

## FINDING GOD'S WILL

Romans 1:10; James 4:15

(Not entirely original with me)

**Introduction:** What Christian has not wondered and asked "What is God's will for my life?" No doubt God does have a "will" for each Christian and the Holy Spirit equips by giving a special gift to each Christian for him/her to use that gift in service to the Lord. Sadly so many do not know what God's will is for their life and even more sadly, some don't care or want to know. How can a Christian find and do the will of God?

### I. SOME THINGS ABOUT GOD'S WILL

1. God has a "proclaimed" will:
  - God has made His will known in many ways and places - 1 Thessalonians 5:18; 1 Peter 2:15
  - God has revealed His will:
    - By sending inspired Prophets - Hebrews 1:1
    - By sending His own Son, Jesus - Hebrews 1:2
    - By having the Holy Spirit guide the Apostles - John 16:12-13; 1 Corinthians 14:36-37
  - Through God's "proclaimed" will is revealed how one can be saved - Matthew 7:21
  - What is essential to know, God has revealed through His Word - 2 Timothy 3:16-17
2. God has a "providential" (divine) will:
  - God acts "divinely" in one's life - Romans 1:10, 15:32
  - One is to pray regarding what God wants for his/her life - James 4:13-15
  - One's prayer requests are answered as it fits in with God's will - 1 John 5:14
  - One may not be sure exactly what God's will is for his/her life.
3. God has a "permissive" will:
  - God allows things to happen that are not necessarily in His planned will.
  - God permits people to sin and even do harm to others.
    - God is not pleased and will one day bring judgment - Acts 17:30-31
    - God is able to carry out His own will, despite a person's refusal, rebellion - Isaiah 10:5-7
  - God permits people to do things that are contrary/indifferent to Him.
    - There are some matters of indifference to God - Romans 14:5-6
    - Some decisions a person makes do not matter to God .
    - Not all choices a person makes pleases God, however, they may not be required by God either.

### II. HOW TO FIND GOD'S WILL

1. Focus on the "proclaimed" will of God:
  - Study God's Word to learn what God has already revealed.
    - If a person doesn't accept and practice the revealed will of God, what difference does it make to try to seek areas of God's will that are yet unknown?
  - There is much value on focusing on the already "proclaimed" will of God.
    - One will know what is essential to know and do.
    - One can avoid choices that are clearly contrary to God's Will.
2. Go to others and ask their advice:
  - Go to older, more mature Christians and ask their advice - Proverbs 11:14; 12:15
  - Go to God's Word and look in Proverbs and Ecclesiastes for wisdom.

3. Simply ask God for wisdom:
  - Pray steadfastly for the ability to wisely make decisions - James 1:5-8
  - "Wisdom" is spiritual insight that helps one evaluate situations clearly and use the options and abilities one already has.
  - Use the wisdom gained to eliminate that which is unacceptable.
4. Commit one's life to the Lord:
  - No matter what one does, do it for the sake of the Lord - Psalm 37:5-6, 23-26
  - Make all plans subject to God's will - James 4:15
    - Allow God to close any door He may choose.
    - When God closes a door, look around for another choice.
5. Some other things to consider:
  - God is not confined to just one way, He is able to go any way He chooses.
  - Sometimes choices are between what is good and what is better.
  - God can use a person in many, many ways.
  - If a choice is not needed immediately, wait and gain more wisdom about the matter.
  - Whatever God gives one to do, do it with all one's might.

## CONCLUSION:

1. One's goal should be to ***"stand perfect and complete in all the will of God..."*** - Colossians 4:12
  - Especially if it pertains to the already proclaimed will of God.
  - Do so as much as possible in the permissive will of God.
2. Jesus has set the example in seeking and doing the will of God:
  - ***"...Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven..."*** - Matthew 6:10
  - ***"...Not as I will, but as You will..."*** - Matthew 16:39-42
3. Do YOU know what God's will is for you? Do YOU really want to know? Have YOU been seeking God's will for your life?