

Gospel Truth

Biblical Instruction and Encouragement for the Mission Field Worldwide.

LED BY THE SHEPHERD

What should I do? Should I live here or move there? Should I continue with my education? What career path should I follow? Is this really the person I should marry? What church should I attend? What is right? How does God want me to live and what does He want me to do? What is the best way to react in this situation? I do not know how I should respond to this challenge in my life. I am overwhelmed with confusion.

Life can be full of questions, confusion, and many decisions that need to be made. Some decisions are very weighty and will have far-reaching consequences; others even change the very trajectory of your life. The wonderful news is that you don't have to face these challenges by yourself or in your own wisdom. God is interested in your life and He has a unique plan for you. God is primarily concerned about your spiritual well-being, but He is also interested in everything that touches your life.

Many people are trusting in their own wisdom, knowledge, intuition, or feelings to direct them in their decision making. The preponderance



of evidence, based on the outcomes of people's lives around us, clearly supports the scripture in Jeremiah 10:23, "O LORD, I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps." Humans were not created to live without the guidance of

their creator. Man's devices and ways will lead to poor decision making and disastrous consequences. "There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death" (Proverbs 16:25). There is a savior and friend who has all knowledge, understanding, and power and desires to journey with you through this life. If you will allow Him, He will not only lead you to Heaven, but He will guide you and direct you in those life-altering, major decisions that you face. God

has your best interest at heart and will lead you successfully through the maze and challenges of life.

While there are many uncertainties which can cause stress and worry, God does not want you to walk in darkness or in the obscurity of confusion. He is the Good Shepherd who leads beside still waters. He wants to be that caregiver,

(continued on page 2)

"God has your best interest at heart and will lead you successfully through the maze and challenges of life."

Editorial

3

Bible Study:
How to Know the Will of God

4

Companion Article:
How to Know the Will of God

5-8

Q & A

9

Did You Know?
A Word in Season:
I Will Guide Thee With Mine Eye

10

WHAT THE BIBLE TEACHES ABOUT...

Word of God

2 Tim. 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:20-21; Matt. 24:35

Relationship of Love

Matt. 22:37-40; John 14:21-23; 1 John 4:7-11

Repentance

Acts 3:19; Acts 17:30; 2 Cor. 7:10

New Birth

John 3:3-7; 2 Cor. 5:17; Rom. 6:1-4;
Eph. 2:1, 5-6

Freedom From Sin

1 John 5:18; Matt. 1:21; John 8:11

Infilling of the Holy Spirit

Acts 19:2; Acts 15:8-9; Acts 1:8

Holiness

Luke 1:73-75; Heb. 12:14; 1 Peter 1:15-16;
Titus 2:11-12; Rom. 6:22

Kingdom of God

Luke 17:20-21; Romans 14:17; John 18:36

The Church

Acts 2:47; Eph. 4:4-6; 1 Cor. 12:12-13; Col 1:18

Unity

John 17:20-23; Gal 3:28; Rev. 18:2-4

Ordinances

Matt. 28:19-20; Matt. 26:26-30;
1 Cor. 11:23-27; John 13:14-17

Divine Healing

Luke 4:18; Isaiah 53:4-5; James 5:13-16

Sanctity of Marriage

Matt. 19:5-6; Luke 16:18; Rom. 7:2-3;
1 Cor. 7:10-11

Outward Appearance

1 Tim. 2:9-10; 1 Cor. 11:14-15; Deut. 22:5

End of Time

2 Peter 3:7-12; John 5:28-29; 2 Cor. 5:10;
Matt 25:31-46

Pacifism

Luke 6:27-29; Luke 18:20

Worship

John 4:23-24; Eph. 5:19; 2 Cor. 3:17

Great Commission

Mark 16:15

(continued from page 1)

friend, and most of all, Savior, who walks with you through the valley of the shadow of death.

The tenth chapter of John speaks of Jesus Christ as the Good Shepherd. "The sheep hear his voice: and he calleth his own sheep by name, and leadeth them out. And when he putteth forth his own sheep, he goeth before them, and the sheep follow him: for they know his voice. And a stranger will they not follow, but will flee from him: for they know not the voice of strangers" (v3-5).

