

Discerning God's Will?

By Dr. Willie Holley

We often hear people attempting to debate God's will and purpose for our lives. Based on some of the comments I hear I am forced to wonder if they are reading and studying the same Bible that I am studying to try and better understand God's will and purpose for my life. I am of the belief the Bible is truly God's inspired word and is intended to reveal to us His divine will for our lives. If we truly desire to discover God's will for our lives, we must first recognize that His will is found in His Holy Word, the Bible. Notice what we find at 2Timothy 3:16 -17 (NKJV) "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work." What the Apostle Paul is saying is that God's will for our lives can be found in the Scriptures that are recorded in our bibles. God gave them to the writers by divine inspiration. Simply stated, God is the source of the Scriptures that clearly speak to His will for our lives. Therefore, when we attempt to discover God's will for our lives, we must do as Paul tells Timothy to do at 2Tim. 2:15, (KJV) "Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not be ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of Truth." We then conclude that in order for a man to know God's will, we must study His Word. The New King James translation of this Scripture uses the term "diligent" as opposed to "study" as written in the King James Version. This implies that we cannot be casual students when studying God's inspired Word, but instead we must labor in our studies to obtain knowledge of God's will for our lives. We need to read and constantly meditate on God's Word, allowing Him to reveal His divine truths to us. At Joshua 1:8 (NKJV) we find, "This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success." If we desire to discover God's will for our lives, we must **read** God's Word, **study** God's Word and **meditate** on God's Word. In the book of Proverbs, Chapter 3:1 -5, where King Solomon in speaking of God's desire for us, he says to us, "My son, if you receive my Word and treasure my commandments within you, so that you incline your ear to wisdom, and apply your heart to understanding; Yes, if you cry out for discernment, and lift up your voice for understanding; If you seek her as silver, and search her as for hidden treasures; then you will understand the fear of the Lord and find the knowledge of God." Plainly, stated, we discover **God's will** when we diligently read, study, and meditate on His Word. Diligently seek His Face!

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