

The Will of God

How Can I Find Out What God Wants Me To Do?

A successful person is one who finds out what God wants him to accomplish in life, then does it. The true measure of success is not social status, bank accounts, influence or fame. It is simply doing what God wants. When the Bible and prayer function properly, God will use this open communication to direct you in the details of your life. The purpose of this lesson is to give you a clear understanding of what the will of God is, as revealed in the Bible, so you can begin to accomplish those things God would have you do.

I There is a difference between the will of God for your life, and the plan of God for your life.

A The will of God is fixed for every believer.

The will of God is the same for everyone. It involves your relationship with God, and can be accomplished by any believer regardless of circumstances.

B The plan of God is variable for each individual.

1 The term “plan of God” is not found in the Bible, just as your name and specific details of life are not. The Bible stories, characters and principles are used by God to provide direction in the details of your life.

2 God’s plan for your life includes things such as who you marry, where you live and work, which church and ministry in which you are involved, etc.

II The will of God is clearly revealed in the Bible.

A There are specific things God wills for your life.

1 It is the will of God for everyone to be saved. All lost people are out of the will of God, regardless of any other factors. For that reason, it is the will of God for you as a believer to share the gospel with the lost.

II Peter 3:9, I Timothy 2:4

The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.
2 Peter 3:9

*For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication: That every one of you should know how to possess his vessel in sanctification and honour; Not in the lust of concupiscence, even as the Gentiles which know not God: That no man go beyond and defraud his brother in any matter: because that the Lord is the avenger of all such, as we also have forewarned you and testified. For God hath not called us unto uncleanness, but unto holiness.
1 Thessalonians 4:3-7)*

- 2 It is the will of God for you to live a holy life pleasing to God.
I Thessalonians 4:3-7
- 3 It is the will of God for you to give thanks in everything.
I Thessalonians 5:18
- 4 It is the will of God for you to “redeem the time”. Now that you are saved, you have a new life in Christ, and only one life to serve him. Make the most of it! By doing so, you can actually make up for lost time and “redeem” the wasted years of your old life.
Colossians 4:5-6, Ephesians 5:15-17
- 5 It is the will of God for you to serve those in authority from the heart, with pure motives, as if you are serving Jesus Christ.
Ephesians 6:5-8
- 6 It is the will of God that when you suffer, that it would be for well doing, and not for evil doing. As a Christian, you WILL experience suffering. Just make sure it is for the right reason: because you are following Jesus Christ.
I Peter 3:17, 2:19-21
- 7 It is the will of God for you to submit to the ordinances of man.
I Peter 2:13-15
- 8 The last point is balanced by this one. It is the will of God for you NOT to be conformed to this world, but to be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Submission to the ordinances of man is to maintain a proper testimony to win them to Christ and to obey the law of society. At the same time, your life should be transformed to live by a higher standard to please God.
Romans 12:1-2

B The will of God for your life can be summarized simply: Be conformed to the image of Jesus Christ; grow to be more like him every day.
Romans 8:29-30

III God’s plan for your life will be revealed as your life in Jesus Christ unfolds.

A God’s plan for your life involves three resources he has provided to direct you.

- 1 The Holy Spirit indwells you to direct you personally.
Galatians 5:25, John 16:13, I Corinthians 2:9-10
- 2 The word of God is your written authority from God.
I Thessalonians 2:13, Colossians 3:16-17, Psalm 19:7-11

3 The local church is organized to equip you for life and ministry. God provides pastors and other mature members of his body to give you wise counsel.
Ephesians 4:11-12, I Timothy 3:15, Proverbs 11:14

B If you are fulfilling the will of God daily, you can trust him to direct you in his plan for your life. God's direction will involve all three of these resources.
Psalm 37:23, 119:105, 130, 133, II Corinthians 13:1

*And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:
Ephesians 4:11-12*

THE KEY POINT OF THIS LESSON:

*You cannot find God's plan for your life until you submit to his will. If you violate the clear commandments of God's will, the direction of his plan stops in your life. Keep your main focus on what God expects from you now. Most people think the will of God is way out in the future. God is interested in you BEING the right kind of person now. Be what God wants you to be, and he will show you what to do.
Matthew 6:34, Philippians 2:13*

Basic questions you may be asking:

Why doesn't God reveal all the details of his plan for me now?

It would overwhelm you before you got started.

You may not be the type of person God wants you to be yet. Either there is some violation of his will, or you are not yet equipped to handle it now. God will reveal what you can handle when you are ready.

God wants you to be patient as he works in your life spiritually. Your answer to the question as a young child, "What do you want to be when you grow up?" is probably NOT what you are doing now. Interests, talents, and desires grow and change; both physically and spiritually.

Why does God allow seemingly "bad" things to happen in my life?

There are two general reasons why "bad" things happen to God's people:

God wants you to grow spiritually through trials. In every trial, God often has a larger purpose to accomplish that is impossible apart from the adversity.
I Peter 4:12-13, 5:10, James 1:2-4, Romans 5:3-5

God allows you to make your own choices, and they bring consequences. Even though God wills certain things for your life, he also gave you a free will. Sometimes bad things result from bad decisions.
Galatians 6:7-8, Deuteronomy 30:19

You must always remember that God is your Heavenly Father and never makes a mistake in his dealings with you as his child. (Lesson 2)
Matthew 7:11, Romans 8:28

Do you have any other questions about this subject?

REVIEW AND DISCUSSION:

There are many popular beliefs which are contrary to the truths of the word of God. A discussion of these issues in light of the principles you just learned should give you a proper understanding of this lesson and correct some of these misconceptions:

- 1.) What is the difference between the will of God and the plan of God?

- 2.) Explain how God directs you by the three resources he has provided.

- 3.) If God already knows what will happen, how does our will affect our life?

- 4.) What other reasons can a Christian have problems in his life aside from sin?

Memory Verses:

Romans 12:1-2: "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God."

I Peter 3:17: "For it is better, if the will of God be so, that ye suffer for well-doing, than for evil-doing."

II Peter 3:9: "The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance."