

Introduction: Decision making and the will of God

- Two Premises:

1. God wants to guide you. Psalm 25:12-14
2. God's will is good. Romans 12:2

- Two Aspects of God's will:

1. General / Moral – for all believers 1 Thessalonians 5:18
1 Thessalonians 4:3
Ephesians 5:17-18
2. Specific / Individual – for me personally Psalm 32:8
Proverbs 16:9

The Question:

How does a person **know** what God wants them to do when it's not "spelled out" in Scripture?

7 Principles to Guide Us:

1. The principle of **Relationship** - John 15
2. The principle of **Obedience** - Mark 4:23-25
3. The principle of **Willingness** - James 1:5-8
John 7:17
4. The principle of **Protection** -

Sincerity, personal experience, and/or circumstances are never a substitute for the truth; developing an “objective perspective” is critical for our safety.

- **Tools to Use:**

- Search the Word Proverbs 2:1-5
- Do your homework Proverbs 12:27
- Seek mature counsel Proverbs 15:22
- Pray earnestly Proverbs 19:21

- **Pitfalls to Avoid:**

- Changing circumstances
- Faulty feelings
- Flimsy fleeces

5. The principle of **Promptings** -

Listening, solitude and repeated "seemingly insignificant" impressions provide the fertile ground for God's still small voice to speak.

- **Test Your Promptings:**

- Is it consistent with God's Word?
- Does it serve others and glorify God?
- Is it consistent with your gifts and calling?

- **Warning Signs to Consider:**

- If it demands a major life-changing decision in a short amount of time
- If a mature counselor who knows you and loves you seriously questions the promptings
- If the leading causes you to shatter family relationships or important relationships
- If the promptings cause you to go into debt deeply or causes others to be put in an awkward or compromising position

6. The principle of **Faith** -

Hebrews 11:6

7. The principle of **Freedom** - "It's a highway not a tightrope."

Conclusion: How it works in real life...

Discussion Questions:

1. What did you learn about decision making according to God's will? What was most helpful? Why?
2. Why is it so important that we make wise and Godly decisions?
3. What decisions(s) are you facing that these principles can be a help to you?
4. Which of the principles seems most applicable to your decision making process?