



How you can  
know God's plan  
for your life  
and service

# ONE STEP AT A TIME

**Biblical Principles for Life and Service**

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## FIRST STEPS

There are several steps which you need to understand and be willing to take before you can know God's will for your life.

- 1) You need to **BELIEVE** that God has A PLAN FOR YOUR LIFE, has work for you to do and wants to show you what it is.

Paul prayed that the Colossians "*be filled with the KNOWLEDGE of His will*" (Colossians 1 v 9).

- 2) You need to have a genuine **DESIRE** to do God's will whatever it is, and be OPEN to what God will show you. If you are asking God to confirm what you have already decided to do, He will not respond.

The Lord Jesus said "*if anyone wills (WANTS) to do His will.....he shall know*" (John 7 v17).

- 3) You need to **UNDERSTAND** that God shows His plan just ONE STEP AT A TIME, and that He will only show you the next step after you have taken the first step.

The Psalmist wrote "*Your word is a lamp to my FEET*" (119 v105).

- 4) You need to **REMEMBER** that God usually guides in SIMPLE and undramatic ways. So do not look for, or ask for, visions, voices or signs. God very rarely guides in those ways to-day.

Have you taken these steps? Are these your desires? Good! You are now ready to move on.

## GOD'S GENERAL WILL FOR ALL BELIEVERS

In the Bible God has clearly revealed His GENERAL WILL or plan for all Christians. So there is no problem knowing what that will is.

1) God's will for ALL of us is *"walk worthy of the Lord fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God"*. (Read Colossians 1 verses 9-11).

2) God's will for ALL of us is to be joyful, prayerful and thankful (I Thess. 5 v16-18).

3) God's will for ALL of us is to present our bodies to Him, that our minds be transformed and that we come to know His perfect will (Romans 12 verses 1 and 2).

4) God's will for ALL of us - above all - is that we become more and more like Jesus Christ who set us *"an example that you should follow His steps"*(1 Peter 2 v21).

If there are clear statements in the Bible concerning a subject you do not need to ask God about His will on that subject. He has already shown it! For example:

If your decision involves lies or deceit it is **NOT** God's will.

If your decision involves immorality it is **NOT** God's will.

If your decision involves stealing of any kind it is **NOT** God's will.

## GOD'S SPECIFIC WILL OR PLAN FOR YOU

God has a specific and detailed plan for every Christian, and He has promised that if you *"In all your ways acknowledge Him and He shall direct your paths"* (Proverbs 3 v6).

### DECISIONS! DECISIONS! DECISIONS!

We all have so many decisions to make. Some of them are major; some of them are minor; but we need to make them.

"Where is my place of service?"

"Which church should I join?"

"What profession should I enter?"

"Should I marry? Who should I marry?"

"Should I go to Bible School?"

It is comforting to know that God can, and wants to, guide us in all of our decisions whether big or small. He knows what is best for us and has the answer to every question.

Our responsibility is to find out what that answer is.

In the pages which follow you will see the five steps you need to take so that you can find **HIS** answer, so that you can know **HIS** plan for each aspect of your life. There is nothing too big or too small for Him.

# STEP 1

## USE YOUR TONGUE TO PRAY

### GOD GUIDES THROUGH PRAYER

The very first step in coming to know God's will concerning any subject or situation is to pray to God. Speak to Him, and ask Him to give you guidance and understanding so that you can make the right decision.

God, the Holy Spirit, is ready, willing and able to guide you. This is part of His ministry to Christians to-day.

*"When He, the Spirit of Truth, has come He will **GUIDE YOU** into all truth" (John 16 v13). It is His desire that we "may be filled with the **KNOWLEDGE** of His will" (Colossians 1 v9).*

We don't need to coax Him or plead with Him. If we ask Him sincerely, He will show His will to us (provided we fulfil the necessary conditions and take the necessary steps). Any problem we have in knowing His will is ours –not His.

