

***Frequently Asked Questions: How can I know God's will?***  
*October 20 & 21, 2007*

God wants me to know His plan for my life: ***So be careful how you live. Don't live like fools, but like those who are wise. Make the most of every opportunity in these evil days. Don't act thoughtlessly, but understand what the Lord wants you to do.***

*Ephesians chapter 5 verses 15 - 17 (897)*

What is God's Will?

It's not a feeling: ***The human heart is the most deceitful of all things, and desperately wicked.***

***Who really knows how bad it is? Jeremiah chapter 17 verse 9 (587)***

- My feelings play tricks on me & they should not always be followed
- Sometimes the right decisions in life run counter to my feelings

It's not a formula: ***For the Lord is the Spirit, and wherever the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.*** *2 Corinthians chapter 3 verse 17 (883)*

It's a relationship: ***Jesus said, "A person is a fool to store up earthly wealth but not have a rich relationship with God."*** *Luke chapter 12 verse 21 (795)*

- The Bible says very little about the technique of discovering God's will, but it has thousands of verses about building a rich relationship with God! This is the key!

If I want to know God's will for me...

1. I need to admit I need God's help - ***God leads the humble in doing right, teaching them His way.*** *Psalm 25 verse 9 (424)*

- Asking for help is a sign of humility & dependency. Not asking for help is a sign of pride

2. I need to ask - ***If you need wisdom, ask our generous God, and He will give it to you. He will not rebuke you for asking.*** *James chapter 1 verse 5 (930)*

- I need to ask the right person...God!

***But when you ask Him, be sure that your faith is in God alone. Do not waver.... Such people should not expect to receive anything from the Lord.*** *James chapter 1 verses 6 - 7 (930)*

- I need to ask & believe!

3. I need to listen - ***For God speaks again and again, though people do not recognize it.***

*Job chapter 33 verse 14 (408)*

How do I "tune in" God's voice?

I need to listen to the Bible - ***Your word is a lamp to guide my feet and a light for my path.***

*Psalm 119 verse 105 (470)*

- That's why I need to read the Bible every day & know what it says

*(over)*

I need to listen to Bible teachers - ***These are the gifts Christ gave to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers. Their responsibility is to equip God's people to do His work and build up the church, the body of Christ.***

*Ephesians chapter 4 verses 11 & 12 (897)*

I need to listen to God's promptings - ***God's Spirit joins with our spirit to affirm that we are God's children. Romans chapter 8 verse 16 (862)***

- God's promptings will never contradict what God has already said in the Bible

I need to listen to other Godly people - ***Plans succeed through good counsel...***

*Proverbs chapter 20 verse 18 (495)*

I need to listen to my pain - Refer to Pastor Al's talk from last Sunday

4. I need to trust God when I don't understand - ***Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek His will in all you do, and He will show you which path to take. Proverbs chapter 3 verses 5 & 6 (482)***

- I will never understand God's will for my life until I am willing to live this truth out...faith living!
- When I don't understand why God is asking me to do something, it's an obedience test, an obedience check! **\*\*This is key\*\***
- ***Your road led through the sea, Your pathway through the mighty waters—a pathway no one knew was there! Psalm 77 verse 19 (448)***

5. I need to act on what I already know God wants me to do - ***Remember, it is sin to know what you ought to do and then not do it. James chapter 4 verse 17 (932)***

- What do I already know that God wants me to do...but haven't done yet? Am I already reading my Bible? Praying? Serving? Giving? In community with other Christ-followers?
- My next step? To do what God already asked me to do that I still am not doing!
- ***When you make a promise to God, don't delay in following through, for God takes no pleasure in fools. Keep all the promises you make to Him.***

*Ecclesiastes chapter 5 verse 4 (507)*

Next week: How long should I keep praying?

*This study is based on the "Hard Questions" study from Saddleback Church in California where Rick Warren is the lead pastor. Rick is the best-selling author of The Purpose Driven Life and Saddleback is a dynamic church that God is working through to change tens of thousands of lives and churches around the world. Visit them at [www.Saddleback.com](http://www.Saddleback.com)*