

How do I know God's will for my life? Discussion Questions

The importance of doing God's will

How can I give God my will?

"What you need to understand is the true force of the will. This is the governing power in the nature of man, the power of decision, or of choice. Everything depends on the right action of the will.

—Ellen G. White, *Steps to Christ*, p. 47.

1. I can choose to put my own will aside

What is the problem with (every) man's will?

A young man went into a church and started praying. He was so anxious to find God's will for his life that he took a piece of paper and wrote down all the things that he was going to do for God. Then he started to pray that God might reveal to him whether these promises were acceptable to Him.

And God impressed him with this answer: "This is not the way I want you to find My will. All I want of you is for you to sign your name and leave the paper blank for Me to fill."

2. I can choose not to simply go by my feelings

What is wrong with going by our feelings?

"The Christian should not set too high a value, or depend too much on a happy flight of feeling. These feelings are not always true guides. It should be the study of every Christian to serve God from principle, and not be ruled by feeling. By so doing, faith will be brought into exercise, and will increase."

—Ellen G White, *Testimonies Vol 1*, p161

3. I can choose to study God's Word for guidance

There are 783,137 words in the (KJV) Bible. What tools can I use to help me know where to begin?

It is better to understand a little than to misunderstand a lot

4. I can then choose to pray about what I have read

Suggest a model prayer for seeking God's will.

In Alexander Solzhenitsyn's "A Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich," Ivan endures all the horrors of a Soviet prison camp. One day he is praying with his eyes closed when a fellow prisoner notices him and says with ridicule, "Prayers won't help you get out of here any faster." Opening his eyes, Ivan answers, "I do not pray to get out of prison but to do the will of God."

5. I can choose to ask God, in prayer, to reveal His will

What are some of the words I will use?

When Magdalene, the 14-year-old daughter of Martin Luther, lay sick unto death, her father prayed: "Lord, I love her very much and should like to keep her, but, dear Lord, if it is Thy will to take her away, I am glad to know that she will be with Thee.

6. I can choose to consider providential circumstances

Discuss at least one way that you have seen God working in your life in the past.

It was William Carey, the founder of modern missions, who said, "Expect great things from God; attempt great things for God."

7. I can choose to consult Godly friends

Name 3 friends you could ask for wisdom. Now name one you will ask next time you need direction.

Be grateful for the doors of opportunity - and for friends who oil the hinges.

—Anon, Adventist Review, Feb 8, 2003, p31

8. I can choose to make a decision based on the above.

Summarise what the steps are to choosing God's will.

The power of choice God has given to men; it is theirs to exercise. You cannot change your heart, you cannot of yourself give to God its affections; but you can choose to serve Him. You can give Him your will; He will then work in you to will and to do according to His good pleasure. Thus your whole nature will be brought under the control of the Spirit of Christ; your affections will be centred upon Him, your thoughts will be in harmony with Him."

—Ellen G. White, Steps to Christ, p. 47.

9. I can choose to go ahead with my decision

What are some of the things that may prevent me from making a decision based on God's will rather than my own?

A decision is made with the brain. A commitment is made with the heart. Therefore a commitment is much deeper and binding than a decision.

Anon, South Pacific Record, Signs Publishing, Warburton, Vic, Australia, September 22, 2007, p15

10. I can choose to thank God for His guidance.

Suggest a model prayer of gratitude (avoid the cliché "Thank You for...").

"Gratitude is what always spoils life when it is left out."

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