



How Do I Know What God's Will is for My Life?

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Begin by reframing the question

- Reframing the question means a change in perspective from a self-centered orientation to a God-centered orientation.
 - ¹ And you were dead in the trespasses and sins ² in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— ³ among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. Ephesians 2:1-3 (ESV)

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- Reframing the question means a change in perspective from a self-centered orientation to a God-centered orientation.
- ¹⁵ Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. ¹⁶ For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life—is not from the Father but is from the world. ¹⁷ And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever. 1 John 2:15-17 (ESV)

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Begin by reframing the question

- The question then becomes not "What is God's will for my life?" but "What is God's will and what do I need to do in order to bring my life in alignment with His will?"
 - ²⁴ Then Jesus told his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. ²⁵ For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. Matthew 16:24-25 (ESV)

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Once we reframe the question the quest is to find the will of God. This takes us to His clearly revealed will as He has provided it in Scripture.

- ⁸ But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. ⁹ The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance. 2 Peter 3:8-9 (ESV)
- ¹ First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, ² for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way. ³ This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, ⁴ who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. 1 Timothy 2:1-4 (ESV)

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- ¹⁵ Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, ¹⁶ making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. ¹⁷ Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. ¹⁸ And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit, ¹⁹ addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart, ²⁰ giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹ submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ. Ephesians 5:15-21 (ESV)

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- ¹ Finally, then, brothers, we ask and urge you in the Lord Jesus, that as you received from us how you ought to walk and to please God, just as you are doing, that you do so more and more. ² For you know what instructions we gave you through the Lord Jesus. ³ For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you abstain from sexual immorality; ⁴ that each one of you know how to control his own body in holiness and honor, ⁵ not in the passion of lust like the Gentiles who do not know God; ⁶ that no one transgress and wrong his brother in this matter, because the Lord is an avenger in all these things, as we told you beforehand and solemnly warned you. ⁷ For God has not called us for impurity, but in holiness. ⁸ Therefore whoever disregards this, disregards not man but God, who gives his Holy Spirit to you. 1 Thessalonians 4:1-8 (ESV)

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- ¹⁶ Rejoice always, ¹⁷ pray without ceasing, ¹⁸ give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 (ESV)

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• ⁶ For I desire steadfast love and not sacrifice, the knowledge of God rather than burnt offerings. Hosea 6:6 (ESV) [Quoted by Jesus on at least two different occasions Matthew 9:13; 12:7]

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But does God's Word really help with specific personal decisions.

- Do I forego or end life-support for a loved one? A case for the whole counsel of God. Adapted from *Between Life and Death: A Gospel-Centered Guide to End-Of-Life Medical Care*, by Kathryn Butler, MD, Chapter 2 "Wisdom Begins with the Word."
 - Sanctity of mortal life Genesis 1:26, Psalm 139:13-14, Exodus 20:13
 - God's authority over life and death Psalm 31:14-15; John 11:43-44
 - Mercy and compassion Matthew 22:39; Luke 6:36
 - Hope in Christ 1 Peter 1:3-4; 1 Corinthians 15:54-55; John 11:25-26

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But does God's Word really help with specific personal decisions.

- Where am I to go to school?
- Who am I to marry?
- Do I put my parent or grandparent in a nursing home?
- What career should I pursue?
- Which job offer do I take?
- Should I leave my husband/wife?

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Once we reframe the question the quest is to find the will of God. This takes us to His clearly revealed will as He has provided it in Scripture.

- ⁸ He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God? Micah 6:8 (ESV)

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