



Session #5 – Knowing God's Will

True or False:

Please answer the following True or False questions based on what you believe about God's will.

- 1) T ___ F ___ God has a specific plan for the lives of all those who know Him personally.
- 2) T ___ F ___ Natural and godly desires are always in agreement with one another.
- 3) T ___ F ___ God works primarily from the outside in to change our circumstances first.
- 4) T ___ F ___ We should rely on our own understanding when deciding God's will for our lives.
- 5) T ___ F ___ Satan tries to hinder us from doing the will of God.
- 6) T ___ F ___ If a choice is not explicitly forbidden in the Bible, it is automatically in God's will.
- 7) T ___ F ___ God's will is so narrow that if you make a single wrong decision, your life is ruined.
- 8) T ___ F ___ The Holy Spirit can reveal to us the deep wisdom of God.
- 9) T ___ F ___ Biblical wisdom is primarily defined as acquiring worldly knowledge and wealth.
- 10) T ___ F ___ God gives wisdom only to those who possess a high level of education.
- 11) T ___ F ___ The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.
- 12) T ___ F ___ The Bible says I can do anything I set out to do because Christ strengthens me.
- 13) T ___ F ___ Every choice I make is a right choice because God promises to guide my steps.
- 14) T ___ F ___ 'Que Sera, Sera' or 'Whatever will be, will be' is what it's like to live within God's will.

Three Aspects of God's Will

- 1) His _____ Will
 - a. Considered to be His hidden will that we are usually unaware of until after it happens.
 - b. Joseph being taken into Egypt in **Genesis 37-50** is an example of this.
 - c. His sovereign will cannot be frustrated. It will be accomplished. (**Ephesians 1:11, Isaiah 46:9-10, Psalm 115:3, Isaiah 14:24, and Proverbs 19:21**)
 - d. Two Divisions of God's Sovereign Will
 - i. His _____ will, which directly contributes to the fulfillment of His desires.
 1. Also known as His efficacious will.
 2. For example, God directly contributes to the fulfillment of His desire that all men be saved:
 - a. By sending His Son to die (**John 3:16**)
 - b. By delaying Christ's return to give more people the opportunity to repent (**2 Peter 3:9**)



ii. His _____ will, which allows for an indirect fulfillment of His desires.

1. For example, it's God's will that men obey His commands, but it is also His will that men are free to choose whether or not they obey. **(Deut. 30:19, Joshua 24:15, and Matthew 23:37)**

e. Ultimately, a sovereign God either *causes* or *allows* everything that happens.

2) His _____ Will

- a. Also known as His perceived or perceptive will. It's what He has chosen to reveal to us in His Word. **(Micah 6:8)**
- b. Remember that God's will **ALWAYS** aligns with His Word.
- c. We are expected to obey God's revealed or preceptive will. However, we have the ability to disobey.
- d. God's revealed will for Adam and Eve was to be fruitful and multiply, tend the garden, subdue the earth, and not eat of a certain tree. Unfortunately, they rebelled against God's revealed will.

3) His _____ Will

- a. Refers to God's attitude or character – what pleases or displeases Him. **(Jeremiah 9:24)**
- b. Although God's heart desires all to be saved, not all are saved. **(2 Peter 3:9)**
- c. Through His effective will, God's directly contributes to the fulfillment of His desires. **(John 3:16, 2 Peter 3:9 and Psalm 37:23)**

7 Advantages of Being in God's Will

1) Deepened _____ and _____

- a. Following God's will provides peace and confidence, even during difficult times. It removes the anxiety associated with navigating life's challenges alone, offering security in knowing you are in the right place.

2) Spiritual _____ and _____

- a. It enables moral and spiritual maturity, transforming the believer into the image of Christ. This alignment ensures a purposeful life, preventing you from living aimlessly.

3) Greater _____ and _____

- a. Knowing God's will leads to increased wisdom and better decision-making. It provides clarity in life decisions (such as career or relationships).



