

## How To Find God's Will For Your Life

*"And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, **asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will** in all spiritual wisdom and understanding..." Colossians 1:9 (ESV)*

### I. Introduction

*"One thing about God's will, you can never see God's will before it happens. You can only see at the end of it."---Raymond Lewis*

*"When you follow God's will for your life, you can see how yesterday's events prepared you for today's challenges and tomorrow's opportunities."---David Jeremiah*

### II. The Top 10 Enduring Biblical Principles Concerning Discovering God's Will

1. God's will is not a \_\_\_\_\_, it's a \_\_\_\_\_
2. God wants us to \_\_\_\_\_ more than we typically desire it
3. We often discover God's will in the daily execution of \_\_\_\_\_
4. We often mentally over-emphasize the \_\_\_\_\_ of Gods' will
5. We must trust that He will \_\_\_\_\_ into His plan
6. Often life's unplanned and unexpected \_\_\_\_\_ re-direct our paths
7. To be thrust forward in God's will frequently requires \_\_\_\_\_ some other things
8. Gods' will is frequently discovered in the \_\_\_\_\_ events
9. God never guarantees that His will bring us \_\_\_\_\_, but rather, \_\_\_\_\_
10. The revealing of God's will can easily be \_\_\_\_\_ due to life's increasing \_\_\_\_\_. *(So many hats to wear!)*
11. Finding God's will requires \_\_\_\_\_ in the present moment, for it is in these moments that His plan often *"finds us"*
  - Joseph was found by God in a prison cell and launched into destiny---Gen.37:5 & 41:1-45
  - Paul was found by Jesus---Acts 9
  - David was found by God through Samuel, the Prophet---I Samuel 16
  - Elisha was found by the Prophet Elijah---I Kings 19:15-21
  - Philip was "found" by God's will as he simply served in faithfulness---Acts 6:1-6; Acts 8:1-13; Acts 21:7-9
  - Solomon encourages us to find fulfillment in what we know to do today (Ecc.3:22)

### III. Putting It to the Test---Key Things to Be Looking For

*We must look for...*

1. We must prayerfully look inside ourselves to see what truly \_\_\_\_\_ us

- What gives you passion?
- What gives you energy?
- What gives you the most fulfillment?
- What do you enjoy doing in your free time?

2. We must prayerfully and honestly evaluate what \_\_\_\_\_ we really possess

- Good intentions are never enough
- Simply loving God is never enough
- Talent is an indispensable part of this picture
- What things can you do better than most people around you
- People often over-inflate their personal talent level (*outside input is a must*)

3. We should never ignore or underestimate the value of our \_\_\_\_\_

- Sometimes it's what happens to us in life that pushes us toward a calling
- Our life experience quotient is not relegated to our good or pleasurable experiences
- God's ability to use experiences will largely be predicated upon us getting the victory
- In this pursuit of finding God's will, failures can serve us as well as successes might

4. We should never ignore nor misconstrue the meaning and value of \_\_\_\_\_

**Paul**---A seemingly ill-fated voyage led to evangelistic revival on Malta (Acts 27:1—28:10)

**Eph.5:15-18**—Redeeming ordinary moments leads to extra-ordinary captured opportunities

- Some circumstances can easily be overlooked or dismissed
- Despite "*open doors*," we must always proceed slowly, cautiously, and prayerfully
- We must never diminish or underestimate the value and necessity of sound counsel
- We must remember that pursuing a calling also involves eliminating other avenues
- We must respect the fact that every calling of God comes with its own limits
- Success in this type of discovery involves knowing what we're NOT supposed to do

5. We must always pay close attention to the many sound \_\_\_\_\_ in our life

- What do my God-ordained leaders feel about this issue in my life?
- What have *legitimate* prophetic voices **CONSISTENTLY** said concerning my life?

- What have God's people repeatedly said or felt concerning me?
- Is my life, and are my family and finances in healthy conditions/sound positions?
- Who would I consider to be healthy models or mentors in my life?

6. In pursuing God's will, we should always respect the principle of \_\_\_\_\_

- God's will lies not identifying that elusive "something" that we would more than likely never want or choose to do
- Misery is not an indicator of God's perfect will for me
- God's will lies not in what simply "drives" us, but also in what brings us joy
- God not only loves "cheerful givers" but He also desires "cheerful servants"
- We should never confuse happiness with joy—for only Divine purpose brings joy
- Remember, even being in God's perfect will can sometimes be accompanied by frustration, times of irritation with other co-laborers and a temporary absence of happiness, but never of joy!

For most of us, our calling will emerge and be made clear over time and through experience. We will discover it by simply living and learning, failing as well as succeeding, experimenting, and, above all else, spiritual sensitivity as well as listening to the voice of the Holy Spirit all along the way. However, what we should listen for is not so much a voice FROM God but the voice OF God as He speaks to us through reflection, talents, experiences, opportunity, the community of fellow believers, and through the gladness of our own hearts as we faithfully serve Him daily!

*"I always begin my prayer time in silence, for it is in the silence of the heart that God often speaks. God is the friend of silence---we need to listen to God because it's not what we say but what He says to us---and later---through us that matters most!"---Mother Theresa*

## **ANSWER KEY:**

### **II. The Top 10 Enduring Biblical Principles Concerning Discovering God's Will**

1. DESTINATION----JOURNEY
2. APPREHEND HIS WILL
3. FAITHFULNESS
4. SIZE AND APPEARANCE
5. GRADUALLY FUNNEL US
6. TWISTS AND TURNS
7. RELINQUISHING
8. SMALL, SEEMINGLY INSIGNIFICANT
9. HAPPINESS---JOY
10. OVERLOOKED OR MISSED----BUSYNESS AND COMPLEXITIES
11. ATTENTIVENESS TO GOD

### **III. Putting It to the Test---Key Things to Be Looking For**

1. MOTIVATES
2. TALENTS
3. LIFE-EXPERIENCES
4. CIRCUMSTANCES
5. VOICES
6. JOYFUL SERVICE