

Discerning God's Will in the Details of Life

I Samuel 16:1-13

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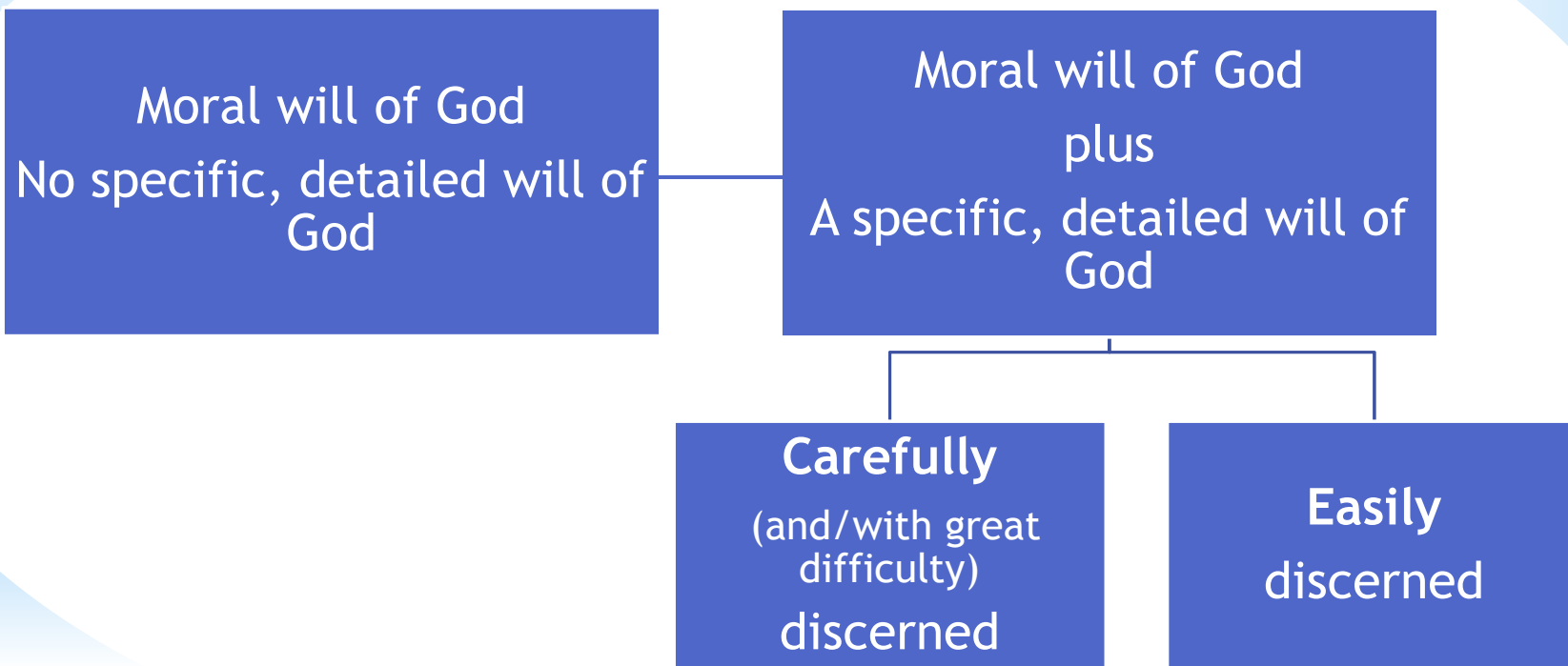
“It’s déjà vu all over again!”

Does God have a will?

How does one discern that will?

I. God has a specific, detailed will

1 Samuel 16:1 And the LORD said unto Samuel, How long wilt thou mourn for Saul, seeing I have rejected him from reigning over Israel? **fill thine horn with oil, and go, I will send thee to Jesse the Bethlehemite: for I have provided me a king among his sons.**



I. God has a specific, detailed will

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From this text:

- God has a king
- In Bethlehem
- From Jesse's family
- One of his sons

From other texts:

Matthew 6:9 After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. **Matthew 6:10** Thy kingdom come. **Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.**

Acts 16:6 Now when they had gone throughout Phrygia and the region of Galatia, and were forbidden of the Holy Ghost to preach the word in Asia, **Acts 16:7** After they were come to Mysia, they assayed to go into Bithynia: but the Spirit suffered them not.

I. God has a specific, detailed will

Acts 18:21 But bade them farewell, saying, I must by all means keep this feast that cometh in Jerusalem: **but I will return again unto you, if God will.** And he sailed from Ephesus.

Romans 1:10 Making request, if by any means now at length I **might** have a prosperous journey **by** the will of God to come unto you.

Romans 15:30 Now I beseech you, brethren, for the Lord Jesus Christ's sake, and for the love of the Spirit, that ye strive together with me in your prayers to God for me; **Romans 15:31** That I may be delivered from them that do not believe in Judaea; and that my service which I have for Jerusalem may be accepted of the saints; **Romans 15:32** That I may come unto you **with** joy **by** the will of God, and may with you be refreshed.

I. God has a specific, detailed will

1 Corinthians 4:19 But I will come to you shortly, **if** the Lord will, and will know, not the speech of them which are puffed up, but the power.

