

FINDING THE WILL OF GOD FOR YOUR LIFE

Look up these examples and write down what God said and each person's response:

Isaiah 6:8 _____

Matt. 4:18-25; Luke 4:38 – 5:11 _____

Acts 26:19 _____

Read Ps. 81: 10-16. Write down what happens when a person rejects God's call or commands in their life

Read Matt. 6:33. What does God promise if you decide to seek His Will first in your life? _____

Reflect: What could the Lord do with me, if I were fully obedient to His will?

Discuss these steps to finding God's Will in our lives:

1. Ask for wisdom Prayer is how you humble yourself before God. Many times Christians are simply not praying. They are talking to everyone else about the problem except God. (Ps. 31:3) (James 1:5) The Holy Spirit is your best guidance counselor. (John 16:13)
2. Study the Word over this issue. The Holy Spirit will never guide you where the Word forbids you to go.
3. Search the principles of God's Word. What principles apply to your situation & how can you apply them?
 - a. Is it right in the sight of God? (Acts 4:19) Is this a moral or a non-moral issue?
 - b. Is my heart right? You can't pray or decide correctly if it's not! (Acts 8:21)
 - c. Will my decision & actions bring glory to God? (1 Cor. 10:31)
 - d. Will this action build me and others up, or stumble? (1 Cor. 10:23) (Rom. 14:13)
 - e. Is my decision motivated by love or selfish and fleshly? (Rom. 13:10) (2 Cor. 1:17)
 - f. What's O.K. vs. What's good vs. What's best. (Phil. 1:10)
 - g. Look at the fruit in every aspect of the decision. (James 3:17,18)
4. Common sense (2 Cor. 2:1-3) (2 Peter 1:13)
5. Personal research (Neh. 2:11-16) (Joshua 2)
6. A pro and con list (Luke 14:28-32) Remember that you may have more cons than pros & it may still be what you should do. Why? Because it may be a direct command or one of the other principles we have listed here will take priority. (1 Cor. 16:8,9)
7. God even uses a simple thought that passes through your mind. God's sovereign will worked out (Acts 7:23). Notice how God uses your thoughts (Acts 10:19) (Acts 8:29). But, remember that not every thought comes from God. Remember Peter (Matt. 16:22). Test your thoughts with what God has already said. If your thoughts are contrary to His Word, reject them.
8. No rest in your spirit (2 Cor. 2:12,13) Many times this is wisdom at work inside your mind using some of the above points or your conscience begins to bother you as you see the issue as morally wrong (Rom. 2:15).
9. Get the counsel of others (Prov. 11:14) (Prov. 15:22)

How will God intervene if you are violating His sovereign will?

1. God can change your mind about your beliefs through conviction. (Phil. 3:15)
2. God can intervene with numerous natural means - Someone changes their mind (1 Cor. 16:12). Or, God may intervene like when someone over-hears the plot to kill Paul (Acts 23:12-22).
3. God can use supernatural means. Visions, Angels, prophecies, etc. (Acts 16:7,9,10) (Acts 10:1-3) (Acts 12:6-11)
- The point: Plan, but plan with a willingness to change. (James 4:13-16)
4. God confirms His sovereign will sometimes by the circumstances. (Jer. 32:8)
- The bottom line - Use all the means available to gain wisdom, if things go sour, it doesn't have to mean that you made the wrong decision, trust Him to work it all for good (Rom. 8:28). You will never be able to figure out how He uses your good & bad decisions and works it all out for good. Consider this example: How can God take the most hateful act of man and use it to provide salvation us (Acts 2:23)? When men thought they were frustrating God's plan, they were actually fulfilling it.