

KNOWING GOD'S WILL

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Joshua 9:1-21 (NLT) (1) Now all the kings west of the Jordan River heard about what had happened. These were the kings of the Hittites, Amorites, Canaanites, Perizzites, Hivites, and Jebusites, who lived in the hill country, in the western foothills, and along the coast of the Mediterranean Sea as far north as the Lebanon mountains. (2) These kings combined their armies to fight as one against Joshua and the Israelites. (3) But when the people of Gibeon heard what Joshua had done to Jericho and Ai, (4) they resorted to deception to save themselves. They sent ambassadors to Joshua, loading their donkeys with weathered saddlebags and old, patched wineskins. (5) They put on worn-out, patched sandals and ragged clothes. And the bread they took with them was dry and moldy. (6) When they arrived at the camp of Israel at Gilgal, they told Joshua and the men of Israel, "We have come from a distant land to ask you to make a peace treaty with us." (7) The Israelites replied to these Hivites, "How do we know you don't live nearby? For if you do, we cannot make a treaty with you." (8) They replied, "We are your servants." "But who are you?" Joshua demanded. "Where do you come from?" (9) They answered, "Your servants have come from a very distant country. We have heard of the might of the LORD your God and of all he did in Egypt. (10) We have also heard what he did to the two Amorite kings east of the Jordan River—King Sihon of Heshbon and King Og of Bashan (who lived in Ashtaroth). (11) So our elders and all our people instructed us, 'Take supplies for a long journey. Go meet with the people of Israel and tell them, "We are your servants; please make a treaty with us." ' (12) "This bread was hot from the ovens when we left our homes. But now, as you can see, it is dry and moldy. (13) These wineskins were new when we filled them, but now they are old and split open. And our clothing and sandals are worn out from our very long journey." (14) **So the Israelites examined their food, but they did not consult the LORD.** (15) Then Joshua made a peace treaty with them and guaranteed their safety, and the leaders of the community ratified their agreement with a binding oath. (16) Three days after making the treaty, they learned that these people actually lived nearby! (17) The Israelites set out at once to investigate and reached their towns in three days. The names of these towns were Gibeon, Kephirah, Beeroth, and Kiriath-jearim. (18) But the Israelites did not attack the towns, for the Israelite leaders had made a vow to them in the name of the LORD, the God of Israel. The people of Israel grumbled against their leaders because of the treaty. (19) But the leaders replied, "Since we have sworn an oath in the presence of the LORD, the God of Israel, we cannot touch them. (20) This is what we must do. We must let them live, for divine anger would come upon us if we broke our oath. (21) Let them live." So they made them woodcutters and water carriers for the entire community, as the Israelite leaders directed.

7 KEYS TO KNOWING GOD'S WILL:

1) We need to have a _____ that is not hindered with unconfessed sin and an unrepentant attitude toward God.

1 Corinthians 2:10-14 (NLT) (10) But it was to us that God revealed these things by his Spirit. For his Spirit searches out everything and shows us God's deep secrets. (11) No one can know a person's thoughts except that person's own spirit, and no one can know God's thoughts except God's own Spirit. (12) And we have received God's Spirit (not the world's spirit), so we can know the wonderful things God has freely given us. (13) When we tell you these things, we do not use words that come from human wisdom. Instead, we speak words given to us by the Spirit, using the Spirit's words to explain spiritual truths. (14) But people who aren't spiritual can't receive these truths from God's Spirit. It all sounds foolish to them and they can't understand it, for only those who are spiritual can understand what the Spirit means.

Isaiah 59:1-2 (NLT) (1) Listen! The LORD's arm is not too weak to save you, nor is his ear too deaf to hear you call. (2) It's your sins that have cut you off from God. Because of your sins, he has turned away and will not listen anymore.

2) We need to ask ourselves if our decision will _____ and how our decision will impact the way others view God.

Romans 14:13 (NLT) (13) So let's stop condemning each other. Decide instead to live in such a way that you will not cause another believer to stumble and fall.

3) _____ and ask for God to guide you in your decision.

James 1:5 (NLT) (5) If you need wisdom, ask our generous God, and he will give it to you. He will not rebuke you for asking.

Joshua 9:14 (NLT) (14) So the Israelites examined their food, but they did not consult the LORD.

4) Be sensitive to whether you have _____ about your decision.

Philippians 4:6–7 (NLT) (6) Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. (7) Then you will experience God's peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus.

5) Consider how God has _____ in your life in regard to the decision you are making.

>> See Numbers 22 for a great example of how God uses circumstances in life.

6) _____ of other godly people.

Proverbs 12:15 (NLT) (15) Fools think their own way is right, but the wise listen to others.

Proverbs 15:22 (NLT) (22) Plans go wrong for lack of advice; many advisers bring success.

7) _____ to make sure your decision does not conflict with the teachings in the Bible.

IT IS A WISE THING TO FILTER EVERY DECISION YOU MAKE THROUGH WHAT GOD REVEALS TO US IN THE BIBLE.

Psalms 119:105 (NLT) (105) Your word is a lamp to guide my feet and a light for my path.

2 Timothy 3:16–17 (NLT) (16) All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. (17) God uses it to prepare and equip his people to do every good work.

THERE ARE DECISIONS IN YOUR LIFE GOD DOES NOT CARE ABOUT. BUT YOU NEED TO KNOW WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS TO KNOW IF HE DOES OR DOES NOT CARE ABOUT WHAT YOU ARE ABOUT TO DO.

Proverbs 3:5–6 (NLT) (5) Trust in the LORD with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. (6) Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take.

*For more information about what it means to begin a relationship with Jesus or what to do after making a decision to follow Him, stop at Guest Central in the lobby following the service, email us at info@otterbeinchurch.org, or call the church office at 717.762.7147 to set up an appointment. You may also learn more about what it means to follow Jesus and/or request materials and find additional information to help you on your spiritual journey by clicking "**Next Steps > Jesus**" on our website at www.otterbeinchurch.org.*