



How do we know Gods will

And this is the confidence which we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will He hears us. And if we know that He hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have obtained the requests made of Him. I John 5:14-15

I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with my loving eye on you Psalm 32:8

When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life." John 8:12

252

The promises

1. I will instruct you
2. I will teach you
3. I will counsel you
4. You will not walk in darkness
5. You will have the light of life

253

The Conditions of Learning Gods will

My son, do not forget my teaching, but keep my commands in your heart...Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight. Proverbs 3:1,5-6

1. Do not forget His teaching

Do your best (To be diligent, to make every effort, to hasten, to be eager.) to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth. 2 Tim 2:15

254

The Conditions of Learning Gods will

2. Trust in the Lord (be confident, feel secure)

So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?'. For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. Matthew 6:31-32

But when he asks, he must believe and not doubt because he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. That man should not think he will receive anything from the Lord; James 1:6-7

255

The Conditions of Learning Gods will

3. Lean Not on Your Own Understanding

And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. Romans 8:28

4. In All Your Ways Acknowledge Him

Though he slay me, yet will I hope in him; I will surely defend my ways to his face. Job 13:15

Results: And He will direct your paths

256

Where Do We Learn God's Will?



1. God's Written Word: Logos

Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path...The unfolding of your words gives light; it gives understanding to the simple. Psalm 119:105,130

2. God's Living Word: Jesus

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God...The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. John 1:1,14

257

Where Do We Learn God's Will?



3. Holy Spirit

And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counsellor to be with you forever--the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. John 14:16-18

If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you. James 1:5

But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. John 16:13

258

How Do We Receive God's Will,



God has spoken to man in many ways:

1. In a burning bush, to Moses...Exodus 3
2. directly to Abraham...Genesis 22
3. in a still, small voice, to Elijah...I Kings 19
4. through a prophet, Nathan, to David...II Samuel 12
5. in a dream, to Nebuchadnezzar...Daniel 2,4
6. with a hand on the wall, to Belshazzar...Daniel 5
7. in a revelation or vision, to John...Revelation 1

259

Results of hearing Gods Voice



Faith comes to us when God speaks to us

So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God. Rom 10:17

260

How Do We Receive God's Will,



I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me--just as the Father knows me and I know the Father-- and I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also. They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd. John 10:14-16

261

Biblical Illustration



2 "Moses my servant is dead. Now then, you and all these people, get ready to cross the Jordan River into the land I am about to give to them—to the Israelites. 3 I will give you every place where you set your foot, as I promised Moses. 4 Your territory will extend from the desert to Lebanon, and from the great river, the Euphrates—all the Hittite country—to the Mediterranean Sea in the west. 5 No one will be able to stand against you all the days of your life. As I was with Moses, so I will be with you; I will never leave you nor forsake you. 6 Be strong and courageous, because you will lead these people to inherit the land I swore to their ancestors to give them. 7 "Be strong and very courageous. **Be careful to obey all the law** my servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, that you may be successful wherever you go. 8 **Keep this Book of the Law always** on your lips; **meditate on it day and night**, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful. Joshua 1:2-8

262

Biblical Illustration

1 CH 28:2 King David rose to his feet and said: "Listen to me, my brothers and my people. **I had it in my heart** to build a house as a place of rest for the ark of the covenant of the LORD,

1 CH 28:11 Then David gave his son Solomon the plans for the portico of the temple, its buildings, its storerooms, its upper parts, its inner rooms and the place of atonement. [12] He gave him **the plans of all that the Spirit had put in his mind** for the courts of the temple of the LORD and all the surrounding rooms, for the treasuries of the temple of God and for the treasuries for the dedicated things.

1 CH 28:19 "All this," David said, "**I have in writing from the hand of the LORD** upon me, and he gave me understanding in all the details of the plan."



263

Four keys to Hearing God

1. **Stillness:** Quiet our heart
2. **Vision:** Focus the eyes of our hearts on the Lord to see what He would say to us
3. **Spontaneity:** Recognize the word of the Lord is given as thoughts in our minds, choose to listen and see what the Lord would say to us
4. **Journaling:** Write down what we see and hear to share it with others.