Jesus knows your name, and He sees the decisions and choices that are before you. The voice of Jesus will penetrate emotions and feelings and give guidance and comfort. Jesus will go before you, making the path clear, but will you follow? God's children know the voice of the Shepherd and will follow Him, fleeing from all other voices and ways. When people give heed to the voice of the stranger, they will find themselves getting farther and farther away from Christ, holiness, and God's Word.

There are times when it seems God is not leading, but if you will wait and listen, the comforting voice of the Shepherd will speak again and direct you

**"God has given to mankind
all the gifts, tools, and
necessary things by
which we can know His
perfect will for our lives."**

in the paths of righteousness. We need not and must not set our own course, for we will err. If we follow Christ and His way, we will come to an expected end of peace and victory.

If you will seek the will of God above your own desires and purposes, He will reveal to you in the right time that which you need to know. In His

faithfulness, God has given to mankind all the gifts, tools, and necessary things by which we can know His perfect will for our lives. We will make mistakes even in our pursuit of God's will, but as we grow in the Lord and learn of Him, we will understand His voice and way more clearly.

The Lord will lead His children. He will guide us spiritually and help us to know how to live a life pleasing to the Father. In major decisions we can be led by the Shepherd. Let us not get in front of Him or make decisions on our time frame, but let us follow Him carefully and sincerely.

It is a great comfort to rest in God during times of ambiguity, conflicting thoughts, and emotions. God, by His Word, through His Holy Spirit, will lead us with wisdom, understanding, and compassion. Let us wait on the Lord and be led by the Shepherd. ■

The *Gospel Truth* is a quarterly periodical published in the interest of the Church of God for instruction and encouragement in the truths of the Bible. Visit us online at www.thegospeltruth.org and subscribe to the email notification list to receive current publications. The *Gospel Truth* is printed in many countries for local distribution and is supported by free-will offerings. A tax receipt will be sent upon request.

—Editor, Michael Smith

Gospel Truth, P.O. Box 2042, Nixa, MO 65714 USA
editor@thegospeltruth.org

Editorial



And the LORD went before them by day in a pillar of a cloud, to lead them the way; and by night in a pillar of fire, to give them light; to go by day and night.
—Exodus 13:21

As the Lord went before the children of Israel in a pillar of a cloud in the day and in a pillar of fire by night to lead the way, so the Lord will be just as faithful to guide His children today. God has not left us to our own devices to discover the way to make it to Heaven. He has not left us alone to our own thinking and wisdom to make decisions that will radically change our lives. God has promised to lead us and be with us.

My burden this quarter is to share some scriptures on how to know the will of God. “How can I know God’s will?” This is a question that many young people and Christians of all ages ask. There is no recipe to follow that will bring about the answer the same way every time. However, God has promised to lead us, and He gave us instructions and told the methods by which to seek His will. Learning to know God’s will takes time and experience. No matter how long we have served the Lord, God wants us to be reliant upon Him.

God’s timing is unique. There have been times I have sought the Lord for direction for many months. Then, the Lord speaks, and the mist of confusion clears away. As one song says, “I know the sweet sound of His voice.” I am thankful that we can know the voice of God. It is distinct from every other voice.

In our study, we briefly examine various ways in which God communicates His will for our personal lives. It is not wise to take one witness alone lest we err, but by two or three witnesses, we can move out in faith and confidence.

While I caution against fleeces, the Lord does still use them at times. I remember a major transition in which we believed the Spirit of God was moving. I asked God to confirm it with a fleece—something that does not happen naturally. Shortly thereafter, God confirmed His Word and His Spirit’s leading with confirmation of the fleece. It had never happened before and has never happened since. Another time my life was on the line, and I was needing a witness from God. While God’s voice was not audible, it was as if it were. He spoke clearly to me as in a conversation. These were unique times, and I have found that God normally does not work this way. However, God has led us faithfully with His Word and Spirit for many years, and I testify to you that you can trust the Lord.

Daily communion with God is a comfort and security as He leads us along the way. I challenge every Christian to seek the Lord for guidance in marriage, finances, parenting, worship, and every major decision of life. God will be faithful to perform His promise of guidance if you will but seek, trust, and wait on Him.

