

Is it God's will?

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How do I decide?

We all have to make decisions every day. Most of us would like to make Godly decisions. We want to do God's will. But, what is God's will? How can I tell?

My boyfriend has a great body and a good career, but is he the man God wants me to marry?

I have offers from three major corporations and they all sound great. Where does God want me?

I've been asked to be a Sunday School teacher, oh my! Surely, God doesn't want me to be a teacher. How can I tell if this is God's will?



There are ten things you can do to determine God's will

- Read God's Word
- Pray and meditate
- Listen to the leading of the Holy Spirit
- Read other godly books
- Be in God's will
- Ask others
- Know your gifts
- What do you want to do?
- Circumstances
- Ask three questions

Read God's Word

- The primary way that God speaks to us today is through His word. The Bible.
- God cared enough to speak through godly men who wrote down what He said. Then God preserved His Word to this day so that we can enjoy the benefits of knowing His mind.
- Everything that was written (in Scripture) in the past was written to teach us, so that through endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. Romans 15.4



No brainer!

- God does not want you to murder anyone.
- Respect your parents.
- God wants you to stay married to your spouse.
- Don't steal.
- God wants you to love him.
- Keep the Sabbath.
- If you are not doing these things then you are not doing God's will. Change!
- It's the ten commandments, not the ten suggestions.

Prayer – talking to God

- Therefore let everyone who is godly pray to you while you may be found; surely when the mighty waters rise, they will not reach him. Ps 32.6
- Ask and it shall be given you, seek and you shall find, knock and it shall be opened unto you. Matthew 7.7
- You have not because you ask not.
- Men, check out The Book of Prayers by Stephen Shanklin



Prayer – talking to God

- I tell you the truth, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there' and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you. Matthew 17.20
- They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Acts 2.42
- And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints. Eph 6.18

Meditation – listening to God

- May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, O Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer. Matthew 19.14
- My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me John 10.27



Meditation

- Dedicate time to be alone
- Go to the garden alone, while the dew is still on the roses.
- Go up on the mountain top or out on the prairie. You'll find God there.
- Read God's Bible
- Think about God's word. He will speak to you through it.

Listen to the Holy Spirit's leading

- The Holy Spirit leads with a still small voice.
- If you are being jerked around by emotion, sure one moment, fearful the next, then unsure even of your salvation, then that is of Satan.
- God is not the author of confusion but of peace, as in all the churches of the saints. 1 Corinthians 14.33
- Discouragement is a form of spiritual warfare.

Satan's attack

- Bombards your mind.
- Tries to get you to forget the truth
- Calls your motives into question
- Causes you to question the truth
- Condemns you
- Makes you feel guilty
- To learn more of what Satan has in mind for you read the Screwtape Letters by CS Lewis

Read other godly books

- Chuck Swindoll
- Rick Warren
- Billy Graham
- James Dobson
- Charles Stanley
- CS Lewis
- The books these godly men have written on specific subjects express God's mind



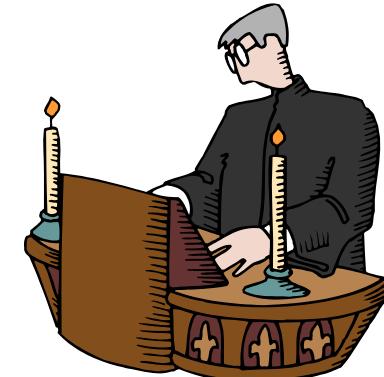
Be in God's will

- Do you go to church?
- Is your relationship with your family right?
- Are you doing what God has already revealed He wants you to do?
- Are you using your Spiritual gifts?
- If you are not doing what you know to be God's will then why would he show you more of His will?



Ask others

- Just like reading godly books, you can hear God through his people.
- Mom & Dad – even non-Christians
- Spouse
- Pastor
- Children – I'm not kidding!
- Christian friends
- Ask them to pray with you.



What did God give you?

- Know your spiritual gifts. Every Christian has one (At least one.).
- Use your gifts. That's why He gave'em to you.
- Know your talents
- Where have you been successful? Perhaps this is where you should focus future efforts.
- Where have you failed? Perhaps this is a closed door.



Circumstances

- God opens doors - opportunity
- God closes doors - rejection
- Sometimes though, it's the right answer but wrong timing. You may have another chance.
- You probably don't have to make a decision right now. Most such deadlines are artificial and fake. Don't let them force you to make a decision now that you need to pray about.
- Don't give up – keep praying and stay God's will.

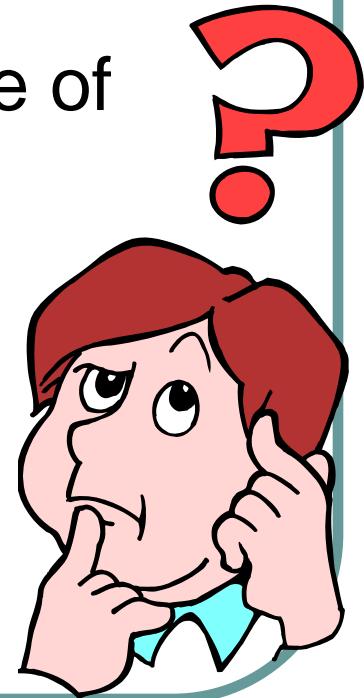


What do you WANT to do?

- Yes, it is sometimes permissible to do what you want to do.
- If you're prayed up and in God's will for your life, then there's a good chance that what you want to do is God's will.
- If not, then pray that God will make your will over into his will. He will change what you want so that it's the same as what He wants.

Ask three questions

- If I do this, will my relationship with God be stronger before or after this decision?
- Will others be helped or hindered?
- Will this decision help or hurt the cause of Christ?



Afterwards

- Once the decision is made, do you have peace about it? If it is God's will, then you should have peace. (Are you jerked around or led by a still small voice?)
- Don't second guess your decisions. In order to be able to follow this admonition, you must have read God's Word, prayed, meditated, listened, be in God's will, asked others, and answered the three questions related to the decision. If you didn't, then you must second guess all decisions.
- But, remember Satan's methods. Satan will try to steal your peace. Pray that God will give you His peace.

Wrong reasons to do something

- Sense of duty
- Feeling guilty
- Sense of inadequacy
- Need to please someone else
- Need to stay busy
- Impulsiveness
- These are wrong reasons to do something.
But, sometimes it's better to do God's will for wrong reasons than to not do God's will.

If you can't hear, it may be because:

- You're not in God's family (i.e. you're not a Christian)
- There's a sin in your life that you haven't repented of.
- You are unwilling to submit to God. Rebellious.
- A false sense of guilt – how could he forgive me?
- You're too busy – you need to slow down and listen
- Unbelief – you need to believe that God will answer. Otherwise you many not be listening and miss his will.
- You're angry with God – you must work this out. This will separate you from God.
- Poor self image – why would God speak to me? So you're not listening and miss his leading.

Finally, don't do it!

- Don't make important decisions when you are:
 - Depressed
 - Tired
 - In pain
 - In the midst of great hardships
 - Suffered great personal loss
- Don't sign any important documents.
- Wait until you recover.

Pray with me now.

Lord God, you created everything including me and are worthy to be praised. Forgive me my sins and restore my relationship with you so that I can clearly hear you when you speak to me. Thank you for the Bible and for your Holy Spirit that gives me guidance. Call to mind Bible verses that will help me make better decisions. Holy Spirit intercede for me. Father, show me if there is anything that is keeping me from hearing you and help me to remove it from my life. I commit my life and these decisions into your capable hands. Show me what to do and I'll do it. Grant me wisdom & give me your peace. I pray in Christ's name. Amen

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