*"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways **ACKNOWLEDGE HIM** and **HE SHALL DIRECT** your paths" (Proverbs 3 v 5 and 6).*

*"Your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, '**THIS IS THE WAY**, walk in it' whenever you turn to the right hand or whenever you turn to the left" (Isaiah 30 v21).*

Have you prayed about it? If so, you are ready for the next step.

## STEP 2 USE YOUR HEAD TO LEARN

### GOD GUIDES THROUGH LOGICAL THINKING AND EXAMINATION

Having asked God for His guidance, you need to understand that God now wants and expects you to use your mind in the determination of His plan for you. God does not guide you in a vacuum. He has not only given you a mind to think with, but He renewed that mind when you became a Christian and you should now be able to think spiritually.

*“Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of **YOUR MIND** that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect **WILL OF GOD**”*  
(Romans 12 v2).

Consequently when considering a decision you need to make, you should ask yourself a number of basic questions and, using your mind, answer them logically. Your answers will not show you God’s will, but will help you to know it –in association with the other steps you take.

For example (with regard to marriage);-Is he (she) a Christian? Do we share the same goals? Do I really love him (her)?

Or (with regard to service); Am I needed? Is the door open? Do I have the gifts and abilities for this? Does this really interest me?

Make two columns on a sheet of paper. Put “yes” on one and “no” on the other. Answer all your questions in the respective columns, and it is possible that a helpful pattern will emerge.

## STEP 3

# USE YOUR EYES TO LOOK

## GOD GUIDES THROUGH HIS WORD – THE BIBLE

God speaks to us through his Word. This is the main way He guides us. So you need to use your eyes to read His Word, and you need to ask Him to speak to you and guide you through His Word.

**WHAT YOU SHOULD NOT DO.** You should not open your Bible at random, looking for “spot verses” to guide you. This could be dangerous.

**WHAT YOU SHOULD DO.** You should ask God to guide you through your regular daily study of His Word. Read it prayerfully, sincerely and systematically.

### **WHAT YOU SHOULD LOOK FOR.**

1) Look for, and learn, GENERAL principles which will help you to know His will or plan. For example: it is never right for a Christian to marry an unsaved person (2 Corinthians 6 v14) or if what you are praying about involves any deceit or dishonesty it is not God's will (Colossians 3 v9).

2) You will read Bible verses and passages which God will use to speak SPECIFICALLY to you. These will either encourage and confirm a move or close the door to that move. For example, you may have been hesitating about a step which you felt God was asking you to take and God speaks to you through 1 Thess 5 v24 *“He Who calls you is faithful Who also will do it”*.



## **STEP 4 USE YOUR EARS TO LISTEN**

### **GOD GUIDES THROUGH OTHER PEOPLE**

The Bible gives examples of those who were helped to know God's will through the help, guidance and invitation of others. (Read Acts 11 v25, 13 v1-3 and 16 v1-3). Other people can play a vital role in your guidance provided they are walking with the Lord and guided by Him, as those in each of the above references were. Therefore, when you are faced with a decision, you should feel free to speak to someone you can depend on, especially to those who are your spiritual leaders and ask for their advice. Such advice, based on Scripture, can be a real help to you. However you are responsible before God to make your own decision. Others cannot make it for you.

## **STEP 5 USE YOUR HEART TO LEAD YOU**

### **GOD GUIDES THROUGH THE PEACE HE GIVES OR WITHHOLDS**

When God wants you to do something He will give you peace about it. *"Let the peace of God rule (or referee) in your hearts"* (Col 1 v15). Let the peace of God decide if this is the right thing to do or not. This peace is a direct ministry of the Holy Spirit. If you don't have peace about your decision, don't do it. If you have peace, this could be an indication this is the way to go.

**WHEN ALL FIVE STEPS POINT IN THE SAME DIRECTION GO AHEAD. ASK GOD TO CLOSE THE DOOR IF YOU ARE MISTAKEN.**