Michael W. Smith

April 2022



Visit us at

www.thegospeltruth.org

to subscribe and access

publication archives.

Trust

in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall

Direct thy paths. Proverbs 3:5-6



Bible Study Guide

Subject: How to Know the Will of God

Scripture Reading: Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is. — Ephesians 5:17

Summary: God has provided the tools and resources with which we can know and understand His will in our individual lives.

I. Importance of Seeking God's Will

- A. Jeremiah 10:23 Not in man to direct his steps.
- B. Proverbs 16:25 Ways of man are death.

II. You Can Know God's Will

- A. Proverbs 3:6 God will direct your paths.
- B. Ephesians 1:8-9 Christ reveals His will.
- C. Colossians 1:9 Knowledge of God's will.

III. God's General Will for All People

- A. 2 Peter 3:9 All should come to repentance.
- B. Romans 12:1-2 Prove the will of God.
- C. 1 Peter 1:15-16 Be holy in all manner of life.
- D. 1 Peter 2:21-23 Follow Christ's example.
- E. 1 Thessalonians 4:3 Sanctification.
- F. 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 Rejoice, pray, give thanks.

IV. How God Reveals His Will

A. Word of God

1. Psalm 119:105 A light unto our path.
2. 2 Timothy 3:15-17 Profitable for instruction.

B. Holy Spirit

1. John 16:13 He will guide into all truth.
2. Romans 8:14 Led by the Spirit.
3. Isaiah 30:21 Thine ears shall hear a word.

C. Voice of God

1. Matthew 17:5 God speaks from the cloud.
2. Acts 8:26 Angel of the Lord instructs Philip.

D. Human Instrumentality

1. Ephesians 4:11-13 The ministry.
2. Hebrews 13:17 Submit to God's ministry.
3. Proverbs 11:14 Importance of counsel.

E. Providence

1. Romans 8:28 All things work together.
2. Acts 16:6-7 Paul's plans thwarted.

F. Fleeces

1. Judges 6:36-40 Gideon sets a fleece.
2. Matthew 12:38-40 Reproof for seeking a sign.

G. Visions and Dreams

1. Acts 2:17 Spirit will give visions and dreams.
2. Matthew 2:13 An angel warns Joseph.
3. Acts 10:9-10, 19-20 Peter's vision. Confirmed by the Spirit.

V. How to Seek for God's Will

A. Seek with Desire

1. Matthew 6:33 Seek ye first.
2. Psalm 143:10 Teach me to do thy will.
3. Psalm 25:4-5,9 Lead me in thy truth.
4. Proverbs 3:5-7 Acknowledge God.

B. Pray Specifically with Faith

1. James 1:5-6 Ask for wisdom in faith.

C. Draw Close to God

1. Hosea 6:3 Then shall we know.
2. James 4:8 Draw nigh to God.

D. Listen

1. Psalm 46:10 Be still.
2. James 1:19 Be swift to hear.

E. Wait Patiently

1. Psalm 27:14 Wait on the Lord.

F. Submit to God's Will

1. Matthew 23:37 Ye would not!
2. Luke 22:42 Not my will.

VI. Obedience

1. Ephesians 6: 6-7 From the heart.
2. Isaiah 1:19 The willing and obedient.

Conclusion

And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.

—1 John 2:17

HOW TO KNOW THE WILL OF GOD



“God’s general will should always be the foundation upon which one seeks for individual direction and guidance.”

It is God’s desire and purpose to commune with His children. He has promised to lead and guide us, and it is possible through the divine gifts and tools of the Spirit to individually know the will of God for our personal lives. It is imperative for spiritual success that we be wise and understand “what the will of the Lord is” (Ephesians 5:17).

God Wants To Reveal His Will

Promises of Leadership

The promises of God are sure and applicable to everyone in this generation who meets the conditions. Proverbs 3:6 says, “In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.” If a child of God will acknowledge God and give Him the right and room to work, He will reveal His divine will and plan. The mystery and questions of life can be answered as Christ has “made known unto us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure” (Ephesians 1:9). While the world may scoff and sneer at Christians, saints of God can trust and rest in the Lord, as they are “filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding” (Colossians 1:9). What a comfort and strength it is to face the dilemmas and problems of life with the knowledge that God with His infinite wisdom will lead us in a manner befitting our personal capacity to comprehend His will. The major decisions of life can rest in the knowledge and power of God rather than on the wisdom of this world and the flighty whims of feeling and emotion.

