

# Knowing The Will of God

## I.) Condition : A True Desire - To ...

Read Matt 6:33

## NOTES

Take the following tests:

A. Are you really willing to ...

B. Are you being obedient to ...

### Question-

Can you fill anything in the following question?

"God, I'll do anything, but please don't ask me to \_\_\_\_\_ !

## II.) God's Methods of Revealing His Will

God speaks and has spoken in many different ways.

-Winkie Pratney gives the following outline: Guidance breaks down into three basic categories:

### A. PERSONAL (Individual Direct Guidance)

#### 1. The Word of God -

*a. Regular Bible Reading* - The Holy Scriptures, the foundation of all guidance.

*b. Mental Suggestion* - In prayer God will sometimes bring to mind a verse, a chapter, or a book of the Bible.

*c. Recalled Memory Verse* - Often, during a time of temptation or difficulty, God will bring to your mind a

verse of Scripture that will give clear instruction.

**2. The witness of the Holy Spirit** - An inner voice known by all true children of God. The Holy Spirit is able

to give you a "*check*" inside as to whether or not something is of God.

### B. CORPOREAL (Other Christians)

**1. Godly men and women** - The advice of experienced Christians sought as confirmation. This counsel should be more in the area of *principles*, not *pronouncements*. True godly counsel will of course always line up with the Word of God and Scriptural principles. (*Proverbs 15:22, 12:15, 13:10, 11:14, 24:6; 1 Thess. 2:11-15*)

**2. God's servants in the ministry** - Preaching under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Sometimes God will use a message or sermon anointed by the Holy Spirit to bring needed light when you are facing a difficult decision.

**3. The gifts of the Holy Spirit** - Scripture records incidents where God has confirmed direction through such gifts in His Body as prophesy, words of knowledge, and words of wisdom. *Never* act solely on a "*word*" given to you by another.

\* **Remember**, the key is *individual responsibility* for our own actions, and it is you that must make the final decision, and not someone else for you.

**C. SUPERNATURAL** - The instances of "supernatural" guidance, or special Divine Intervention in our lives are more rarely recorded. These cases are rare, but *not* because there are only a few who ever reach the "exalted height" of such direct contact. In fact, God may sometimes choose to act in this way because those on the receiving end are so spiritually *insensitive* and dull that they might otherwise never hear or understand!

**1. The audible voice of God.** God can and has spoken to people audibly. As in the case of Saul and the crowd that witnessed the Lord's baptism, it is apparently a real sound and not just a mental impression. Examples: Samuel (*1 Samuel 3:1-10*); Elijah (*1 Kgs. 19:9-13*); Saul (*Acts 9:1-7*);

**2. Visions and dreams.** The early Church gave much more attention to this subject than do most Christians today. Both dreams and visions, when inspired by the Holy Spirit, can be powerful means by which God speaks to His people. Examples: Peter (*Acts 10:9-16*); John (*Rev. 1-20*); Joseph (*Matt. 1:19-21*).

**3. Visitation.** Many believers throughout history have had authentic angelic visions or visitations. Examples: Abraham (*Genesis 18:1-33*); Zacherias (*Luke 1:8-20*); Mary (*Luke 1:26-38*).

**-A word of warning** before we leave this area. Young Christians can easily become fascinated with the "special cases," and exalt these above the more simple and ordinary daily ways God uses to speak to us. To deliberately seek or glorify any form of guidance is an outright invitation to spiritual deception, We are not to seek or specify *how* God should speak, but only seek Him in any way that He wishes to make Himself known.

## III.) Steps to Finding God's Will

## NOTES

Read *Rom 12:1-2*:

### Questions -

1. What does it mean to be conformed to the pattern of this world?
2. Why would this make it impossible to determine God's will?
3. What is it that renews our minds?

### Step 1. Pray

- Offer ...
- Lay down your ...

### Step 2. Read the Word -

- Probably 90% of ...
- The greater you know the ...  
The greater your mind will be ...
- The greater your ability to ...

### Step 3. Seek Counsel     Read *Prov 15:22*

1. From ...                             (see 1 Kings 12:1-20 later)
2. From ...

### Step 4. Be Open To God's Other Methods

- Gifts of the Spirit
- Supernatural

### Questions-

1. Most people fail to seek advice from others. Why is this difficult for most of us?
2. Have you ever experienced one of God's supernatural methods of discovering direction?
3. How do you know if these are really from God?

### **Step 5. Do Something! Be Active**

1. If You Can, ...
  - Faithfulness in small things leads to ...  
(*Luke 16:10*)
2. If Change is necessary,

## **IV. Final Thoughts** -Concern over God's

will should never be a source of despair. Many Christians get too uptight about trying to fulfill perfectly, every minute detail of God's will for their lives. Keep the following in mind to lighten the load:

- A. God is much more concerned about the details of **Who You Are** than the details of **What You Do**.
- B. **Disobedience** is the pitfall, not **Ignorance**. He is a Good Father- punishing disobedience, not ignorance.
- C. **God wants** you to do His will **more than You want** to do it! He'll help you.