

Following the Will of God

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Using This Study

❶ EXAMINE His Word

What does God SAY? Open your time with prayer. The words God uses to communicate matters, so go back and pay close attention to the details that are emphasized or repeated in the passage.

❷ EXPLORE His Word

What does God MEAN? Asking questions of the text helps surface how the details relate to the message God wants to communicate.

❸ EMBRACE His Word

Why does it MATTER to me? Embrace God by responding to what you discover in His word in faith and obedience.



We are bombarded by choices in our lives. Some are trivial, such as what to have for breakfast, and some are important, such as whom to marry. The follower of Jesus Christ desires to please God in these decisions. But there are so many competing motivations that we might have - how do we make the right choice? Thankfully, the Bible is clear on how to make choices that please God and are the best for our lives.

Therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, I urge you to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God; this is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may discern what is the good, pleasing, and perfect will of God.

Romans 12:1-2

The Will of God

The Lord's decisions stand forever;
his plans abide throughout the ages.

Psalms 33:9

I know that you [God] can do all things;
no purpose of yours can be thwarted.

Job 42:2 NET

Grace and peace to you from God the
Father and our Lord Jesus Christ, who
gave himself for our sins to rescue us
from this present evil age according to
the will of our God and Father, to whom
be glory forever and ever! Amen.

Galatians 1:3-4 NET

He has told you, O man, what is good,
and what the Lord really wants from you:
He wants you to carry out justice, to love
faithfulness and to live obediently before
your God. Micah 6:8 NET

Jesus said to him, "Love the Lord your
God with all your heart, with all your
soul, and with all your mind.' 38 This is
the first and greatest commandment. The
second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as
yourself.' Matthew 22:37-39

The Lord is not slow concerning his
promise, as some regard slowness, but is
being patient toward you, because he
does not wish for any to perish but for all
to come to repentance. 2 Peter 3:9 NET

Following God's Will

If you remain in me and my words
remain in you, ask whatever you want,
and it will be done for you. John 15:7
NET

My child, pay attention to my words;
listen attentively to my sayings.
Do not let them depart from your sight,
guard them within your heart;
for they are life to those who find them
and healing to one's entire body.
Guard your heart with all vigilance,
for from it are the sources of life.
Proverbs 4:20-23 NET

Plans fail when there is no counsel, but
with abundant advisers they are
established. Proverbs 15:22

Be strong and confident, all you who wait
on the Lord. Psalms 31:4 NET

Be strong and courageous! Do not fear or
tremble before them, for the Lord your
God is the one who is going with you. He
will not fail you or abandon you!"
Deuteronomy 31:4 NET

o EXAMINE His Word (Observation) (For personal preparation)

What does God SAY? Prayerfully note significant details and terms emphasized in the foregoing passage.

1. Who is involved in the text? Author, audience, main characters.
2. Where and when is this taking place? Geography and timeline.
3. What actions are carried out or commanded? Look for the verbs.
4. Is there anything repeated?
5. What is emphasized?
6. Is there anything in these passages that is related to other areas of scripture?
7. Are there things to be noted that are alike or unlike such as similes and metaphors?

2 EXPLORE His Word (Interpretation) (For Community Group discussion)
What does God MEAN?

8. In what ways does the Bible describe the will of God?

9. What guidance does the Bible give on how to follow the will of God?

10. How can the follower of Christ be confident when making decisions?

③ EMBRACE His Word (Application) (For Community Group discussion)
Why does this MATTER to me?

11. Why do you think that God doesn't speak audibly to tell us what He wants us to do in every circumstance?

12. What sorts of decisions have you found to be difficult in life? How has God guided you and blessed you in the outcomes of these decisions?

13. Extra Credit: What unbiblical methods have you seen people use (or seen biblical figures use) to try to discern the will of God? Does God bless these methods? Why or why not?

Summarize your thoughts on the passage

Write about what God wants you to KNOW, to FEEL, and to DO...

Sermon Notes