God’s General Will

God has a general will for all mankind coupled with a specific will and plan for each individual. God’s plan for the individual will never violate or supersede His general will as expounded in the scripture. Hence, God’s general will should always be the foundation upon which one seeks

for individual direction and guidance. God is “not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance” (2 Peter 3:9). As God desires each soul to be saved from sin, it is also His will that we “be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God” (Romans 12:1-2). People who pray for God’s will and leadership in their lives are praying in vain if they will not first yield to the general will of God. God is not obligated to answer the questions that so often bring stress and difficulty if one is not first willing to yield to His will that is clearly revealed in the Holy Scripture.

It is God’s general will that His children specifically live “holy in all manner of conversation” (1 Peter 1:15). Someone need not pray for direction about an issue that leads them closer to the world and further away from God, for that is NOT His will. It is God’s express will that we should follow the example of His son, Jesus, after that pattern of sinlessness, holiness, forgiveness, and love (1 Peter 2:21-23). It is the written will of God in 1 Thessalonians 4:3 that we be sanctified (set apart from the world for the exclusive use of the Master). We must rejoice, pray, and give thanks, for this is “the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you” (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18).

(continued on page 6)

Tools to Know God's Will

God has given a number of tools and gifts by which we can know and learn His divine will generally and specifically for questions in our lives. God has given two witnesses on earth which do testify of Him and His will—the Word and the Spirit.

Word through the inspiration of His Spirit to give specific guidance to honest souls seeking for answers.

2. Holy Spirit

God gave a wonderful gift of the Holy Spirit to His children. The Holy Spirit came to “guide you into all truth” (John 16:13), and God’s children are “led by the Spirit of God” (Romans 8:14). It takes time to learn how the Holy Spirit leads, directs, and inspires. In seeking God, what a beautiful experience to have your ears “hear a word behind thee, saying, This is the way, walk ye in it” (Isaiah 30:21). When the Holy Spirit leads, it is from deep within the soul and is very different than the thoughts of the mind that come and go. He works through inspiration and burdens of the heart, and when it is truly the Holy Spirit, His leadership is clear and distinct. The Holy Spirit will never speak contrary to the Word of God, and they both will always coincide. It is a litmus test for knowing the will of God to have the Word and the Spirit agree in conjunction with other secondary witnesses.

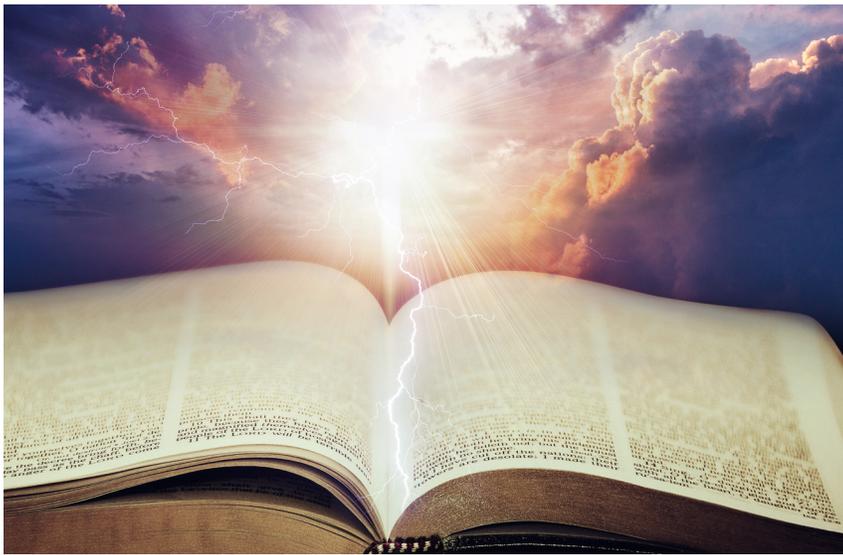
3. Voice of God

God at times has spoken with an audible voice, such as when He spoke from a cloud to the disciples on the Mount of Transfiguration, “This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him” (Matthew 17:5). An angel of the Lord spoke to Philip and told him to go to Gaza (Acts 8:26).