264

Safeguard #1: Examine what you hear and do

1. Does it line up with God's Word

- *But the one who prophesies speaks to people for their strengthening, encouraging and comfort. 1 Cor 14:3*

2. Does it line up with the character of God

- *God is omnipotent. Jeremiah 32:26,27*
- *God is good. Psalm 119:65-72*
- *God is love. 1 John 4:7-10*
- *God is just. Psalm 75:1-7*
- *God is holy. Revelation 4:8-11*



265

Safeguard #1: Examine what you hear and do

3. Does it line up with names of God

- *Jehovah-Jireh* (The Lord will provide) - Genesis 22:14
- *Jehovah-Raphe* (The Lord my Healer) - Exodus 15:26
- *Jehovah-Nissi* (The Lord my Banner) - Exodus 17:15
- *Jehovah-Shalom* (The Lord my Peace) - Judges 6:24
- *Jehovah-Raah* (The Lord my Shepherd) - Psalm 23:1
- *Jehovah-Tsidkenu* (The Lord my Righteousness) - Jeremiah 23:6; 33:16
- *Jehovah-Shammah* (The Lord is there) - Ezekiel 48:35

4. Does the body of Christ witness that it is the Lord

5. Test the Fruit in your Heart



266

Safeguard #2: Be accountable to someone What to Look for in a Spiritual Counselor:

1. A close friend, someone you trust, who will be honest with you.
2. One who knows the Lord, who is a Christian.
3. One who has a solid biblical orientation.
4. One who can sense the voice of the Spirit of God in his own heart.
5. One who is willing to commit himself to you, who will invest their time and energy in your growth,
6. Receives counsel themselves.
7. Is ahead of you in spiritual growth.



267

Safeguard #3: Beware Idols in Your Heart

"...any man in the house of Israel who sets up his idols in his heart, puts right before his face the stumbling block of his iniquity, and then comes to the prophet, I the Lord will be brought to give him an answer in the matter in view of the multitude of his idols." (Ezek. 14:4)



268

Types of Idols



1. Desires

Colossians 3:5 Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires, and greed, which is idolatry

- A desire of the heart
- Want of a position or a possession
- The desire for sex,
- lust for fame or credit
- The desire for money,
- Unforgiveness toward those who have hurt you.
- Desire for vengeance
- Anything you want to hear

269

Types of Idols



2. Mental strongholds

- An opinion
- Belief, Existing Thought Processes
- Judgement
- Prejudice
- Purpose
- Worries/anxieties
- Personal cause or Political preference
- Fear

270

Types of Idols



3. Hope

- Hope that has no basis for being true.
- A time of celebration
 - Holiday
 - Trip
 - Experience
 - Celebrating a past event
- Victory over something that you have not dealt with the root reason the problem is there
- Trusting in your good works

4. False Gods

- Physical idols:

5. Worry/Anxiety

271

Safeguard #4: Let the peace of God Rule:



Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not be afraid. John 14:27

I have told you these things so that in me you may have peace. In this world, you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world. John 16:33

And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:7

Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body, you were called to peace. And be thankful. Colossians 3:15

272

When Do We Need To Know God's Will?



1. During trials and tribulations

- **I have told you these things so that in me you may have peace. In this world, you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world. John 16:33**
- **Dear friends, do not be surprised at the painful trial you are suffering, as though something strange were happening to you. 1 Peter 4:12**
- **3 Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; 4 perseverance, character; and character, hope. 5 And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us. Romans 5:3-5**

273

When Do We Need To Know God's Will?



1. During trials and tribulations

- **In this, you greatly rejoice, though now, for a little while, you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. These have come so that your faith-- of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire-- may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honour when Jesus Christ is revealed. 1 Peter 1:6-7**

274

When Do We Need To Know God's Will?



1. During trials and tribulations

- Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as sons. For what son is not disciplined by his father?...No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it. Hebrews 12:7,11
- So then, those who suffer according to God's will should commit themselves to their faithful Creator and continue to do good. 1 Peter 4:19
- And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. Romans 8:28

275

When Do We Need To Know God's Will?



2. Decision Making

- Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:6-7

276

3. When we are Attacked



Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. 1 Peter 5:8

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armour of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Therefore, put on the full armour of God so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground and, after you have done everything, to stand. Ephesians 6:10-13

277

Enemies of the Kingdom of God



1. Satan

- Gen 3:1 1 Now the serpent was more crafty than any beast of the field that the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden?'"
- Revelation 12:7-9: "The great dragon was thrown down, that ancient serpent, who is called the Devil and Satan."
- Revelation 20:2: "He seized the dragon, that ancient serpent who is the devil and Satan."

