

Knowing God's Will Ephesians 5:15-17

Jesus sought the Father's will for His life

- John 6:38 Hebrews 10:9 John 5:19-20 Luke 6:12

We are to seek God's will for our lives

- 1 Peter 4:1-2 Ephesians 6:6 2 Corinthians 5:10 John 17:4

God's will is not always simple and apparent

- Genesis 3:6 Hebrews 5:14 Proverbs 14:12 Acts 15:36-40

Why?

1. God is more concerned about relationship than activity
2. Carrying out God's will requires prayer and His presence

General will of God for your life

- John 6:40 1 Thessalonians 4:3 1 Thessalonians 5:18
- Loving Jesus, Loving People, Transforming Lives

Specific will of God for your life (Progressive will)

- Colossians 1:1, Ephesians 1:1, 2 Corinthians 1:1, 1 Corinthians 1:1, 2 Timothy 1:1
- Jeremiah 1:4-5 Ephesians 2:10 1 Peter 4:10

We can miss God's will for our lives

- Luke 7:30 Matthew 23:37
- King Saul: 1 Samuel 10:24
- King Uzziah: 2 Chronicles 26:2-4 2 Chronicles 26:16

How do we know what God's will is?

- Romans 12:1-2

1. Surrender

- Luke 22:42
- "I seek at the beginning to get my heart into such a state that it has no will of its own in regard to a given matter. Nine-tenths of the trouble with people is just here. Nine-tenths of the difficulties are overcome when our hearts are ready to do the Lord's Will, whatever it may be. When one is truly in this state, it is usually but a little way to the knowledge of what His will is." - George Müller

- "All that we are, all that we have, all our desires, plans, affections, choices, likes and dislikes must be fully surrendered to God in utter submission before we can know what His will is... Choose to do God's will for your life instead of your own will. Do not launch out upon the sea of life headed for a port of your own choosing, guided by a chart of your own drafting, driven by the power of your own selfish pleasures or ambitions. Come to God, yield your life to Him by one act of trustful, irrevocable surrender. So shall you come steadily to know and see God's will for your life." – Dr. Leon Vanrooyen

You will never fully surrender until you trust God's Character.

- John 15:11 Romans 12:2

To miss God's will is to miss out on the abundant life.

- John 10:10 John 4:34 2.

2. Kingdom Conformity

- We need to make decisions like Kingdom people
 - Prayer
 - Bible
 - God's voice through a word, picture, thoughts
 - Prophetic word from someone else
 - Confirmation
 - Circumstances
 - What are other surrendered Jesus followers saying?
 - What is wisdom saying?
 - Avoid tendency to rush – don't be impatient

3. Right thinking

- Jeremiah 1:4-8
- Hebrews 13:20-21