While it might seem easiest to have God speak audibly, when God speaks through His Word or through His Spirit, there is an acute illumination and a voice to the ear of the spirit of man that leaves no doubt but that it was God.

4. Human Instrumentality

God often uses other people to witness of His Word and Spirit to the seeker. While there are many voices in the world, the true minister and counselor of the Lord will speak that which is in line with the two primary witnesses. God put the ministry in the body for the perfecting and edification of the saints (Ephesians 4:11-13). When there are questions requiring God’s direction, He often uses His ministering servants to confirm His will. “Where no counsel is, the people fall” (Proverbs 11:14) and it is a valuable resource to seek godly counsel in life-changing decisions, especially in spiritual matters.



“When God speaks through His Word or through His Spirit, there is an acute illumination and a voice to the ear of the spirit of man that leaves no doubt but that it was God.”

1. Word of God

Psalm 119:105 states, “Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.” The Bible is an instruction manual for godly living. It will answer many of the personal questions people may have, not only about spiritual issues, but about marriage, child raising, finances, etc. The Word of God is an invaluable resource to discovering God’s will, but it takes time and effort to study it with an open heart and mind. The Scripture “is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness” (2 Timothy 3:15-17). God can directly inspire a scripture which provides the answer to the seeker. A mistake can be made when a scripture is misinterpreted or misapplied to a situation. People looking to go somewhere can find a verse that tells them to “go.” They can also find a scripture that says to “stay home.” Many fanatics have twisted scripture to their own purposes outside of the will of God. However, God will and does use His

5. Providence

The providence of God is another way in which God can reveal His will. This applies to the seemingly natural opening and closing of doors. If someone is seeking the Lord for direction between two opportunities, and one opportunity closes, that would illustrate the providence of God. “And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God” (Romans 8:28). While God does not exclusively use His providence, the child of God can trust that God is directing and allowing circumstances that will best accomplish His will in the lives of His people. Plans can be thwarted by circumstances, and it is important to learn the difference between difficulties to be overcome and obstacles meant to lead a different direction.

6. Fleeces

In the Old Testament, Gideon placed a fleece before the Lord to determine the mind of God (Judges 6:36-40). While God has honored fleeces at times, Christ also reproved the Jews in Matthew 12:38-40 for seeking a sign by which to believe. When a sign does not come, it is not necessarily an indication of God’s will. Fleeces are to be used rarely and carefully and only under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. It is not up to us to tell God the manner in which He is to reveal His will.



7. Visions and Dreams

Similarly, visions and dreams are to be used carefully and not abused. Acts 2:17 states that when the Holy Spirit was poured out that “your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams.” Joseph received instruction in a dream to flee to Egypt in Matthew 2:13. God taught Peter a lesson about accepting the Gentiles in a vision about eating unclean beasts (Acts 10:9-10). It is of note that the Holy Spirit confirmed the dream to Peter in verses 19-20: “While Peter thought on the vision, the Spirit said unto him.... Arise ... and go with them, doubting nothing; for I have sent them.” When God speaks through dreams and visions, they will always be in accord with the other witnesses. The meaning will be clear and not an obscure, muddled mess like a natural dream. Be careful about trying to interpret God in every dream.

How to Seek God’s Will

It is God’s purpose and desire to reveal His will and guide His people. His will need not be a mystery in every area of life. However, God normally does not answer our questions with a thunderbolt in the sky. There is an acceptable manner in which to seek for God’s will as we utilize the witnesses and tools with which He has blessed us.

1. Desire and Willingness

God’s will should be sought with the foremost desire to please the Lord. “Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you” (Matthew 6:33). People who are not putting God first in every area of life, often will not receive the answers as they desire. There must be a desire to learn and a spirit of receptiveness. “Shew me thy ways, O LORD; teach me thy paths” (Psalm 25:4-5). God will guide the meek (Psalm 25:9) and will direct the path of the earnest seeker (Proverbs 3:5-7). When the answer does not come, it is like an email that is sent and lost

(continued on page 8)

(continued from page 7)

because of an account that is filled up with clutter. Clear the mind and seek God with an open and honest heart.

