

Determining God's Will

Eph 5:17 So then do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is.

Our Way

- We know what we want...but not what we need. (Desire)
- We believe it is God's will for us to have it. (Justification)
- We try to get what we want...often by any means necessary. (Action)
- Sometimes we even force the issue...to our destruction. (Results)

Qualification Questions

- How can God be glorified in what I want?
- What is the spiritual benefit to my request?

1) Ask The Bible

- **What does the Bible say about this topic?**
- Matt 4:4 "Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God."
- 2Tim 3:16-17 "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 competent, equipped for every good work"
- 2Pet 1:20-21 But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is {a matter} of one's own interpretation, for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

God's Will in the Bible

- The Bible says that it is God's will that all are saved from the sins. (1Tim. 2:3-4)
- The Bible says it is His will that we live a sanctified life. (1Thes. 4:3-7)
- The Bible says it is God's will that we rejoice, pray and be thankful. (1Thes. 5:16-18)
- The Bible says He purposed us according to His will. (Eph. 1:5-11)

What About Life Issues?

- What job should I have or accept?
- Where should I live?
- What kind of car should I purchase?
- Should I marry a certain person?
- Should I keep certain friends?

2) Ask God in Prayer

- James 1:5 But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all men generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him.
- Phil 4:6 Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.
- Matt 7:7-8 "Ask, and it shall be given to you; seek, and you shall find; knock, and it shall be opened to you. 8 "For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it shall be opened
- Prov 3:5-6 Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. 6 In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight

God Answers Prayer

- Acts 12:5 "So Peter was kept in the prison, but prayer for him was being made fervently by the church to God...." The church was praying for Peter to be delivered and he was led out by an angel. It was when Peter was outside the prison walls that night that he said in Verse 11 "Now I know for sure that the Lord has sent forth His angel and rescued me from the hand of Herod and from all that the Jewish people were expecting."
- In His own time, not yours.
- By His plan, not yours.

3) Ask The Saints

- Don't go outside of the body!
- Relationships with the ungodly does not bring Godly results.
- Prov 9:9 Give {instruction} to a wise man, and he will be still wiser, teach a righteous man, and he will increase {his} learning.
- Prov 12:15 The way of a fool is right in his own eyes, but a wise man is he who listens to counsel.
- When we are facing a tough decision, it is a must that we are to seek the counsel of good advisors, for they have more wisdom and can help us to find the will of God.

4) Ask Yourself – Honestly & Objectively

- Is this really what I “Need” or is it something I “Want”?
- Are there any questions as to God’s Will in the Bible, the veracity of my prayers, or consultation of the Saints?
- Am I being objective in the decision-making process?
- Go back and answer: How is God being glorified and what is the spiritual benefit?

5) Review Circumstances

- No matter how much we want or feel that the circumstances are right for success, our Father is not obligated to give us what we feel we need, especially if what we've done to create the circumstances had a component of sin in it.
- Lay out a fleece.

Conclusion

- The Will of God for your life is largely determined by Your Will to Serve Him.
- Life Decisions are best managed through the Wisdom of God in His Word and Prayer.
- Relationship Management is Key (Use the Saints).
- Be Honest in Your Character & Circumstances.
- Joh 15:7 If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.