



## How Can I Know God's Will For My Life? - Week 7 DISCUSSION GUIDE

### OVERVIEW

In this message, we learned how to discover the true will of God for our lives.

### DISCUSSION

- Have you ever made plans for your life, then God changed them? Share.

**1 John 2:17: *And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.*** In other words, align your world with God's will, and you will see an eternal impact through your life! So the question is, how do we get tuned in to know God's will? There are many **Unwise Methods:**

**The Fleece:** The fleece method is when you put your question out there like it is a test. Example: "If it rains tomorrow, that means I am not supposed to start that business..."

**The Open and Point Method:** When we get impatient with hearing from God, we might open our Bible, point to a verse, and do whatever it says.

God is a Communicator, and He's passionate about you, your purpose, and you fulfilling your potential! Here are three meanings for the term "will of God":

#### 1. **God's Sovereign Will**

Sovereign means to have supreme authority or power. Many passages in Scripture describe "the will of God" as His absolute control of all that comes to pass. An example of this is Jesus in Gethsemane when He prayed in **Matthew 26:39: *He went a little farther and fell on His face, and prayed, saying, "O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will."*** The will of God in this verse refers to God's sovereign plan that will happen despite anything humans may do—it's God's plan and His purpose—and it will be fulfilled. The "sovereign will of God" was that Jesus was born to die. This was God's plan, His decree. God is ultimately in charge. His sovereign will cannot be broken. It always comes to pass.

- Can you think of other examples in the Bible of God's sovereign will?

#### 2. **God's Word or Revealed Will**

This is what He commands us to do in the Bible. This is the revealed will of God—we can either obey or disobey. **1 Thessalonians 4:3: *For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you should abstain from sexual immorality;*** Here we have a very specific instance of what God calls us to – holiness, sanctification, and sexual purity. This is His revealed will, but so many people shun this command. **1 Thessalonians 5:18: *In everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.*** There again is a specific aspect of His revealed will: Give thanks in each and every circumstance. The Word of God is the will of God.

- Even though people have access to God's will through His Word, why do you think people still disobey it?
- How can we persevere and obey God's will, His Word, through every circumstance?

### 3. God's Personal Will For You

This is God's personal will, purpose, or destiny for us. God has a clear and unique plan for each and every believer. **We experience that will when we are functioning under God's sovereign will – and obeying His revealed will.**

**Four Ds** that help you narrow in and more clearly see your purpose and God's will for your life:

#### A. Your Desires

**Psalm 37:4** says: ***Delight yourself also in the Lord, and He shall give you the desires of your heart.*** As we delight in knowing and serving God, He places desires within us. He causes us to desire those things that are according to His will and plan for your life. As you delight in knowing and serving God, He gives you the things you desire.

- In what ways can we “delight ourselves in the Lord”?

#### B. Your Design

How did God create you? What gifts and abilities are within you? Your design speaks to what flows naturally out of you. People who have found their place in God's plan are doing what's natural to them. Although it is exciting, challenging, and inspiring, there is also a sense of grace and ease to it.

#### C. Others' Definition

What do people see in you? God will bring friends and leaders who can help you to discover God's will for your life. God has created us to do life together in community. **Proverbs 18:1: *A man who isolates himself seeks his own desire; He rages against all wise judgment.*** Don't try to make every decision on your own. Use the gifts and talents of others. Although you cannot rely on them for any final decisions (you must be responsible for that), you can draw wisdom and insight from them.

- What is the importance of having godly people speak into our lives? Do you have a godly friend or mentor that you allow to speak into your life?

#### D. The Holy Spirit's Direction

What is the Holy Spirit specifically saying to you? **Romans 8:14,16** says: ***For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God... The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God.*** God has a way of letting us know what His specific will is for our life, whether it's a feeling, knowing, intuition, etc. As a believer, we will have a witness in our spirit as to what God's telling us to do.

- Give an example of when the Holy Spirit directed you.

## LIFE CHALLENGE

Spend the next week intentionally seeking God's will before making any decisions, big or small. Each day, take time to pray, study Scripture, and listen for the Holy Spirit's guidance, then act in alignment with what you believe God is revealing to you.