2. Pray in Faith

“If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him. But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering” (James 1:5-6). When there are major decisions and the need for God’s guidance, pray for the specific need and have faith that God will answer in the right time. Stresses and worry can be minimized as one learns to trust and pray.

3. Draw Near to God

Hosea 6:3 teaches a vital truth about knowing God’s will: “Then shall we know, if we follow on to know the LORD.” The longer you know someone, the more you know their character, thoughts, preferences, purposes, and will. It is the same way with God. As we draw closer to God, we get farther from the world. We see and know Christ more and more for who and what He is. This then enables us to understand His voice and His will more clearly in our lives.

4. Be Still and Listen

When in confusion and when God’s will is not clear, it is time to “Be still, and know that I am God” (Psalm 46:10). It is time to just get quiet and start listening for that still, small voice. God is in control and will not forsake His children.

5. Wait Patiently

When seeking God’s will, children of God will soon discover that God works on a different timetable than theirs. He is not constrained by our deadlines nor our necessities. However, He is always on time. God does not reveal everything all at once. During the time of waiting on God to reveal His will, there is growth taking place. “Wait on the Lord: be of good courage” (Psalm 27:14). God’s will is often accomplished during our time of seeking and waiting. During the waiting, do not falter nor be discouraged. Stay faithful doing that which you know God has for you to do. Let God speak how and when He will, but do not take things into your own hands. Trust in Him and wait patiently for God to reveal His divine will. If uncertain, wait.

6. Submit to God’s Will

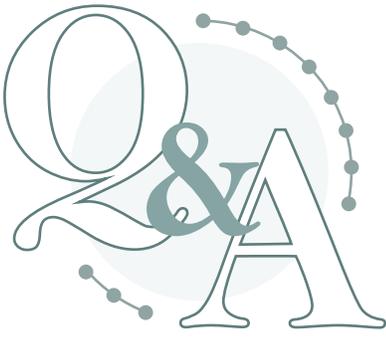
While God is sovereign, He created mankind as free moral agents with the capacity for free will. Hence, the will of man can subvert the perfect will of God from being accomplished in an individual life unless there is a choice to submit and follow God’s will. Jesus would have protected Jerusalem and desired to do so, but they would not (Matthew 23:37). God’s will should be sought with a concerted effort to submit personal desires and preferences into His hand. Too many people seek God’s blessing on their decisions without first seeking Him for His divine will. We should pray as Christ: “Not my will, but thine, be done” (Luke 22:42). If we are not willing to submit to God’s divine will, for what are we seeking?

Walking in Obedience



It is important to seek God’s will while living in obedience in all areas of life. We cannot expect God to reveal His purpose in one area according to our whims if we are not being obedient to that which we know is His will in other areas. Once God reveals His will, there is a wonderful blessing in following through in obedience and in doing the will of the Lord. “If ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land” (Isaiah 1:19).

It is not only a possibility but a glorious reality to live under the leadership and inspiration of God. When we prepare our hearts and seek after the Lord, we can know and do His will. Knowing the will of God is a process of time and growth, so do not be discouraged. As you follow on to know the Lord, you will learn to identify the wonderful sound of His voice and can live and move under His guidance. God will direct and guide you in this journey of life. Praise be to God! ■



Is there a divine will for every personal decision that we make?

God is interested in our lives because He loves us. He has a specific will for spiritual matters as well as for things that will affect the quality and well-being of our lives. However, there are some decisions that are a matter of personal choice to which God has no particular, active will. Do you paint the wall red or blue? Do you take the bus or a private car? Do you eat potatoes or rice for dinner tonight? God allows us to follow our inclinations and honors our preferences in nonessential areas of life. Children of God should exercise their will without fear within the parameters of God's general will. If within those nonessential decisions God sees a danger or hindrance, we can trust that He will be faithful to reveal otherwise to us when expedient and necessary.

How do I distinguish between the voice of God, my own thoughts, and the Devil?