- 4) Answered _____ and _____
 - a. When living within God's will, prayers are more likely to be in accordance with His desires, thus leading to more answers. It also brings God's favor and protection.
- 5) _____ and _____
 - a. It brings increased joy, strength, and love when you are functioning as you were designed to by God.
- 6) _____ and _____
 - a. God's will acts as a guide, helping believers avoid dangerous situations or harmful decisions.
- 7) Eternal _____
 - a. It helps believers focus on long-term, eternal goals rather than temporary comforts, leading to a life that produces lasting fruit.

Ways We Can Align Our Will with God's

- 1) Get the Right _____
 - a. See the big picture – what is God's will for mankind? Remember **Isaiah 55:8-9**.
 - b. We tend to focus on our own little world.
 - c. Ask yourself, 'How do my plans fit into God's plan?' (**James 4:13-15 and Prov. 16:9**)
 - d. Think! Will the things that seem important to us now still matter in 5 months, 5 years, 20 years, or 100 years?
 - e. God doesn't *need* us to accomplish His will but He *wants* us to be a part of His plan.
- 2) Understand God's _____ for You
 - a. To sanctify you and make you more like Christ (**1 Thess. 4:3 and Philippians 1:6**)
 - b. To give you abundant life (**Jeremiah 29:11 and John 10:10**)
 - c. To bring Him glory (**Matthew 5:16 and 1 Corinthians 6:20**)
- 3) Be _____ in Your Situation (**Phil. 4:11-13, 1 Timothy 6:6-8, and Hebrews 13:5**)
 - a. Serenity Prayer – "God, grant me the **serenity** to accept the things I cannot change, **courage** to change the things I can, and **wisdom** to know the difference." (**Isaiah 26:3**)
 - b. No matter what situation you are in, be thankful (**1 Thess. 5:16-18 and Col. 3:15**)
- 4) _____ to and _____ What God Says (**Psalms 32:8, John 16:13-14, John 10:27, and Isaiah 30:21**)
 - a. When your desire to do God's will conflicts with your personal goals, do the following:
 - i. Write the words "NO LORD" on a piece of paper and decide which word to cross out.
 - ii. If you say 'no' you cannot say 'Lord'. If you say 'Lord', you cannot say 'no'.



- 5) _____ Your Desires with God's Desires (**Psalm 37:4-5 and Romans 12:2**)
- 6) Seek God's _____ (**James 1:5, Proverbs 2:6, James 3:17, Colossians 1:9, Proverbs 8:11, and Ephesians 5:17-18**)
- 7) Seek Wise _____
 - a. God can use *godly* men and women to help guide you. (**Proverbs 15:22, Proverbs 11:14, Proverbs 12:15, and Proverbs 1:5**)
 - b. Seeking *ungodly* counsel is not wise. (**Psalm 1:1**)
- 8) Learn from Your _____
 - a. Accept the fact that you *will* make wrong choices. (**James 3:2**)
 - b. God can use the consequences of your choices to train you if you let Him. (**Hebrews 12:11 and James 1:2-4**)
 - c. If your choices include sin, humbly ask God for forgiveness. (**1 John 1:9**)
 - d. Pick yourself up and press on. (**Psalm 145:14 and Philippians 3:13-14**)

7 Steps for Making Life Decisions

- 1) _____ - Make prayer the first, middle, and last step, inviting God to guide your decision-making process. (**Matthew 6:9-10**)
- 2) _____ God's Word - Scripture is the primary source for direction and wisdom. Check if the decision aligns with Biblical commands and principles.
- 3) _____ Wisdom - Consult with mature, wise Christians to avoid pitfalls and gain perspective. Avoid relying solely on self-interest, but rather seek objective godly wisdom.
- 4) _____ the Hard Questions - Examine your heart to ensure the decision is not based on selfish ambition or fear, but on honoring God.
- 5) _____ the Cost - Evaluate the potential outcomes and impact on your life, following the advice to 'count the cost' of decisions.
- 6) _____ for Peace - A decision aligned with God's will often brings a sense of internal peace, while forcing premature decisions can lead to errors.

