

DISCOVERING GOD'S WILL

And the king of Israel said to Jehoshaphat, "There is yet one man by whom we may inquire of the Lord, Micaiah the son of Imlah, but I hate him, for he never prophesies good concerning me, but evil." And Jehoshaphat said, "Let not the king say so." 1 Kings 22:8 (ESV)

And Micaiah said, "Therefore hear the word of the Lord: I saw the Lord sitting on his throne, and all the host of heaven standing beside him on his right hand and on his left; and the Lord said, 'Who will entice Ahab, that he may go up and fall at Ramoth-gilead?' And one said one thing, and another said another. Then a spirit came forward and stood before the Lord, saying, 'I will entice him.' And the Lord said to him, 'By what means?' And he said, 'I will go out, and will be a lying spirit in the mouth of all his prophets.' And he said, 'You are to entice him, and you shall succeed; go out and do so.' 1 Kings 22:19-22 (ESV)

Digging Deeper Sermon Study

1. **Read Genesis 25:27, Exodus 36:1-2, Romans 12:3-8, 1 Corinthians 12:12-20, 2 Chronicles 2:13-14.** God gives us natural and spiritual gifts to direct His will for our life. What kind of gifts and talents does God use? What are some of your gifts and talents? (If you can't think of any, have people in your group share the natural and spiritual gifts they see in your life.) How can your gifts help you decide what you SHOULD'N'T do? (See Acts 6:1-7.)
2. **Read Leviticus 19:18, Romans 13:9, Galatians 5:14, James 2:8, Philippians 2:3-11.** When we are unsure of God's will, why is sacrificial love for others always the right decision? Share an example where you sensed it was God's will for you to sacrifice deeply for someone else. Who is our model of sacrificial love and how does that change the way you think about God's will for your life?
3. **Read Proverbs 11:14, 13:20, 15:22, 20:18, 24:5-6 Acts 15:6-21.** Why is wise counsel important when seeking God's will in difficult decisions? Does God reveal his will through church boards and business meetings? Where do many people find bad counsel and how can we avoid making that mistake? Is it essential that all your wise counsel come from Christians?
4. When God's will is not clear, why should we focus on making a good decision instead of finding God's will? If you were a high school student looking for a college, how would you use this sermon to help you determine God's will for your future?

How Do I Find God's Will In Difficult Situations?

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A wife is bound to her husband as long as he lives. But if her husband dies, she is free to be married to whom she wishes, only in the Lord. 1 Corinthians 7:39 (ESV)

- "How can I know God's will?" makes us passive.
- "How can I make a good decision?" makes us active.

1. Don't make decisions that pulls me away from Christ.

1. Will it build me up?

"I have the right to do anything," you say—but not everything is beneficial. "I have the right to do anything"—but not everything is constructive. 1 Corinthians 10:23 (NIV)

Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize. 1 Corinthians 9:24 (NIV)

2. Will it slow me down?

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, Hebrews 12:1 (NIV)

3. Will it lead me to bondage?

"All things are lawful for me," but not all things are helpful. "All things are lawful for me," but I will not be dominated by anything. 1 Corinthians 6:12 (ESV)

2. Lean into my gifts.

For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb... Your eyes saw my unformed substance; in your book were written, every one of them, the days that were formed for me, when as yet there was none of them. Psalm 139:16 (ESV)

Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness. Romans 12:6–8 (ESV)

1. What do I enjoy?

2. What gifts and passions do others notice?

Let another praise you, and not your own mouth; a stranger, and not your own lips. Proverbs 27:2 (ESV)

Better is open rebuke than hidden love. Faithful are the wounds of a friend; profuse are the kisses of an enemy. Proverbs 27:5–6 (ESV)

3. What is good about living outside my gifts and talents?

4. Why do I always need to qualify my gifts with an honest evaluation of my ability?

...Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you. Romans 12:3 (NIV)

3. Follow dreams and burdens.

Then I arose in the night, I and a few men with me. And I told no one what my God had put into my heart to do for Jerusalem... Nehemiah 2:12 (ESV)

4. It is always God's will that I go out of my way to love people.

"And when he sits on the throne of his kingdom, he shall write for himself Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. Philippians 2:4 (ESV)

5. Seek wise counsel when facing tough decisions.

1. Seek wise counsel in my church.

And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near. Hebrews 10:24–25 (ESV)

2. Get a second opinion.

Where there is no guidance, a people falls, but in an abundance of counselors there is safety. Proverbs 11:14 (ESV)

3. Be teachable.

The way of a fool is right in his own eyes, but a wise man listens to advice. Proverbs 12:15 (ESV)

4. Seek counsel from mature people.

"Your father made our yoke heavy. Now therefore lighten the hard service of your father and his heavy yoke on us, and we will serve you." 1 Kings 12:4 (ESV)

And they said to him, "If you will be a servant to this people today and serve them, and speak good words to them when you answer them, then they will be your servants forever." 1 Kings 12:7 (ESV)

And the young men who had grown up with him said to him, "Thus shall you speak to this people who said to you, 'Your father made our yoke heavy, but you lighten it for us,' thus shall you say to them, 'My little finger is thicker than my father's thighs. And now, whereas my father laid on you a heavy yoke, I will add to your yoke. My father disciplined you with whips, but I will discipline you with scorpions.'" 1 Kings 12:10–11 (ESV)

5. Seek counsel that isn't just what you want to hear.