Our own thoughts will change with time and may vacillate with emotion, but God's voice will be consistent. "There are many devices in a man's heart; nevertheless the counsel of the LORD, that shall stand" (Proverbs 19:21). One translation reads: "Many are the plans in the mind of a man." Our own thoughts bring confusion, doubts, and turmoil. The voice of God brings peace, calm, and assurance and is accompanied by other witnesses. 1 Corinthians 14:33 states: "For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints." While this is referencing the conduct of people in worship service, there is a vital truth that "God is NOT the author of confusion." When thoughts assail the mind and they bring confusion and more questions, we need to recognize that is not how the Lord deals with us. When God speaks, it brings answers and

a recognition of the will of the Lord from deep within the spirit.

The voice of God will always be in sync with His Word, and He will never lead us in a way that is contrary to the fundamental principles of truth. I recall years ago hearing of a minister who had once taught against double marriage. He told his congregation that God had spoken to him and told him he did not have to live single anymore and could remarry. This was clearly not the Lord, as it violated the Scripture. When an impression or leading is different than the Word, we can identify that as not from God and know it is our own thinking or the devil.

Sometimes there are questions as to whether an inner voice is from God or the enemy. Consider Peter when the disciples were in a storm. They were afraid and Jesus identified himself. However, Peter answered, "Lord, if it be thou, bid me come unto thee on the water" (Matthew 14:28). Jesus confirmed this and Peter was able to walk on the water. When the Lord speaks, the evidence will prove the truth of what was spoken. The Devil is the father of lies, and we can learn to recognize his deceptive voice.

Even when Satan quoted scripture to Jesus, he used partial scripture that was taken out of context. When the Devil speaks, although he may dress up in religious guise, he speaks of things that draw on the lusts of the flesh rather than of things that will bring us closer to God.

When God speaks to us about mistakes, error, or sin, He will also give the solution and the way to rectify the problem. When the enemy speaks, he accuses and disturbs the mind and spirit to bring condemnation without giving an avenue of redemption. Many people live under accusations of the Devil and feel bad a lot of the time; this is not of God, for with true conviction, God offers the solution and accompanying peace.



DID YOU KNOW?

God gets blamed for a lot of things by religious people. Many people use “the voice of God” to justify and explain their decisions and behaviors. It is important that God not be used as a scapegoat or as an excuse for following personal ways, ideas, and inclinations. Individuals should acknowledge their errors and even their mistakes in understanding the Lord and His will.



A Word
in Season

I WILL GUIDE THEE WITH MINE EYE

I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go: I will guide thee with mine eye. — Psalm 32:8

In a world full of trouble and confusion, what a wonderful promise and consolation God gave to David. God will do the same for us today. In our questions and in our needs He assures us, “I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go.” God will pilot us through uncharted waters. He will be our captain and leader when we know not which way to go. He will be our teacher in the difficulties of life. He will be a counselor in times of confusion. He will be a shepherd when we go astray. He will be a light in our darkness and a hope in our uncertainty.



We cannot see the future, and we do not know what we will face tomorrow. We know not what traps and dangers lie in front of us. The Lord tells us, “I will guide thee with mine eye.” He will go before us and scout out the dangers. He will watch over us carefully to be sure the path is clear. If there are obstacles, God will lift us up or show us the way around or the way through. If we stumble, He is watching and will reach out and catch us. If in our humanity we lose our way, He will come looking for us and guide us safely back to the flock.

We are weak and insufficient and do not know what is best in so many of the decisions we face in life. The Lord has promised to guide us and help us. He will show us the way and bring clarity in the midst of our confusion. His eye is upon us. The child of God need not worry or be afraid. It brings comfort and security to know my Lord is watching over me.

“Behold, the eye of the LORD is upon them that fear him, upon them that hope in his mercy” (Psalm 33:18). God cares for all people, but He gives special attention to those who respect and trust Him.

As God sees even the sparrow that falls, His eye is so much more on you. Take courage fellow soldier. God will guide you and bring you safely to the other side. ■

Contact

The Gospel Truth
P. O. Box 2042
Nixa, MO 65714
USA

Email:
editor@thegospeltruth.org

HOLINESS UNTO THE LORD