278

Enemies of the Kingdom of God



1. Satan

- How you have fallen from heaven, O morning star, son of the dawn! You have been cast down to the earth, you who once laid low the nations! You said in your heart, "I will ascend to heaven; I will raise my throne above the stars of God; I will sit enthroned on the mount of assembly, on the utmost heights of the sacred mountain. I will ascend above the tops of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High." But you are brought down to the grave, to the depths of the pit. Those who see you stare at you, they ponder your fate: "Is this the man who shook the earth and made kingdoms tremble, the man who made the world a desert, who overthrew its cities and would not let his captives go home?" Isaiah 14:12-17

279

Enemies of the Kingdom of God



2. Demons

The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon their faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons. Such teachings come through hypocritical liars, whose consciences have been seared as with a hot iron. They forbid people to marry and order them to abstain from certain foods, which God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and who know the truth. 1 Timothy 4:1-3

•

280

Enemies of the Kingdom of God



3. The Flesh

James 1: 14-15 14 but each person is tempted when they are dragged away by their own evil desire and enticed. 15 Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.

16 ,But I see another law at work in the members of my body, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin at work within my members. What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? Romans 7:23-24

281

Enemies of the Kingdom of God



3. The Flesh

For if you live according to the sinful nature, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live because those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. Romans 8:4,12-14

I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me Phil 4:13

282

Enemies of the Kingdom of God



4. The World

10 He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. John 1:10

We are warned to beware the world

15 Do not love the world nor 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 lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world. 1 John 2:15-16

283

Enemies of the Kingdom of God



4. The World

- The lust of the flesh
 - The lust of the flesh, lust for food, lust for sex, lust for wealth.
- The lust of the eyes
 - The lust of the eyes occurs when we see something visually that incites covetousness, jealousy, or sexual lust.
- The boastful pride of life,
 - The pride of life is the desire in every human being to be their own god.
 - Arrogance, self-promotion, fame, and greed all stem from the pride of life .

284

Enemies of the Kingdom of God



4. The World

Then he said to them, "Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; a man's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions." Luke 12:15

Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also....No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money. Matthew 6:19-21,24

285

Temptations of Christ



1. If you are the Son of God: Temptation: Undermine your True Identity

Galatians 4:6

Because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!"

Romans 8:16

The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God,

286

Temptations of Christ



2. Use your power to make bread: Temptation: God is not your Provider.

“If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread.” Jesus answered It is written, “Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.” Matthew 4:3-4

And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus. Phil 4:19

“Therefore do not be anxious, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.” Matthew 6:31-33

287

Temptations of Christ



3. Throw yourself down: Temptation: To receive Glory of Men

5 Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. 6 “If you are the Son of God,” he said, “throw yourself down...

‘You shall not tempt the Lord your God’” Matthew 4:5-7.

Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Philippians 2:3

Likewise, you who are younger, be subject to the elders. Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another, for “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble. Humble yourselves, therefore, under God’s mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. 1 Pet 5:5-6

Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall Proverbs 16:18

288

Temptations of Christ



4. Bow down and worship me: Temptation: To take the easy route to your purpose.

8 Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. 9 “All this I will give you,” he said, “if you will bow down and worship me.” Away with you, Satan! For it is written, ‘You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only you shall serve.’” Matthew 4:8-10

Nothing in all creation is hidden from God’s sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account. Heb 4:13

For there is nothing hidden that will not be disclosed, and nothing concealed that will not be known or brought out into the open. Luke 8:17

Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; Prov 3:5

289

How to respond to Temptations



1. You have the authority

- I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you. Luke 10:19

2. Submit yourself to God

- Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. James 4:7

3. Resist the Devil

- Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. Ephesians 6:17

290

How to respond to Temptations



4. By the Spirit put to death the desires of the flesh

- For if you live according to the sinful nature, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live because those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. Romans 8:4,12-14

5. Beware of temptations

- Temptations are very sneaky and start with just a simple feeling of dissatisfaction
- a feeling of envy of someone else going on a holiday
- a feeling of agitation when someone gets promoted.
- The feelings are the indicator of a temptation because they go from agitation to bitterness, to desire to see someone fail, to murder
- All sins are progressive and must be nipped in the bud.

291

Spiritual Weaponry



Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with the Readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints. Ephesians 6:14-18

292

**Personal Application: Journaling
Exercise**

**Father, what would you like to say to me about
idols in my heart?**