"God is in the heart, compelling you forward; God is in His book, corroborating whatever He says in your heart; and God is in circumstances, indicating His will. Never start until these three things agree."-Greg Laurie (from Start to Follow Manual)

- 7) Take _____ and Trust God - After prayerful consideration, make a decision with the confidence that God can guide your steps even if the outcome is uncertain. (**Proverbs 3:5-6 and Romans 8:28**)



Decisions, Decisions - What Does the Bible Say About:

Underline the areas on this list below where you where you struggle or have questions about God's will. Look up the verses concerning that topic and commit your favorite ones to memory.

Anger: Proverbs 15:1, Proverbs 29:11, Colossians 3:8, James 1:19-20

Anxiety: Matthew 6:33-34, Philippians 4:6-7, 1 Peter 5:7

Bad Habits: Psalm 119:11, Romans 6:11-14, James 4:7-8

Childrearing: Deuteronomy 6:6-7, Proverbs 22:6, Ephesians 6:1-4, Colossians 3:21

Depression: Isaiah 53:4-5, Lamentations 3:19-24, 2 Corinthians 4:8-9

Divorce: Malachi 2:14-16, Matthew 19:3-9, 1 Corinthians 7

Envy: Genesis 4:3-6, Proverbs 14:30, 1 Corinthians 13:3, Hebrews 13:5

False Teaching: Colossians 2:8-9, 1 Timothy 4:12, 2 Timothy 2:15, 1 John 4:1-3

Fighting: Proverbs 20:3, Matthew 5:9, 2 Timothy 2:24, Romans 12:18, Proverbs 15:1, James 4:1

Finances: Malachi 3:8-10, Matthew 6:33, 2 Corinthians 9:7, Philippians 4:19

Forgiveness: Psalm 32, Psalm 51, Isaiah 43:25, Colossians 3:13, 1 John 1:9

Friendships: 1 Corinthians 15:33, 2 Corinthians 6:14, Philippians 2:3-4

Giving: Proverbs 3:9-10, Malachi 3:10, Matthew 6:2-4, Luke 6:38, Philippians 4:19

Gossip: Proverbs 16:28, Proverbs 18:8, Proverbs 20:19, Leviticus 19:16, Proverbs 11:13, Ephesians 4:29, 1 Timothy 5:13, James 3:8

Guilt: Proverbs 28:13, Isaiah 44:22, John 8:36, Romans 8:1

Knowing God's Will: Psalm 37:3 & 5, John 14:15, John 16:13, Philippians 4:6-7

Marriage: Genesis 2:18, Proverbs 18:22, 2 Corinthians 6:14, Ephesians 5:22-33

Obedience: Deuteronomy 11:26-28, Luke 6:46-49, John 14:15 & 21, 1 John 2:5

Patience: Psalm 37:7, 1 Corinthians 13:4, Galatians 5:22, Philippians 4:11, James 1:2-4

Prayer: Matthew 6:6, John 15:7, John 16:24, Philippians 4:6 & 19, Colossians 4:2

Relationships: 2 Corinthians 6:14, Proverbs 18:24, Ecclesiastes 4:9-10

Sexual Purity: 1 Corinthians 6:15-20, Ephesians 5:3, Colossians 3:5, Romans 6:12-14

Temptation: 1 Corinthians 10:13, Romans 12:1-2, James 1:13, James 4:7

Work/Job: Ecclesiastes 2:22-25, Psalm 90:16-17, Colossians 3:23-24, Philippians 2:14-16, 2 Thessalonians 3:10-12, Proverbs 10:4

Worldliness: Matthew 6:33, Romans 12:1-2, Colossians 3:1-2, 1 John 2:15-17