



God's Will

A Message from Billy Graham

God has a plan for every one of us. Many people go through life without ever thinking about it, but that doesn't change the fact that God put us here for a purpose. In other words, we aren't here by accident; we're here because God put us here. And He put us here for a reason—to know Him in a personal way and then live the way He wants us to live.

This is the greatest discovery you will ever make: You were created to know God and to be His friend forever. God not only has a general purpose for each of us, but He also has a specific plan for each of our lives. God knows all about you, and He has a plan for you.

That's why you can pray and seek God's will when you face decisions, and it is why you can know God is with you every moment of the day. The Bible says, "Teach me your way, O Lord; lead me in a straight path" (Psalm 27:11).

Knowing God's Will

Knowing God's will can give you peace in the midst of suffering and everyday trials. When you are in constant fellowship with God, He will lead you in the fulfillment of His plan.

To know God's will, you must first know God Himself. You can do that by committing your life to Jesus Christ, who was God in human flesh. Christ came to earth to show us what God is like and save us from our sins, and once you accept Him into your heart, you are a child of God! You can know God's specific will for your life.

If you have accepted Christ, here are some ways to understand God's will for you:

— Make right any behavior or relationships that might keep you from knowing God's will. Is there a certain sin that continues to plague your life? Are you in an unhealthy relationship? Confess any wrongdoing, eliminate anything that might distract you from living a godly life and commit your life to God who can make your paths straight (Proverbs 3:6). The Bible says, "I strive always to keep my conscience clear before God and man" (Acts 24:16).

— God will never ask you to do something outside of His will. Do you feel like He's telling you to take a certain action? Have godly friends encouraged you to use a certain talent? Don't ignore wise advice or your own common sense.

— Look at God's Word, the Bible. Psalm 119:105 says, "Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path." What does God command of you? Has a verse motivated you to do something?

— Pray and ask God to reveal His will to you.

— Make a list of pros and cons when faced with a decision. As you seek God's guidance, weigh your options.

How Do You Know When God Is Speaking?

Maybe you've felt a tug to do something and wondered if it's God speaking. Our feelings and emotions can be tricky, and they can deceive us—especially if we depend on them alone for making a decision. God gave us our emotions, and they are important, but He also gave us our mental abilities, and when we face a decision, we need to look at it carefully and logically. Part of discerning God's will is to ask Him to help us see all sides of an issue—sometimes with help from others we trust.

But emotion and intellect aren't enough. When we face a decision, we need to pray about it, trusting God to lead us. We also need to do it in light of God's Word, the Bible. God will never lead you to do something that is not in accord with the Bible. Also remember to have an open mind when waiting for God to respond to your prayer. He might not answer right away, or His answer might be something you haven't considered.

The Bible says, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight" (Proverbs 3:5-6, NASB). Make sure of your commitment to Christ, then submit every decision you face to Him. When we sincerely want God's will above all else, He will help us know what is right.