

CHAPTER 10

Knowing God's Will

What is God's will for my life? What is God's will for me today? What does God want me to do? How can I know God's will? These are important questions for every young person to think about.

What do we mean when we talk about God's will? God's will simply means that which God wants or that which God desires. For example, Matthew 21:31 talks about "the will of" a father (read also verses 28-30). What was the will of this father? What did he want his sons to do? What did he desire them to do? _____ It is clear that one son did what the father wanted and the other did not.

What does God want for my life? What is God's desire for me? Am I doing what the Heavenly Father wants or not? In this chapter we are going to find out exactly what God's will is for you!

GOD'S WILL FOR ALL MANKIND

If you are an unsaved person, what is God's will for you? What is God's desire for all men? What is God's will for you and for your family members and for your relatives and for your friends? In 1 Timothy 2:4 we are told that "**God will have** (God wills to have, God wants, God desires) all men to be _____ and to _____ unto the knowledge of the _____." Have you done this? Have you come to Christ (John 6:35,37; 14:6)? Have you responded to God's wonderful salvation invitation which is for all men (Revelation 22:17; Matthew 11:28)? Have you received God's gift of eternal life (Romans 6:23; 1 John 5:11-12)? God's will for you is that you might come to Christ and be saved. Have you done what God wants you to do?

When is the best time for an unsaved person to do God's will (2 Corinthians 6:2)? _____
 What day is the best day to really listen to God and hear what God says (Hebrews 4:7)? _____
 _____ If you want to do God's will, the first (and only) place to start is at the foot of the cross (by being saved). This is what God wants for ALL MEN, including (your own name) _____.

GOD'S WILL FOR BELIEVERS

Now that I am saved, what is God's will for me? What does God want believers to do? What is God's desire for every believer? As a believer in Christ, how can I know God's will?

Are You Willing?

There is something much more important than *KNOWING* what God's will is. The most important thing is to BE WILLING to do God's will **WHATEVER IT IS!** We must have the

right attitude: "Lord, I do not know what your will is but whatever it is, I want to do it and I am willing to do it because I want to be pleasing in Thy sight, for Thou art my Saviour!"

The reason most people do not know God's will is because they are not willing to do God's will. George Muller said this:

Nine-tenths of the trouble with people is just here. Nine-tenths of the difficulties are overcome when our hearts are ready to do the Lord's will whatever it may be. When one is truly in this state, it is usually but a little way to the knowledge of what His will is.

This is seen in John 7:17-- "If anyone desires to do His will, he shall know..." Those who really want to do God's will shall know! God will not leave them in the dark. The problem is not that we do not know God's will; the problem is that we do not want **to do** God's will. God delights in making known His will to those who are willing **to do it!**

Jesus is our perfect example. Read John 4:34. Most of us desire meat or food. Most of us are very willing to eat when mealtime comes along. We want food; we yearn for food; we desire food; we crave food. We must have food! Now read the verse again. What was Jesus' food? What did He love and want and desire more than anything else?

In John 5:30 Jesus said, "I seek _____ Mine own will." Whose will did He seek?
 _____ Jesus wanted only what God wanted. In Luke 22:42 the Lord prayed this prayer, "Not _____ will, but _____ be done." We need to learn to have this same attitude: "Lord, not what I desire, but what You desire! Not what I want, but what You want! Not my will, but Thine be done!"

Whose will is better for us, God's will or our own will? _____ Does God know what is best for us or do we know what is best for us? A five-year-old child might want to eat four pounds of chocolate every day, but the parents would not want this. Who knows what is best, the parents or the child? _____ The Heavenly Father knows what is best for His children! His way is always best!

What Is The Will of God?

How can I find out what God wants for me? How does God make known His will? I know how my parents make known their will to me. They talk to me and they tell me what they want me to do. They tell me the things that they like and the things that they do not like. If I do something against their will, they let me know in a hurry! How does God let me know what His will is? Does He speak to me from heaven?

God makes known His will **in His Word** the Bible. How do I know God's will? I read the Bible and see what God says! How can I find out what God wants? I read His Word. God's will is that we should hear His Word and obey it (see Matthew 12:50 and Luke 8:21). This is what He wants!

Suppose your Sunday School teacher sent you a letter and it said, "Dear (your own name) _____, please bring two shoe boxes with you when you come to class next

Sunday." Now it would be silly for you to say, "I wonder what my Sunday School teacher wants." You *know* what the teacher wants because he (or she) wrote it down and you read it. How can you do the will of your teacher? _____

How silly it is for us to say, "I wonder what God wants. I wonder what His will is?" God has made His will very clear to the believing heart. In the Bible God has told us exactly what He wants and what He desires. God has made known His will in His Word. If we want to get to know God's will, then we need to get to know God's Word, the Bible. The more we know and understand the Bible, the more we will know and understand God's will (what God wants and what God desires).

God's Will For Every Saved Person

If you are saved, then what is God's will for you? What does God want you to do? There are three verses in the New Testament that tell us very clearly what God's will is for every believer:

1) 1 THESSALONIANS 5:18.

According to this verse, God wants you to G _____ T _____ in everything. This is God's will for you! God is delighted and pleased when believers say, "Thank You" from their hearts. God does not want unthankful and grumpy Christians. God does not want complainers. God wants every day to be a Thanksgiving Day! (See Philippians 2:14, showing that God does not want complainers).

God's will is also made known in 1 Thessalonians 5:16-17. In verse 16 we see that God wants believers to _____. In verse 17 we see that God wants believers to _____.

In fact, every time God gives the believer a command (see Chapter 8), He is making known His will and telling us what He wants. If we really want to do God's will, then we will want to obey God's commands.

2) EPHESIANS 5:17-18.

Does God want us to be unwise (Ephesians 5:17)? _____ Does He want us to understand what His will is (Ephesians 5:17)? _____ Read Ephesians 5:18 and answer these two TRUE-FALSE questions:

- T F God wants every believer to be filled with alcohol and to get drunk every weekend.
- T F God wants every believer to be filled with the Spirit and to have a song in his heart (verse 19) and to be filled with thanksgiving (verse 20).

God's will is for you to be filled! If you are not filled with the Spirit then you are not doing God's will. In Chapter 2 we learned how to be filled with the Spirit.

3) 1 THESSALONIANS 4:3.

"This is the will of God, even your _____." What does "sanctification" mean? It simply means "holiness." God's will for every believer is that we should be holy! This is what God wants. God does not want us to live like the unsaved people live. They do not know God as their personal Saviour (1 Thessalonians 4:5) but we do! God does not want us to swear and steal and lie as we may have done before we were saved. God's will is that we should be holy. What (or Who) has God given to us so that we can live a holy life (1 Thessalonians 4:8)? _____

God wants us to have victory over sin. He wants us to be winners and not losers! In the next chapter we will learn more about how we can have victory over sin and temptations.

Direction And Guidance

I know that God's will for me is that I should be THANKFUL. I know God wants me to be **filled with the Spirit**. I know that the will of God is that I should live a **holy life**. But there are other things I need to know which the Bible does not talk about. Here are some examples: Where should I go after school? Who should my friends be? How should I spend my money? Should I watch a particular television show? How can I make the right decision when I must choose between two things?

Every day we must make decisions. How should I decide? Which way should I turn? What should I do? Where should I go? What should I say? How can I know God's will in each of these things?

We need someone to guide us and direct us so that we do God's will!

1. According to Proverbs 3:5-6, who must direct us? _____
2. According to Psalm 23:1-2, who leads us? _____ Do the sheep lead the Shepherd or does the Shepherd lead the sheep? _____
3. According to Genesis 24:27,48, who leads the believer? _____
4. According to Psalm 25:4-5, who SHOWS us and TEACHES us and LEADS us?

God is the One who does these things, not us. He's the Leader! He's the Guide! He's the One who directs His children! Sometimes we get all worried because we think that we must guide ourselves. That's God's job and He is very good at it!

If God's job is to LEAD, GUIDE and DIRECT, then what is my job? My job is to make sure I'm in the place to be led (that my attitude is right and that I want God's will more than anything else). The Captain of the ship must steer the ship, but this is hard to do if the steering wheel refuses to turn! This is like the person who says "NO" to God and quenches the Holy Spirit (see Chapter 2). The rider must steer the horse, but this is difficult if the horse is stubborn (compare Psalm 32:9). God does an excellent job of LEADING and GUIDING, **if we let Him!**

How To Know God's Will In A Particular Situation

It's almost school vacation time. You must decide whether to stay home with your family or spend a week with your cousins who live in Pennsylvania. What is God's will? What does God want? Or, suppose your Grandmother gave you a birthday present of \$100.00. You must decide what to do with it. What is God's will? How does God want you to spend this money? Or, you have told your parents something that is not true and your conscience is bothering you. What should you do? What is God's will in this situation?

Here are some steps that you can follow in discovering God's will for you:

1. Make sure you are **willing** to do God's will no matter what it is: "Lord, I want whatever You want! Help me to want what You want!"
2. Go to God's Word and ask yourself, "Does the Bible tell me anything that would help me to know what God's will is in this situation?"
3. Pray to God, even as Jesus did, "Lord, not my will but Thine be done!"
4. Wait on the Lord (Psalm 27:14). Do not make any hasty or quick decisions. Do not move ahead of the Lord. Give God some time to show you what He wants. Don't be in a hurry.
5. Consider the circumstances. Remember, God is in control of all the circumstances and He is over everything that happens. Things happen for a reason. (Maybe there is someone who needs part of that \$100.00 much more than I do.)
6. Seek godly counsel (Proverbs 11:14; 12:15; 19:20). Go to someone who is wiser than you and who knows God's Word better than you. Sometimes your parents, your Sunday School teacher or your Pastor will be able to give you good solid help and advice. But be careful not to listen to those who would give you the wrong advice (see Psalm 1:1).
7. Use your God-given common sense. God has given you a mind to think with: USE IT! Think things through carefully. Try to come to the best and wisest decision that you can. Make sure you have followed these steps to the best of your ability.
8. After you have followed or considered all of these seven steps, come to a final decision. Don't go by feelings. ("I should go visit my cousins because I have a funny feeling in my big toe!") Don't expect a voice from heaven saying, "THIS IS WHAT YOU SHOULD DO...." When you have arrived at your decision, then go ahead and do it. Even if you did not make the very best decision, God can still guide you. It is much easier to steer a moving car than a car that is not moving!

May we be able to say the same thing David once said:

"I DELIGHT TO DO THY
WILL, O GOD"

PSALM 40:8

Peace And Unrest



"WHEREFORE BE YE NOT UNWISE, BUT UNDERSTANDING
WHAT THE WILL OF THE LORD IS." — EPH. 5: 17