

Matthew 6:33 “But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.”

‘Open’ and ‘Closed’ doors... ‘I just have a peace about it...’

Jonah 1:4-5 “But the LORD sent out a great wind on the sea, and there was a mighty tempest on the sea, so that the ship was about to be broken up. Then the mariners were afraid; and every man cried out to his god, and threw the cargo that was in the ship into the sea, to lighten the load. But Jonah had gone down into the lowest parts of the ship, had lain down, and was fast asleep.”

God hasn't called us to make decisions based on circumstances or the litmus test of 'personal peace.'

For Personal Reflection

1. What decision are you struggling with right now? Is it a non-moral or a moral decision? Does the Bible say anything about it?
2. If it is a non-moral decision, instead of focusing on circumstances or feelings, what action steps are you willing to take?

I Don't Know What to Do!

Finding and Following the Will of God

What's Wrong with the Typical Approach to Finding God's Will?

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Two Big Adjustments

I. Stop Allowing What You Don't Know to Suffocate the Joy and Passion for What You Already Know God Wants You to Do!

We tend to focus almost exclusively on non-moral decisions.

In many ways God doesn't care where you go to school or where you live... He's more concerned with WHO you are and HOW you live.

The most important issues for God are moral purity, sound personal doctrine, compassion, joy, witness, love, worship, and faith, etc.

A. Be Holy

I Thessalonians 4:3 “For this is **the will of God**, your sanctification: that you should abstain from sexual immorality.”

New Living “**God's will** is for you to be holy, so stay away from all sexual sin.”

B. Be Joyful, Prayerful, and Thankful

I Thessalonians 5:16-18 “Always be joyful. Never stop praying. Be thankful in all circumstances, for this is **God's will** for you who belong to Christ Jesus.”

C. Be Fruitful

Colossians 1:9 “⁹ For this reason we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of **His will** in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; ¹⁰ that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing *Him*, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; ¹¹ strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, for all patience and longsuffering with joy; ¹² giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light.”

“*Being filled with the knowledge of God’s will*” doesn’t mean getting divine messages from God about our summer plans, or whom to marry, or where to live. It means we bear fruit.

It’s about WHO you are... not WHERE you are.

D. Be Spirit-filled

Ephesians 5:17-20 “¹⁷ Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what **the will of the Lord** is. ¹⁸ And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit, ¹⁹ speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord, ²⁰ giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

Thankfulness and joy! That’s what God’s most concerned with.

“And what is that will of God? Is it some specific, secret plan God has for us and wants us to spend days, weeks, even years discovering? Not at all. Rather it consists of a sober life, living in the power of the Holy Spirit, and offering praise and gratitude to God for His goodness. Paul’s main concern is about how believers conduct themselves in ordinary life.”

Gerald Sittser, *The Will of God as a Way of Life*, p. 28

“When it comes to most of our daily decisions, and even a lot of life’s ‘big’ decisions, God expects and encourages us to make choices, confident that He’s already determined how to fit our choices into His sovereign will. Passivity is a plague among Christians. It’s not just that we don’t do anything; it’s that we feel spiritual for not doing anything. We imagine that our inactivity is patience and sensitivity to God’s leading. At times it may be; but it’s also quite possible we are just lazy. When we hyper-spiritualize our decisions, we can veer off into impulsive and foolish decisions. But more likely as Christians we fall into endless patterns of vacillation, indecision, and regret. No doubt, selfish ambition is a danger for Christians, but so is complacency, listless wandering, and passivity that pawns itself off as spirituality.” *Just Do Something*, Kevin DeYoung, pg 51

Get happy, get holy, and stay hopeful in Jesus,
for the glory of God!

II. Stop Sifting Every Decision through the Grid of Your Subjective Feelings and Start Living by Faith in Future Grace – Believing God’s Promises

Matthew 6:25-34

2 Peter 1:3-4 “His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature and escape the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.”

“Our fascination with the will of God often betrays our lack of trust in God’s promises and provision. We don’t just want His word that He will be with us; we want Him to show us the end from the beginning and prove to us that He can be trusted. We want to know what tomorrow will bring instead of being content with simple obedience on the journey. And so we obsess about the future and we get anxious, because anxiety, after all, is simply living out the future before it gets here.” *Just Do Something*, Kevin DeYoung, pg. 47