

1. God's will is discernable

*"Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you **will learn to know** God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect." Rom 12:*

2. God's will is good

*"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to **prosper** you and **not to harm** you, plans to give you **hope** and a future." Jer 29:11*

3. God will guide you

*"But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will **guide** you into all the truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he." John 16:13*

Decide to follow Christ by making Him your Lord and Savior. 2 Peter 3:9; I John 5:12 The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance./ Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.

Empowered by the Holy Spirit: Choose to walk in dependence. Colossians 2:6, 7; Pr. 3:5,6: Therefore as you have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, having been firmly rooted and now being built up in Him and established in your faith, just as you were instructed, and overflowing with gratitude. See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deception, according to the tradition of men, according to the elementary principles of the world, rather than according to Christ.

Let your requests be known to God in prayer and fasting. Phil 4:6; Mk 9:29: "Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."/Jesus answered, "That kind of spirit can only be forced out by pray and fasting."

Insight: There is wisdom in a multitude of counselors. Get help! Pr. 15:22; Romans 12:1, 2: "Plans fail without good advice, but they succeed with the advice of many others."/So [Therefore] brothers and sisters, since God has shown us great mercy I beg you to offer your lives [selves; bodies] as a living sacrifice to him. Your offering must be only for God [holy] and pleasing to him, which is the spiritual way for you to worship. Do not be shaped by [conformed to; pressed into a mold by] this world [age]; instead be changed within [transformed] by a new way thinking [or changing the way you think; the renewing of your mind]. Then you will be able to decide [discern; test and approve] what God wants for you [is God's will]; you will know what is good and pleasing to him and what is perfect." (EXB) **(See Journal Entries below)**

Get the facts: research all you can about the opportunity or idea. "The plans of hard-working people earn a profit, but those who act too quickly [hurry] become poor./ Listen to advice and accept instruction, that you may gain wisdom in the future. / All who are prudent act with knowledge, but fools expose their folly." Proverbs 21:5; 19:20; 13:16:

Holy living: "It is God's will that you should be sanctified" Lev 11:45:1 Peter 1:13-16

"I am the LORD, who brought you up out of Egypt to be your God; therefore be holy, because I am holy. " / "Therefore, prepare your minds for action; be self-controlled; set your hope fully on the grace to be given you when Jesus Christ is revealed. As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance. But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; for it is written: "Be holy, because I am holy."

Thankful: "Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will." Psalm 100:4; 1Th 5:18: Enter His gates with thanksgiving, and His courts with praise! Give thanks to Him; bless His name!"/... in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."

***** Keep a journal, writing the answers as you receive them:**

Ask the Lord, in prayer & fasting, to make His perfect will clear, seek him with your heart

Next of Kin: ask those related to you for prayer and advice: parents, siblings, relatives

Search the Scriptures for direction (Not randomly, but be open to insight and wisdom from your daily Bible reading, i.e. the One Year Bible – be organized!) (Ps 119:105)

Write! Keep a running record of what He's showing you over a given period of time in all of these areas mentioned; journal it for a few months or longer. (Prov. 3:5,6)

Experience--learn from past and present experiences; don't make the same mistake

Research the opportunities through dialogue, research, visits, etc.; create options

Seek the advice of advisers— pastors, mentors, friends, counselors. Record advice!

How to Discern God's Will for Important Decisions

D.E.L.I.G.H.T. yourself in the LORD; And He will give you the desires of your heart. Psalm 37:4

Seek the Lord with this checklist and write an action step as directed:

For example:

Insight: *There is wisdom in a multitude of counselors. Get help!*

Pr 15:22: "I need to talk to ...?"

Holy living: *"It is God's will that you should be sanctified ...*

"I need to stop lying, ...? "

D ecide to follow Christ by making Him your Lord and Savior. 2 Pe 3:9	
E mpowered by the Holy Spirit: Choose to walk in dependence. Col 2:6,7; Prov 3:5,6	
L et your requests be known to God in prayer & fasting. Phil 4:6; Mark 9:29	
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When God’s Will Isn’t Black and White

The Bible gives explicit instruction regarding lots of things. What about when we’re facing a choice the Scriptures don’t specifically address? Consider these ten principles in trying to discern what to do.

Ask Yourself	Scripture	Principle
Will this bring glory to God?	1 Corinthians 10:31	I am to live my life in such a way that God always gets the glory he deserves.
Am I trusting God, relying on my own wisdom, or trying to please someone else?	Proverbs 3:5–6, nlt; cf. 2 Corinthians 5:9–10	Biblical faith resists both the temptation to be a “men-pleaser” and the urge to rely on worldly wisdom.
Is this a case of “If it seems too good to be true, it probably is”?	Proverbs 14:12	We live in a confusing world influenced by a destructive deceiver whose goal is to ruin our lives. We should be careful and prayerful!
Could my faith be damaged or my character corrupted by this choice?	1 Corinthians 15:33	I will be influenced by environments I choose and the company I keep.
How does this square with my calling to pursue holiness?	1 Peter 1:14–15	As disciples, we are called to be different (in attitudes and actions) from those around us.
Would this decision harm Christ’s reputation or my own as his disciple?	Ephesians 5:3	We must be above reproach in all we do.
Could this be the first step on the path to spiritual or moral danger?	Proverbs 4:14–15	We must be alert, recognizing the weakness of our flesh and the power of sinful desires.

Would this action send the wrong signal to a “weaker” believer who might copy my behavior and violate his or her conscience?	1 Corinthians 8:9	The law of love requires that I sometimes voluntarily (and selflessly) limit my freedom for the sake of others.
Even if this isn’t “sinful,” is it “wise”?	1 Corinthians 10:23	Some things are “okay,” others are “good,” and still others are “best.” Disciples are called to pursue the best!
Do older and wiser believers agree with my chosen course of action?	Proverbs 12:17	It is foolish (and prideful) not to seek out and heed the wise counsel of godly men and women we respect when facing a tough decision.

Remember:

- 1) God doesn’t solve every problem immediately. He doesn’t work according to our schedule. His desire is NOT to help us just reach His given goal, but to reach it successfully—fully prepared in two areas: integrity and skill. That takes time. It is partly up to us when we are ready, by how fast we learn to trust and obey.
- 2) The Lord gave you a lot of leading when he gave you a brain. Spend all the necessary time seeking His will. Listen for His call on your life. Then role up sleeves after you get up off your knees, and take the next step! Make a plan. Follow through with it. Evaluate as needed.

Three follow up questions for homework: (family, small groups, etc.)

- 1) How did God’s truth speak to you this morning from His Word to your heart?
- 2) What adjustments do you need to make in your life as a result of this truth?
- 3) What steps are you going to take to make these adjustments happen?