

F. Pray and make a decision.

Say, "In the light that I have at this time, I believe God's will for my life is _____." But, be willing to change as God gives you more light.

"If you can't decide what is the right thing to do, choose the thing that would give God the most glory!"

G. If God does not reveal His "personal will" for your life, as you are walking with the Lord, filled with His Holy Spirit, proceed with the "desires of your heart."

Psalm 37:4, NIV - *"Delight yourself in the Lord and He will give you the desires of your heart."*

The secret here is delighting yourself in the Lord. When we do that, He has no problem giving us the desires of our heart.

H. Final Matters:

- **Prompting**— Do 'small things' because of a lifestyle committed to God. (e.g. should I eat at McDonalds or at a "party bar"?) Do 'BIG things' out of convictions you have arrived at because God has revealed His "Personal Will." (e.g. "Who should I marry?") Remember, God deals with us to build trust in Him; WE CAN TRUST HIM!
- **Influence**— "What do you do when other people tell you they know God's will for their lives?" Examine their track record for knowing the will of God in their own lives. What is their character? Pray and ask God to confirm the matter in your heart.



Your great desire ought to be to know His Will. Your great delight will be to do His Will. Your great danger is to refuse His Will. Nothing is right for you if it is not His Will." - Dr. Adrian Rogers

There are two worlds, set over against each other, dominated by two wills, the will of man and the Will of God, respectively. To do the Will of God is to do more than give unprotesting consent to it; it is rather to choose God's Will with positive determination. - A.W. Tozer

"If any man lacks wisdom, let him ask of God who gives freely to all men." - James 1:5

Remember, we can know God's will but only when we are fully open and completely committed to doing God's will no matter what it is.

TOUGH QUESTIONS

and Straight Answers by Pastor Joe K. Taylor

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Here's the **TOUGH QUESTION:**

How Can We Know the Will of God?

Here's the **STRAIGHT ANSWER:**

1. The Short Answer:

We can know God's will but only when we are fully open and completely committed to doing God's will no matter what.

2. Introduction to the issue:

Know that you will never know "enough" of the will of God:

- To make Heaven on Earth
- To make life fully predictable
- To make life fully understandable
- To remove all risk

There are two aspects of God's will:

His **General Will** for everyone (e.g. all should seek to be like Him, all should accept Him as Lord, all should seek to be holy, etc.)

His **Personal Will** for each individual (e.g. should you take a certain job, who should you marry, some activity, etc.)

3. How to know God's *Personal Will* for your life.

A. Decide to trust God and obey Him—no matter what.

John 7:17, GNV - (Jesus Said) ". . . if any man is willing to do My Will, he shall know of that Will."

Psalm 37:5 TLB - "Commit everything you do to the Lord. Trust Him to help you . . . and He will."

Proverbs 3:5-6, NIV - "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will direct your paths."

"You will never know God's will until you are willing to do it." The big question in seeking God's will is, "Will you do His will when He reveals it to you—no matter what it is?"

B. Check the Word of God to see what it says.

2 Timothy 3:16 (NASB) - "All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work."

VERY IMPORTANT:

God will never "lead you to do something" that is not in keeping with His Holy Word!

C. Use your head and not your heart.

Head: i.e., counting the real cost, checking previous promises and contracts, covenants, looking at the facts, etc.

Heart: i.e., emotions, feelings, "What might be easy though it is not God's will," weighing consequences to your actions, "asking God to bless our will," etc.

Proverbs 14:15, NASB - "The naive believes everything, but the prudent man considers his steps."

"Moses did not draw up blueprints of the tabernacle for God to approve. God handed down His plans. Today, we draw up our plans, our programs and seek Divine endorsement instead of seeking first the Divine Program."

- The late, Dr. Vance Havner

Evaluate your answers to the tough questions:

To the best of my knowledge . . .

- Will this be beneficial for me, my health, and my family?
- Will this keep me free from any taint of compromise?
- Will this glorify God and bring honor to Him?
- Will this be a wise financial decision?
- Will this enhance my career and other stated goals?
- Will this help me be a good steward of what God has given me?
- Will this enhance my marriage (if married)?
- If made public, would this decision enhance my Christian reputation?

If you can answer "yes" to all these questions, fine.

If not, reconsider your intended course of action.

D. Value and get wise counsel from others.

Proverbs 15:22, NASB - "Without consultation, plans are frustrated, but with many counselors they succeed."

You need to seek the godly counsel of people committed to following God's will in their own lives. We all need—so seek out—the straightforward, prayerful counsel of friends who love us and are seeking first the kingdom of God in their own lives. Never trust your inward convictions, if godly people who know you well advise you to go a different direction. Solomon (a very wise man in the Bible) pressed this truth home when he wrote the scripture stated above in Proverbs 15:22—we need help from others.

The Will of God is an inner conviction, given by the Spirit of God, confirmed in the Word of God, and by the People of God.

E. Realize that sometimes, God chooses not to reveal His ways to us. When this happens, we must do only what we know God wants us to do.

Deuteronomy 29:29, NIV - "The secret things belong to the Lord our God, but the things revealed belong to us . . . forever, that we may follow all the word of (His) law."

Someone has said, "God is in the business of sustaining, not explaining." If God has not revealed His will, commit to do only the things that God would have you do. Ask Him to "sustain" you until His will is revealed. For some situations, they may never make sense "this side of heaven".