

give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. 1 Thessalonians 5:15–19 (ESV)

## 2. Pray as you read the Bible.

## 3. Memorize the Bible.

...man does not live by bread alone, but man lives by every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord. Deuteronomy 8:3 (ESV)

## 4. Meditate on the Bible.

Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers; but his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night. He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers. Psalm 1:1–3 (ESV)

## 5. How does the Bible help us discover God's will?

Augustine — Love God and do what you want.

Van Til — Learn to think God's thoughts after him.

It has always been my ambition to preach the gospel where Christ was not known,...Romans 15:20 (NIV)

### Digging Deeper Sermon Study

1. What is the difference between the decretive and preceptive will of God? **Read Isaiah 46:10, Micah 6:8, Ephesians 5:15-18, 1 Timothy 2:4.** How is the will of God talked about in each of these verses?
2. **Read Proverbs 6:21-22, Matthew 4:1-11, Psalm 119:11, Hebrews 4:12.** Why is it important to memorize key Bible verses? Will you make a commitment to memorize 1 verse of your choosing a week?
3. **Read Joshua 1:8, Psalm 1:1-3, Psalm 63:5-8, Psalm 119:97-104.** The Bible talks about meditating on the Word of God. What is meditation and how is it done? What are its benefits? Will you commit to not just reading the Bible but taking a portion to meditate on each week?
4. **Read Philippians 2:13, Romans 15:20 (NIV), 2 Cor 9:7. Romans 8:5-9.** The Holy Spirit living in us gives us desires for God and his will for our future. How has the Holy Spirit changed the desires of your heart? What new desires to serve him have you discovered?

# DISCOVERING GOD'S WILL

## How Do I Find God's Will?

April 8, 2018

## 1. What does the Bible mean when it talks about God's will?

### 1. Decretive Will Of God

...he does according to his will among the host of heaven and among the inhabitants of the earth; and none can stay his hand or say to him, "What have you done?" Daniel 4:35 (ESV)

even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him... Ephesians 1:4 (ESV)

Your eyes saw my unformed body; all the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be. Psalm 139:16 (NIV)

For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil. 2 Corinthians 5:10 (ESV)

For the Son of Man goes as it has been determined, but woe to that man by whom he is betrayed!" Luke 22:22 (ESV)

### 2. Preceptive Will Of God (Moral Will)

For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you abstain from sexual immorality; 1 Thessalonians 4:3 (ESV)

give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. 1 Thessalonians 5:18 (ESV)

### 3. Providential Will Of God

But on taking leave of them he said, "I will return to you if God wills," and he set sail from Ephesus. Acts 18:21 (ESV)

Instead you ought to say, "If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that." James 4:15 (ESV)

## 2. How do pagans find God's will?

### 1. Rolling Dice (Casting Lots)

And they said to one another, "Come, let us cast lots, that we may know on whose account this evil has come upon us." So they cast lots, and the lot fell on Jonah. Jonah 1:7 (ESV)

### 2. A Shiver In The Liver (Hepatoscopy)

### 3. Spinning The Arrow (Rhabdomancy)

For the king of Babylon stands at the parting of the way, at the head of the two ways, to use divination. He shakes the arrows; he consults the teraphim; he looks at the liver. Ezekiel 21:21 (ESV)

### 4. Consult Your Idol (Teraphim)

They sacrificed to demons that were no gods, to gods they had never known, to new gods that had come recently, whom your fathers had never dreaded. Deuteronomy 32:17 (ESV)

No, I imply that what pagans sacrifice they offer to demons and not to God. I do not want you to be participants with demons. 1 Corinthians 10:20 (ESV)

### 5. Astrology

Thus says the Lord: "Learn not the way of the nations, nor be dismayed at the signs of the heavens because the nations are dismayed at them, for the customs of the peoples are vanity.... Jeremiah 10:2–3 (ESV)

### 6. Karma In Your Cup (Hydromancy)

Is it not from this that my lord drinks, and by this that he practices divination? You have done evil in doing this.' " Genesis 44:5 (ESV)

### 7. Witchcraft (Sorcery)

There shall not be found among you anyone who burns his son or his daughter as an offering, anyone who practices divination or tells fortunes or interprets omens, or a sorcerer or a charmer or a medium or a necromancer or one who inquires of the dead, Deuteronomy 18:10–11 (ESV)

## 3. How did people determine God's will in the Old Testament?

### 1. Prophets

### 2. Urim and Thummim

### 3. Lots

The lot is cast into the lap, but its every decision is from the Lord. Proverbs 16:33 (ESV)

### 4. Dreams And Visions

And he said, "Hear my words: If there is a prophet among you, I the Lord make myself known to him in a vision; I speak with him in a dream. Numbers 12:6 (ESV)

### 5. Signs

### 6. Spoken Words

## 4. How does God lead us in the New Testament?

"And when he sits on the throne of his kingdom, he shall write for himself in a book a copy of this law, approved by the Levitical priests. And it shall be with him, and he shall read in it all the days of his life, that he may learn to fear the Lord his God by keeping all the words of this law and these statutes, and doing them, Deuteronomy 17:18–19 (ESV)

All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work. 2 Timothy 3:16–17 (ESV)

For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart. Hebrews 4:12 (ESV)

Your testimonies are my delight; they are my counselors. Psalm 119:24 (ESV)

Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path. Psalm 119:105 (ESV)

### 1. God's desires are clear in the Bible.

See that no one repays anyone evil for evil, but always seek to do good to one another and to everyone. Rejoice always, pray without ceasing,