



Knowing God's Will for Your Life

"For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me."

John 6:38

Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

Philippians 2:5-8

What does God want you to do with your life? To what purpose has He called You? I don't want to diminish the importance of such questions, but in the context of the recent history of the church, these issues have been pursued more like a high school guidance counselor than according to the Word of God. I've actually known churches to conduct "spiritual gifts surveys" to "help" a person determine their gift and, by inference, their calling. How could such a thing remain hidden from a person? Well, only to the degree that their commitment to His Word remains marginalized.

God's Word contains so many direct references to His will that the only possible explanation for not knowing His will has to be ignorance of His Word. Oh, wait...did you just say, "Yeah, but it doesn't provide *specifics* for my life"? Perhaps you should stop seeking the answers to such questions as "What should my profession be?", "Who should I

marry?", "Where should I live?", and a myriad of other self-centered questions thinly disguising the fact you're more interested in your own desires and will than God's. If we pursued God's will according to what's been revealed in His Word, all these personal issues would work themselves out with little effort on our part.

The first and foremost thing we have to understand when it comes to God's will, is that it's GOD'S will. If we don't recognize the sovereignty and authority of God over all things – especially over us personally – we're never going to find it to begin with.

*"All the inhabitants of the earth are accounted as nothing,
But He does according to His will in the host of heaven
And among the inhabitants of earth;
And no one can ward off His hand
Or say to Him, 'What have You done?'
Daniel 4:35*

This is not to imply that God simply does anything He feels like whenever He wants, but Scripture categorically reveals that His will has very specific intended results. First of all, it always results in God's glory.

*"Worthy are You, our Lord and our God, to receive glory and honor
and power; for You created all things, and because of Your will they
existed, and were created."
Revelation 4:11*

Second, it follows specific plans He established in eternity long before we were ever born. It fulfills His greater purposes.

*...having been predestined according to His purpose who works all
things after the counsel of His will,
Ephesians 1:11*

Third, it is only revealed and accomplished in our life through Christ Jesus alone.

He made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His kind intention which He purposed in Him with a view to an administration suitable to the fullness of the times, that is, the summing up of all things in Christ, things in the heavens and things on the earth...

Ephesians 1:9-10

Knowing and fulfilling God's will for our life is accomplished by our relationship with Christ. The question isn't, "Now that I've come to Christ, what is the plan?", but by the quality of our obedience to our new life in Christ His will is *already* in the process of being accomplished for the purposes HE intended.

So then, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure.

Philippians 2:12-13

A young man confided that he felt God's calling to use his passion for sports as a ministry to reach others. So what did he do to prepare for this calling? He became so involved in organized athletic activities that he had no time for personal prayer, no time for Bible study, and no time even to attend church. In other words, he ceased pursuing all the things which would have made him a shining light among those he intended to reach. He feared not meeting the worldly standards of those he wanted to reach more than becoming the image of the Son needed to reach them. Did he fulfill God's will?

Well, let's apply this to ourselves by looking at how Christ approached this very topic. How did Jesus, the Son, fulfill the will of God the Father? Jesus recognized that the whole purpose of His existence was to do God's will and no other.

"For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me."

John 6:38

He saw God's will not as a sidebar to His life, but the very thing nourishing and sustaining Him. It was His very life, so to speak.

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Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me and to accomplish His work."

John 4:34

He gave up His own desires and will to serve only the desires and will of God alone.

but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men.

Philippians 2:7

In biblical terms, a bond-servant is someone who voluntarily gives up everything to live in their master's house, working exclusively in their master's business, guided only by the master's voice. Everything is supplied by the master, both in terms of meeting their physical needs and in carrying out their life's work. Whatever they do, however they're defined, it's all in accordance with the master's wishes.

So perhaps the beginning of wisdom where the seeking of God's will is concerned has more to do with our status as His bond-servant. Confusion and ignorance of His will may actually be more of a reflection of the quality of our personal faithfulness than some kind of spiritual puzzle. If we were to truly become His bond-servant, to only live in His house and exclusively according to His voice, devoted to His business alone, do you really think the answers to such issues as our profession, relationships, or the like would remain a mystery for very long?

And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.

Romans 8:28

So what hint should we derive when things *aren't* working together for our good?

In His Love,

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