

(Read Psalm 25:1-9)

"Make me know your ways, O Lord; Teach me your paths. Lead me in Your truth and teach me, for You are the God of my Salvation; For You I wait all the day" (Psalm 25:4-5).

"Commit your way to the Lord, Trust also in Him, and He will do it" (Psalm 37:5-6)

Knowing God's Will

(Seven Key Words in Understanding God's Will)

By way of introduction, let me state two great truths:

1. As a Christian, it is very **difficult to miss** God's will.
2. It is very difficult to **get out of** God's will as you live for His glory.

Proverbs 19:21, *"Many are the plans in the mind of man, but it is the purpose of the Lord that will stand."*

Seven Key Words in understanding God's Will : Salvation, Revelation (Word of God), Submission (obedience), Dedication, Supplication (Prayer), Separation, Transformation.

1. Salvation

Salvation; becoming a member of God's family. God leads His people. We become a member of God's family through salvation in Christ.

Ephesians 2:8-9

*"For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, **it is the gift of God**; not as a result of works, that no one should boast."*

John 10:27

*"Jesus said, 'My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they **follow me.**'"*

Psalm 23, "The Lord is my Shepherd... He leads me beside quiet waters... He guides me in the paths of righteousness for His Names sake."

2. Revelation (Word of God)

How does God guide His people? A thousand different ways. But, no matter what form the guidance takes, it will always be 100% consistent with the Word of God because God does not contradict Himself!

2 Timothy 2:15

"Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, handling accurately the word of truth."

This is why we need to read and study the Word of God.

Illus: Somone prayed for more faith. He then read in the Bible Romans 10:17, "Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." He then said, "I have been reading and studying the Bible, and my faith has been growing ever since."

Rock Solid Bible: Margaret and I have our four grandchildren on a Bible memorization program; memorizing sections of scripture and monologues.

One of the monologues is titled, *The Rock Solid Bible*. Possibly you have seen it on YouTube. Let me read part of it.

The Rock Solid Bible:

The reason that most people don't believe this book (the Bible) is not because it contradicts itself, but that it contradicts them.

It's not that they can't believe it, it is because they won't.

This book speaks with authority. This book affirms supernatural realities.

This book is full of absolutes.

In a civilization captivated on sensuality, this book esteems purity.

In a time we're taught that all roads lead to heaven, this book says no one gets to heaven without Jesus.

This book tells the truth, the truth about life and death, heaven and hell, right and wrong, Savior and sinners.

Thousands of characters, hundreds of stories, but one unmistakably clear message, the redemption of fallen humanity through Jesus Christ for the glory of God.

This book is holy and righteous. It is good and true. It is powerful and pure. It's sweeter than honey and finer than gold.

It's a map that leads you through the great storms of life.

It's lamp that gives you light amidst blinding darkness.

It's a mirror who tells you who you really are.

It's a sword that cuts deep into your guilty conscience.

The law of the Lord is perfect reviving the soul.

The statues of the Lord are trustworthy, making wise the simple.

The precepts of the Lord are right giving joy to the heart.

The Rock Solid Bible. Stand firm on its foundation. Walk in its paths. Tweet it. Share it. Blog it. Spread it. Unshakeable, unwavering – rock solid truth.

The Rock Solid Bible – read the stories. Study the teachings. Believe the prophesies. Quote the promises and apply the wisdom.

The Rock Solid Bible – make it your holy addiction. Make your sacred obsession. Make it your sanctified passion.

Know the Word of God is living and active, here and now.

And if you are spiritually dead, it will bring you to life.

Yes, the Bible says in 2 Timothy 3:16-17, "*All scripture is inspired by God and profitable for **teaching**, for **reproof**, for **correction**, for **training in righteousness**; that the man of God may be **adequate, equipped for every good work.***"

On one occasion when Jesus was teaching, a woman cried out "What a blessing is your mother to have a son like you." (Luke 11:28) "*But Jesus said, 'on the contrary, **blessed are those who hear the word of God, and observe it.***"

3. Submission (Obedience)

This is the evidence of salvation.

"Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new person; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come" (2 Corinthians 5:17)

We are not saved by good works but unto good works (unto obedience). Ephesians 2:10, "*For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works (obedience), which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.*"

John 14:15

"Jesus said, 'If you love Me, you will keep My commandments.'"

What are some of His commands:

- "Be kind to one another."

- "Seek after that which is good for one another"

- "Children, honor, respect and obey your parents."

- Colossians 3:12, "Those chosen of God put on a heart of **compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, patience...**"

- "Go into all the **world with the gospel!**" To those around us and beyond us.

- James 1:27 – **Pure religion is caring for orphans!**

Mathew 7:21

*"Not everyone who says to Me 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven; but he who does the **will of My Father** who is in heaven."*

Let me say something very important about obedience (in relation to feelings, and knowledge and safety, and even unanswered prayer):

Many times when walking in obedience and in fellowship with God, we still DO NOT know what to do! The Word of God says in **Isaiah 50:10**, *"Who among you that **hears the Lord, that obeys the voice of His servant, that walks in darkness and has no light? Let him trust in the name of the Lord and rely on His God.**"*

Perhaps you have:

1. No wife or husband but you are praying for one.
2. If married, no children, or sickness, or difficulties
3. Whatever your situation, you do not have to worry, trust God!! God is sovereign, He is our Shepherd and King. We can trust him. Our Shepherd goes before us. We are His sheep, and we simply need to follow Him.

Illus: My wife and I did not have natural children. Later, we adopted two on the same day - a boy age 5 and girl age 3. Years later my son asked me if I was disappointed we did not have birth children. I said "Yes, but not anymore. For if your mother and I would have had our own children, we probably would not have adopted you and **we would not trade our adopted God given children for all the children of the world!**"

Daniel chapter 3: **Shadrack, Meshack, and Abednego** refused to bow down to the **image** (idol) and said to Nebuchadnezzar (3:16-18), "If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the furnace of blazing fire... **But even if He does not**, let it be known to you, O king, **that we are not going to serve your gods** or worship the golden image that you have set up!"

4. Dedication

Romans 12:1

*"I urge you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, to **present your bodies** a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship."*

Have you given your bodies to God?

1. If you have, this will influence what you do with your body (how you **dress** it, treat it, show it [peer pressure, sensual], where you take it).
2. If you give your body to God, it is His. He can do with it what he wants (Illus: giving my body to God before my surgery).
"God never brings anything into our lives but for our good and for His glory!"

Lord - here are my hands

Lord - here are my lips

Lord - here are my eyes (read more)

Lord - here are my ears

Lord - here are my feet

Lord – here are my clothes with which I cover my body.

Lord - they are dedicated to you, use them as you wish for Your glory.

5. Supplication (Prayer)

If you want to know God's will for your life, here it is!

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

*"Rejoice always; **pray without ceasing**; in everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."*

To be in consistent fellowship with Christ, "Pray without ceasing."

"Lord, would you bring Jose to Salvation, please give Joan a job, help my friends to respect their parents, give me a love for the poor, help me not to be so selfish with the money you have given to me. Oh God, I am completely dependent on you. Help me Lord."

"Help me to be alert when I drive. Help me as I talk to my teenagers. Convict me of my sin."

By the way, why pray if God is sovereign? Three reasons:

1. He commands us to pray.
2. It is His will that we pray.
3. It is the divine method God uses to fulfill His sovereign plan.

By the way, prayer is not mysticism, contemplative, breathing in and out. It is not repetitious phrases.

Prayer is simply conversing (talking) with God in worship, praise, thankfulness, and intercession and asking. My son rescued a friend from drowning and simply cried out, "Oh Lord help!"

Living a life pleasing to God, in His will, is living a life in complete dependence on Him and in fellowship with Him. To pray constantly, "Oh Lord, lead me in Your path, in Your will today for Your glory!"

