

DISCERNING GOD'S WILL ROM. 12:1-2

1. God's ultimate, sovereign will

Ephesians 1:11 In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will:

2. God's detailed, moral will

1 Thessalonians 4:3 For this is the will of God, *even* your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication:

1 Thessalonians 5:18 In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.

1 Peter 4:2 That he no longer should live the rest of *his* time in the flesh to the lusts of men, but to the will of God.

3. God's specific, individual will

Luke 22:42 Saying, Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done.

Acts 13:22 And when he had removed him, he raised up unto them David to be their king; to whom also he gave testimony, and said, I have found David the *son* of Jesse, a man after mine own heart, which shall fulfil all my will.

Acts 13:36 For David, after he had served his own generation by the will of God, fell on sleep, and was laid unto his fathers, and saw corruption:

Ephesians 5:17 Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord *is*.

Ephesians 6:6 Not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but as the servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart;

How do we determine God's specific, individual will?

I. *Diabolical* means &/ methods

90 % of Cuneiform writings from Sumerian, Assyria & Babylon dealt with

Deuteronomy 18:9-14 When thou art come into the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee, thou shalt not learn to do after the abominations of those nations. There shall not be found among you *any one* that maketh his son or his daughter to pass through the fire, *or* that useth divination, *or* an observer of times, or an enchanter, or a witch, Or a charmer, or a consulter with familiar spirits, or a wizard, or a necromancer. For all that do these things *are* an abomination unto the LORD: and because of these abominations the LORD thy God doth drive them out from before thee. Thou shalt be perfect with the LORD thy God. For these nations, which thou shalt possess, hearkened unto observers of times, and unto diviners: but as for thee, the LORD thy God hath not suffered thee so *to do*.

an observer of times: fortune-teller/horoscopes

enchanter: interpreted omens

a consulter with familiar spirits: medium

necromancer: speaks to the dead

Exodus 22:18 Thou shalt not suffer a witch to live.

Leviticus 19:26-28 Ye shall not eat *any thing* with the blood: neither shall ye use enchantment, nor observe times. Ye shall not round the corners of your heads, neither shalt thou mar the corners of thy beard. Ye shall not make any cuttings in your flesh for the dead, nor print any marks upon you: I *am* the LORD.

Leviticus 19:31 Regard not them that have familiar spirits, neither seek after wizards, to be defiled by them: I *am* the LORD your God.

Isaiah 8:19-20 And when they shall say unto you, Seek unto them that have familiar spirits, and unto wizards that peep, and that mutter: should not a people seek unto their God? for the living to the dead? To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, *it is* because *there is* no light in them.

We could read & study many of the Pagan means of divination & seeing into the future but all are directly & specifically forbidden by God in the Scriptures!

II. *Magical* means &/ methods

Most Christians avoid almost intuitively # 1 but many will try to enter through # 2 !

1. Prophecy

2. Putting out a fleece

Judges 6:36-40

Judges 6:11-18

These fleeces (fleecing!) had a strong element of disbelief & maybe even rebellion.

3. Casting lots

Proverbs 16:33 The lot is cast into the lap; but the whole disposing thereof *is* of the LORD.

Proverbs 18:18 The lot causeth contentions to cease, and parteth between the mighty.

Luke 1:9 According to the custom of the priest's office, his lot was to burn incense when he went into the temple of the Lord.

Acts 1:26 And they gave forth their lots; and the lot fell upon Matthias; and he was numbered with the eleven apostles.

Good if you desire an element of chance.

Good if choosing between 2 perfectly biblical options.

Good for choosing when you do what you have to do!

4 Open & point!

Matthew 27:5 And he cast down the pieces of silver in the temple, and departed, **and went and hanged himself.**

Luke 10:37 And he said, He that shewed mercy on him. Then said Jesus unto him, **Go, and do thou likewise.**

John 13:27 And after the sop Satan entered into him. Then said Jesus unto him, **That thou doest, do quickly.**

III. Mystical means &/ methods

1. “I prayed about it!”

2. “God told me!”

3. “God impressed upon my heart!”

Is this different from the unsaved who say “follow your heart?” Or say, “go with your gut!”

How so? How do we know?

4. “God gave me peace!”

Philippians 4:7 And **the peace of God**, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

Ephesians 6:15 And your feet shod with the preparation of **the gospel of peace**;

Colossians 3:15 And **let the peace of God rule** (βραβεύτω) **in your hearts**, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful.

****these verses have nothing to do with decision-making****

An example: Christ *or* Jonah

Luke 22:41-44 And he was withdrawn from them about a stone’s cast, and kneeled down, and prayed, Saying, Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done. And there appeared an angel unto him from heaven, strengthening him. And being in an agony he prayed more earnestly: and his sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground.

Jonah 1:5 Then the mariners were afraid, and cried every man unto his god, and cast forth the wares that *were* in the ship into the sea, to lighten *it* of them. But Jonah was gone down into the sides of the ship; and he lay, and was fast asleep.

Who had the most peace?

Who was doing right?

IV. *Biblical* means &/ methods

1. What does the Scripture teach?

Scripture

2 Timothy 3:15-17 And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. 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 perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.

Examples

Principles

Commands

2. What do you want?

Passions / desires

1 Timothy 3:1 This *is* a true saying, If a man desire the office of a bishop, he desireth a good work.

3. What can you do?

Gifts

Ability(ies)

History

Personality

Opportunity

4. What are your options?

Circumstances

Remember:

Acts 28:3-4 And when Paul had gathered a bundle of sticks, and laid *them* on the fire, there came a viper out of the heat, and fastened on his hand. **And when** the barbarians saw the *venomous* beast hang on his hand, **they said among themselves, No doubt** this man is a murderer, whom, though he hath escaped the sea, yet vengeance suffereth not to live.

Acts 28:5-6 And he shook off the beast into the fire, and felt no harm. Howbeit they looked when he should have swollen, or fallen down dead suddenly: but after they had looked a great while, and saw no harm come to him, **they changed their minds, and said that he was a god.**

5. What are others saying?

Counsel

Proverbs 11:14 Where no counsel *is*, the people fall: but in the multitude of counsellors *there is* safety.

Proverbs 12:15 The way of a fool *is* right in his own eyes: but he that hearkeneth unto counsel *is* wise.

Proverbs 15:22 Without counsel purposes are disappointed: but in the multitude of counsellors they are established.

Proverbs 19:20 Hear counsel, and receive instruction, that thou mayest be wise in thy latter end.

Proverbs 20:5 Counsel in the heart of man *is like* deep water; but a man of understanding will draw it out.

Proverbs 20:18 *Every* purpose is established by counsel: and with good advice make war.

Proverbs 24:6 For by wise counsel thou shalt make thy war: and in multitude of counsellors *there is* safety.

Proverbs 27:17 Iron sharpeneth iron; so a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend.