

How to Hear From God

“Discerning God’s Will for My life (God’s Calling to us in His Word)(1 John 2:15-17)

How to Hear God’s Voice (The **Heart** of God to Speak)

How to Discern It’s really God’s Voice (How God Affirms His **Voice**)

When God Seems Silent (God’s **Loving** Leadership in Trials)

Is it ever TOO late to discover and understand God’s Perfect WILL for your life? Fl St. Circus/Callaway Gardens. Tightrope (net) vs. no net...

Main POINT: God’s Will for our life becomes more obvious to us as we draw closer to HIM!!

***Tree balance ropes course. The closer you are to the tree easier it is to balance. Further =**

1. God does have a WILL and a Purpose for your life.

-Mt 6:10: Jesus prayed: “God, Your Kingdom come, Your Will be done on earth as in heaven.”

-Mt 26:39: “Going a little farther, Jesus fell with His face to the ground and prayed, “My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will.”

-Heb. 10:7 Jesus said: “Then I said, ‘Here I am—it is written about me in the scroll—I have come to do your will, my God.’

-1 Jn 5:14-15: “This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to His will, he hears us.”

READ 1 John 2:15-17 “Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. ¹⁶ For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world. ¹⁷ The world is passing away and *also* its lusts; **but the one who does the will of God continues to live forever.**”

-John affirms that God does have a Will and purpose for your life – do you know what it is?

-John also acknowledges how to wreck your life and run from God’s will? How? By loving the things of this world over God. John is attacking idol worship here. 1 John 5:21 “Children, guard yourselves from idols.**” - An idol is ANYTHING in your life that gets more of your attention, affection, or devotion than God does. (Rel., kids, objects, edu., career, \$, comfort)**

Romans 12:1-2 Therefore I urge you, brothers *and sisters*, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living and holy sacrifice, ^[a]acceptable to God, *which is your* ^[b]spiritual service of worship. ² And do not be conformed to this ^[c]world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may ^[d]prove what the will of God is, that which is good and ^[e]acceptable and perfect.

2. -Instead of trying desperately to learn God’s perfect Will for your life (right major, perfect job, right spouse, the ultimate career, do I move or stay? Do we buy or not? Have kids now or later?) ... we are better served trying to gain more of His presence in your life. = A higher priority than *knowing God’s will* is Knowing God! = He is the Prize!! = His will for your life is more of HIMself!!! ☺

***God’s Will becomes more obvious to us as we draw closer to HIM!! Closeness/nearness is the key!**

Matthew 6:33 ... “Seek first His Kingdom and His Righteousness [=His PRESENCE], *THEN* all these things will be added unto you [given to you as well.]” = (wisdom, knowledge, direction, provision, blessing...)

3. God does want to lead you and show you how best to live this life He has given you. It is NEVER too late to ask if YOU are in the Center of His will (or to ask God realign your life to the center of His Will). = God wants to show you how to be more obedient and how to align YOUR life to His purposes for U!! -Is. 30:18-21 “Yet the Lord longs to be gracious to you; therefore he will rise up to show you compassion. For the Lord is a God of justice. Blessed are all who wait for him! ¹⁹ People of Zion, who live in Jerusalem, you will weep no more. How gracious he will be when you cry for help! As soon as he hears, he will answer you. ²⁰ Although the Lord gives you the bread of adversity and the water of affliction, your teachers will be hidden no more; with your own eyes you will see them. ²¹ **Whether you turn to the right or to the left, your ears will hear a voice behind you, saying, “This is the way; walk in it.”**”

-We are *not* asking God to bless this mess we make out of life. **Our choices have real consequences.** BUT. . .We ARE asking God to show us the next step of Obedience as we begin to pursue His presence, His heart for us, and His purposes in our current situation – as we move into greater obedience and usefulness for His glory!

SO How can we discern God’s WILL for our Life??

READ Romans 12:1-2 Therefore I urge you, brothers *and sisters*, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable [pleasing] to God, *which is your spiritual service of worship.* ² And do not be conformed to this world [age, the spirit of this age], but be transformed [metamorphosis] by the renewing of your mind, [change what you believe=affect your actions, and how you think about God/His Word], and so that you may prove [discover] what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable/pleasing and perfect.”

-1 Jn 2:15 “Do not love the world or anything in the world.” = pretty clear. *Follow the world = destruction & death.* **Follow God = blessing, untouchable JOY & eternal Life!!**

This is a powerful, sobering, convicting passage that calls us all out – and brings us to a **point of decision**: = Either **God or the World: God’s Ways vs. the World’s ways. God’s Will vs. My Will!! Which is it???????**

God makes the decision we need to make **clear**:

- Ja 4:4 “You adulterers (unfaithful) people, do you not know that friendship with the world is hostility toward God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.”