6. Separation

James 1:27, "Pure and undefiled religion is the sight of our God and Father is this; to visit (care for) orphans and widows in their distress, and to **keep oneself unstained by the world.**"

1 John 2:15-16

*"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. For all that is in the world, the **lust of the flesh** [passion and pleasure] and the **lust of the eyes** [possessions] and the **boastful pride** of life [position], is not from the Father, but is from the world."*

A. Lust of the flesh. This lust of the flesh is passion (sexual sin), but it is also **pleasure** (selfishness). We say, "I don't feel comfortable with that." **Illustration** of two baptized; they stood on a park bench and publicly read their testimony; possibly embarrassed and uncomfortable, but they did it anyway as a testimony to Christ. (Wenston & Danielle)

Galatians 5:19-21 lists the deeds of the **flesh** (selfish pursuits of satisfaction) as "immorality, idolatry, strife, jealousy, anger, disputes, envying, drunkenness, and things like these." The Word of God then says in *Galatians 5:24*, "Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its **passions** and **desires.**"

Let me say something about **modesty** which is a concern these days in the church because of what immodesty usually displays.

The Holy Spirit led Paul to write in 1 Timothy 2:9, "*Likewise, I want women to adorn themselves with proper clothing, modestly and discreetly...*"

One definition of modesty is, "Proper, polite in manner and conduct avoiding impropriety or indecency." Another writes, "Modesty is that virtue which is respectful of a culture's rules of appropriate and inappropriate dress, speech and behavior in a given situation." For example, a one-piece modest women's swimsuit may be appropriate when swimming at a church retreat, but not to wear to church on a Sunday morning or when applying for a job!

Martha Peace, a Biblical Counselor, writes, "A women's clothing is to be **modest** and **discrete**. If a woman does not know how her [immodest] clothing effects men, then she is naïve and ignorant. However, if she does know and continues to dress in a provocative way, then it could be she is a sensual woman in her heart." – Martha Peace, Biblical Counselor, *Damsels in Distress*.

Titus 2:11-14, "For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men, instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly [modestly], righteously and godly in the present age, looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus, who gave Himself for us to redeem us from every lawless deed, and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good deeds."

B. Lust of the eyes - possessions

T.V., video, CD, DVD, car, clothes, person, house, iPad, computers, cell phone. **Fountain Pen.**

C. Pride of life – pride (position):

The position of nationality, race, background, church (style of worship, method of ministry), denomination, country, education, ability, school, intellect, non-intellect, toughness, macho-ism, beauty, figure ("thin is in").

God says, "I will not share My glory with another."

7. Transformation

Most of the decisions we make are not spelled out specifically in the bible. Discernment is how we follow God's leading through the process of spiritually sensitive application of Biblical truth to the specifics of our situation. Romans 12:2 describes this..."do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect."

In this case, God does not give specific instructions about what to do, but His Spirit shapes the mind and heart through the word of God and prayer so that **we have inclinations leading toward what would be** most glorifying to Him and helpful to others.

2 Peter 3:18 says, "**But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.**" As we **grow in the Lord**, we mature in godliness and begin in maturity to discern good from evil and the decision to make for God's glory! Hebrews 5:14, "...having our senses trained to discern good and evil."

Knowing God's Will Involves 7 Things (7 key words):

1. Salvation
2. Revelation (The Word of God)
3. Submission (obedience)
4. Dedication
5. Supplication (prayer)
6. Separation
7. Transformation

God is sovereign! He does and will lead you for His glory.

We can trust our sovereign Lord to lead us for His Glory...

for His pleasure
for His satisfaction (not ours)
for His plans (not ours!)
To God be the glory!

As we close, would you pray with me this simple prayer of commitment to the Lord God our Heavenly Father:

"O Lord, not my will but your will be done:

- In my life
- In my words
- In my family
- In my finances
- In my schooling
- In my friendships
- In my service
- In my plans for the future

In all my world.

O Lord, **Your will be done...**

Nothing more

Nothing less

Nothing else! In the Name of Jesus, our Shepherd, our Sovereign Lord

Amen”