed as the Holy Spirit works in us and flows from us. (Verses 9-16)
- Because we understand our place in the Body there is no need to strive with one another. We can turn our focus outward to assist, encourage, and love others in their journey to spiritual maturity.
  - Romans 12:10 *Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another;...*
4. Lastly, we are to be an agent of change in a fallen world by seeking solutions, by overcoming evil with good, the Gospel of Christ. First preach with deeds, they confirm your faith. (Verses 17-21)
- Exodus 19:4-6 *...And you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.*
  - Isaiah 60:1-2 *Arise, shine; for your light has come! And the glory of the Lord is risen upon you. For behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and deep darkness the people; but the Lord will arise over you, and His glory will be seen upon you.*

#### **Four important principles in discovering God's will.**

1. **Look to relevant Bible Scripture for guidance.** Context is critical.
  - How does 2 Timothy 2:15 speak to the issue of correct exegetical and hermeneutical practices?
2. **Use objective, not subjective counsel based on feelings and emotions.** Search for genuine Spirit-led counsel not necessarily counsel you want to hear.
  - What advice can Psalms 1:1-3 give us? (Proverbs 16:9; Proverbs 20:18)
3. **Christ guides us with His peace.** This peace is not related to outward circumstances.
  - Peace WITH God. (Romans 5:1-2)
  - The Peace OF God. (John 14:27; John 16:33)
  - The GOD of Peace. (Romans 16:20)
  - Proverbs 3:5-6; Isaiah 30:21; Colossians 3:15
4. Above all else, by **knowing the Father's heart**, we more fully understand His ultimate will. (Exodus 33:12-23)

**Prayer...** *Heavenly Father, I turn from seeking my own will and expecting You to perform my desires in Your Name. Change my way of thinking. Make me willing to seek after Your desires first, knowing that You'll give me more than I need. Teach me Your ways and let me reflect Your light in a world enshrouded with spiritual darkness! In Jesus' Name.*