-Mt 6:24 “No one can serve two masters: Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.”

-Jn.15:19 “If you were of the world, it would love you as its own. Instead, the world hates you, because you are not of the world, **but I have chosen you out of the world.**”

HERE’s our task: So, First, we must decide to make God our GOD, and follow Him, and learn to obey and please HIM first above all else on this earth.

Second, we must learn how to hear Him and listen to His leadership in our life (=Word)

Third, we must follow where He leads, trusting in HIS already REVEALED WILL and purpose for our life (believing that He has our best interest at heart, better than even we do for ourselves). = God’s will will be *specifically* revealed in your life as you sift your daily life through His *generally* revealed Will as directed in His Word (The Bible)

Let's Cover the basics for Everyone of us as Christians - This is God's REVEALED WILL for

All of us: God's General WILL for every Believer: 12 key scriptures:

- God's Will is that we know/accept Jesus Christ as our Savior – intimate relationship w/ God *Col. 1:9-12*
- God's Will is that we learn to walk deeply & daily w/ the Lord – listening, following, growing in faith *1Th. 4:3*
- God's Will is that we surrender our life, our "Kingdoms," our rights, our future, our all to him *Mt.16:24-25*
- God's Will is that we learn to Love His Word and meditate on it daily *Ps. 1:2*
- God's Will is that we talk with God often, never ceasing to be in prayer with Him *1 Thess. 5:17*
- God's will is that we proclaim Jesus and the gospel to the world, starting right here *Acts 1:8*
- God's will is that we gather in the local church for worship and the work of ministry *Heb. 10:25*
- God's will is that we support the work of God and the local church with our money & resources *2 Cor. 8-9*
- God's will is that we obey our parents, work hard at a job to support our family, raise them to the Lord *Eph. 6*
- God's will is that we only date and marry Christians –those who profess Jesus as Lord *1 Cor. 6:15*
- God's will is that we find joy in this life and be grateful in all circumstances since God is sovereign *1 Th.5:16*
- God's will is that we demonstrate to the world our love for Christ through our love for each other and the lost around us – serving their needs and sharing the gospel *1 Cor. 13; John 13:35*

WE don't have to wonder or pray about these. CLEARLY REVEALED & Specific in His WORD

IF YOU want to know God's will for your life, FIRST are you in step with what He has already REVEALED?

Reflection Questions for Yourself?

- Am I actively Listening to the Lord in my Life, seeking His voice and Presence in my life daily?
- Am I teachable, moldable, and available for God to change me, improve me, bless me?
- Am I ready to go further, deeper, and live more passionately for God's Word and His leadership?
- Am I open to trust God with the tough stuff, with surrender, with loss, with suffering, with pain?
- Am I already obeying the last clear thing God has told me to do?
- Is there any sin blocking any of the above realities in my life?

1) (Romans 12) = God's will is **specifically** revealed to you as you **faithfully trust God with every part of your life** (*obedience* to His Word and *sacrifice* = which is Worship to God, authentic & pleasing & acceptable WORSHIP to God)

2) God's will is **specifically** revealed in your life as you allow God's Word and the Holy Spirit to make you sensitive to a new spirituality [a new spiritual reality] **where God's glory and Purposes for your life outweigh the world's** = this is the TRANSforming of your mind (= NEW spiritual mentality). = To **SEE the WORLD differently**. You begin to Weigh your options & decisions differently.

****YOUR first question becomes: "WHAT will please God most? What will glorify Him most?"**
Not "What is success in the world's perspective what is everyone else doing that I should do/be?"

****When faced with a neutral choice/unclear path/difficult decision – consider:**

1. Consider the Choice: Any revealed **Scripture** which prohibits it? Does it go against God's Nature? How would the choice/decision best display the Gospel? *1Th. 5:21-22*
2. Consider the Consequences: Will this end up hurting me, indebting me, addicting me or others?
1 Cor. 6:12
3. Consider your Character: Will this reflect negatively on you, your family, your church, the Lord?
Ro.14:13-23
4. Consider your Calling: Will this bring me **closer to God** or push me further from Him? Others?
1 Cor. 8:1-13
5. Consider your Conviction: Do I have a true/lasting **Peace** to pursue this or to walk away & wait? *Phil. 4:6-7* **If** you can answer these questions affirmatively – **Then** make the decision & leave conseq. in God's