1 Corinthians 16:7 For I will not see you now by the way; but I trust to tarry a while with you, **if** the Lord permit.

James 4:14 Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away. **James 4:15** For that ye ought to say, **If** the Lord will, we shall live, and do this, or that. **James 4:16** But now ye rejoice in your boastings: all such rejoicing is evil.

II. God's will must be discerned

1 Samuel 16:6 And it came to pass, when they were come, that he looked on Eliab, and said, Surely the LORD'S anointed is before him. 1 Samuel 16:7 But the LORD said unto Samuel, Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature; **because I have refused him:** for the LORD seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart. 1 Samuel 16:8 Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. And he said, **Neither hath the LORD chosen this.** 1 Samuel 16:9 Then Jesse made Shammah to pass by. And he said, **Neither hath the LORD chosen this.** 1 Samuel 16:10 Again, Jesse made seven of his sons to pass before Samuel. And Samuel said unto Jesse, **The LORD hath not chosen these.**

If it took Samuel a while to discern God's clearly stated will - it will take us some time to discern also!

Romans 12:1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. Romans 12:2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

III. God's will must be discerned amidst conflicted &/ conflicting emotions!

1 Samuel 16:1 And the LORD said unto Samuel, **How long wilt thou mourn for Saul, seeing I have rejected him from reigning over Israel?** fill thine horn with oil, and go, I will send thee to Jesse the Bethlehemite: for I have provided me a king among his sons. **1 Samuel 16:2** And Samuel said, **How can I go? if Saul hear it, he will kill me.** And the LORD said, Take an heifer with thee, and say, I am come to sacrifice to the LORD.

1 Samuel 16:4 And Samuel did that which the LORD spake, and came to Bethlehem. **And the elders of the town trembled at his coming, and said, Comest thou peaceably?** **1 Samuel 16:5** And he said, **Peaceably: I am come to sacrifice unto the LORD:** sanctify yourselves, and come with me to the sacrifice. And he sanctified Jesse and his sons, and called them to the sacrifice.

Emotions and emotional states enter into all decisions:

- **Sadness / mourning over Saul**
- **Fear for his life / fear of Saul**
- **Confusion / panic with the town people**

Examples:

What role should emotions take?

III. God's will must be discerned amidst conflicted &/ conflicting emotions!

2 false (extreme) positions:	
God's will is never What I like / want (I only know one thing: <u>if</u> I like it, am good at it, want to do it, it is absolutely <u>not</u> God's will!)	God's will is always What I like / want
Pious (Keswick*) position	Popular position
10%	90%
I want to be holy!	I want to be happy!

IV. God's will must be discerned through competing expectations!

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Now we all know that Eliab is the one!

- Oldest
- Tall
- Good looking (implied)
- Godly...well at least his name is!

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Back to Saul:

1 Samuel 9:2 And he had a son, whose name was Saul, a choice young man, and a goodly: and there was not among the children of Israel a goodlier person than he: from his shoulders and upward he was higher than any of the people.

[1 Samuel 9:2 And he had a son whose name was Saul, a handsome young man. There was not a man among the people of Israel more handsome than he. From his shoulders upward he was taller than any of the people.ESV]

1 Samuel 10:23 And they ran and fetched him thence: and when he stood among the people, he was higher than any of the people from his shoulders and upward. 1 Samuel 10:24 And Samuel said to all the people, See ye him whom the LORD hath chosen, that there is none like him among all the people? And all the people shouted, and said, God save the king.

IV. God's will must be discerned through competing expectations!

Forward to Absalom:

2 Samuel 14:25 But in all Israel there was none to be so much praised as Absalom for his beauty: from the sole of his foot even to the crown of his head there was no blemish in him.

2 Samuel 14:26 And when he polled his head, (for it was at every year's end that he polled it: because the hair was heavy on him, therefore he polled it:) he weighed the hair of his head at two hundred shekels after the king's weight.

Further forward to Adonijah:

1 Kings 1:5 Then Adonijah the son of Haggith exalted himself, saying, I will be king: and he prepared him chariots and horsemen, and fifty men to run before him.

1 Kings 1:6 And his father had not displeased him at any time in saying, Why hast thou done so? and he also was a very goodly man; and his mother bare him after Absalom.

IV. God's will must be discerned through competing expectations!

The list goes on and on concerning our expectations:

Down south	Up north	Back east
Out west	On the farm	By the lake
In the city	In a bigger city	In a world-class city
By my parents	Away from my parents	Money
Stuff	Comfort	Title / position

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V. God's will must be discerned with concerted effort!

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1 Samuel 16:11 And Samuel said unto Jesse, **Are here all thy children?** And he said, **There remaineth yet the youngest** (הַקָּטָן), and, behold, he keepeth **the sheep**. And Samuel said unto Jesse, Send and fetch him: for we will not sit down till he come hither.

1 Samuel 16:12 And he sent, and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and withal of a beautiful countenance, and goodly to look to. **And the LORD said, Arise, anoint him: for this is he.**

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- II. God's will must be discerned
- III. God's will must be discerned amidst conflicted &/ conflicting emotions!
- IV. God's will must be discerned through competing expectations!
- V. God's will must be discerned with concerted effort!