

# KNOWING GOD'S WILL

8 April 2024

## THREE ASPECTS OF KNOWING GOD'S WILL:

1. **GOD'S SOVEREIGN RESPONSIBILITY:** Things we did not choose for ourselves.
  - a. **Heredity:** nationality, place of birth, our parents. (Psalm 16:6, Acts 3:2, 14:8)
  - b. **Influence:** the kind of neighborhood where you grow up, food available to you, things that affect your health, strength, and faith. (2 Tim. 1:5)
  
2. **GOD'S SPIRITUALLY REVEALED WILL:** We have responsibility of action. How am I to know what God wants me to do?
  - a. God's will is revealed in Scripture. Some things seem obvious, but God didn't leave room for question. Here are some of the principles laid out in the Scriptures.
    - i. Don't steal; work (Eph. 4:28).
    - ii. Don't fornicate (1 Thess. 4:3).
    - iii. Don't cheat your brother (1 Thess. 4:6) or your neighbor (Lev. 19:13)
    - iv. Love one another (1 Thess 4:9, 1 Jn. 3:11, etc.).
    - v. Suffer (1 Pet. 4:12, 19).
    - vi. Don't hold grudges (James 5:9).
    - vii. Be hospitable (1 Pet. 4:9, Heb. 13:2).
    - viii. Should I be baptized? (Matt. 28:19, Mark 16:16)
    - ix. Should I attend a local church? (Heb. 10:25, Matt. 18:20).
    - x. Repent and be saved (2 Peter 3:9).
    - xi. Give (2 Cor. 9:6-7).
  - b. How do you know God's will? Read God's Word prayerfully, submissively, and systematically.
  
3. **GOD'S SPECIALLY REVEALED WILL:** These are more specific; tailored to each individual.
  - a. Does God want me to be a missionary? Does God want me to go to college? Does God want me to take that job? Does God want me to move to that city? Does God want me to marry?

## FOUR FACTORS INVOLVED IN KNOWING GOD'S SPECIALLY REVEALED WILL:

1. **YOU MUST HAVE A DESIRE TO DO GOD'S WILL** (John 7:17).
  - a. God knows if you're going to obey His will or not.
    - i. If you won't obey, God won't reveal His will. It is not our right to expect it.
    - ii. If you have a desire to please God and obey His will, He will reveal His will to you.
      1. There is no predetermined manner in which God will make His will known to you. Each case is different.
  
2. **YOU MUST BE CURRENTLY WALKING IN GOD'S WILL, AS REVEALED IN SCRIPTURE** (Luke 16:10).
  - a. You prove, by your willingness to walk in God's revealed will, that you will also obey His specific directions for your individual path of life.

**3. YOU MUST WAIT WITH PATIENCE (Isaiah 30:18).**

- a. We cannot demand that God answer us immediately.
- b. We may benefit spiritually from the waiting. Earnest, consistent waiting upon the Lord will bear fruit.
  - i. If, after a certain time of patiently praying for God's will in a specific matter, the matter begins to recede from our prayers, the indication is that the matter is not God's will.
    - 1. This assumes that you don't simply quit praying due to negligence or impatience.
    - 2. The Holy Spirit simply takes the desire or the leading away.
  - ii. If the matter is impressed more and more upon us in our prayers over time, the indication is that it is the Lord's will and you should go forward.

**4. BE ATTENTIVE TO GOD'S WAYS OF REVEALING (Acts 16:10, "assuredly gathering").**

- a. The mature believer has an "ear" to God's voice.
- b. The immature (or new) believer may need a little more persuasion.
- c. The key is to simply be willing to obey. Then God will make His will known to you.
  - i. Not in a grand revelation, but by tuning your heart to His desire.

**DOING GOD'S WILL: WHY WE FAIL.**

**1. UNBELIEF.**

- a. Satan convinced Eve that God was keeping her from the good things.
  - i. Satan still tries to make you doubt God's good intentions for your life.
  - ii. God's intentions are for your good (Jer. 29:11, Psalm 84:11). You've got to believe that He will direct you in the way that is best for you (Prov. 3:6).
  - iii. If you don't believe God can point you to the best way, you will shrink away in fear and refuse to do God's will.
    - 1. If you struggle with unbelief, the starting point for you is the prayer "increase my faith." (see Luke 17:5).
    - 2. Prayer, Bible study, and obedience to God's Word will result in spiritual growth and an increase in faith.
      - a. Prayer is like air. You must have it for spiritual life.
      - b. Bible study is like food. For growth and health.
      - c. Obedience is like exercise. To make you stronger.

**2. PRIDE, JEALOUSY, AND AMBITION.**

- a. If you're not willing to do something little for God, He won't let you do some great thing. Take the talent God gave you and do something with that. (Matthew 25:24-30).

**3. LACK OF LOVE FOR GOD (Luke 7:41-43).**

- a. Love goes farther than faith (1 Cor. 13:13).
  - i. Faith: "I will do God's will because I know it is best."
  - ii. Love: "I will do God's will because I love Him."
- b. If you love Jesus, you'll keep His commandments (John 14:21).
- c. Romans 12:1 states that living for God is our reasonable service.