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Learning Gods Will



Radical Series

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Walk with the Lord!

“Do not hastily ascribe things to God. Do not easily suppose dreams, voices, impressions, visions or revelations to be from God. They may be from Him. They may be from nature. They may be from the Devil.” J.K. Johnston, John Wesley Why Christians Sin, Discovery House, 1992, p. 102.

I am sure, we do not wait for dreams, voices impressions, visions or revelations, to learn God's will. When I was a school boy, I knew what my father liked and disliked by the way he looked at me. My closer walk with my father helped me understand and obey my father. There is no short-cut to understand or know or find or discover or learn the will of God. It's our closer walk with God every moment and experiencing His presence that enable us to learn the will of God. We preferred the term 'learning' because it applies to both understanding the will of God and applying it in our lives.

There's a tendency today among God's people, that God affirms our desires if we are His children and we need not strain much to learn God's will. But I urge you to walk with the Lord and walk through the Scriptures to do God's will. When all believers do the will of God, the world will turn to God, looking at our lives. Never let us take the spiritual disciplines lightly, my dear young friends!

I invite you all to take the journey through the articles, which give us a few guidelines in understanding God's will based on the Scriptures with the personal experiences of the authors.

Please remember our dear ones in the fellowship who lost their beloved ones to COVID-19 or to any other ailments as we keep hearing messages of death every day.

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In Christ,
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*“A willing heart is the first step in finding God's will in our lives. We cannot expect God to force us or to plead with us about the calling in our lives.” -
David Jeremiah*

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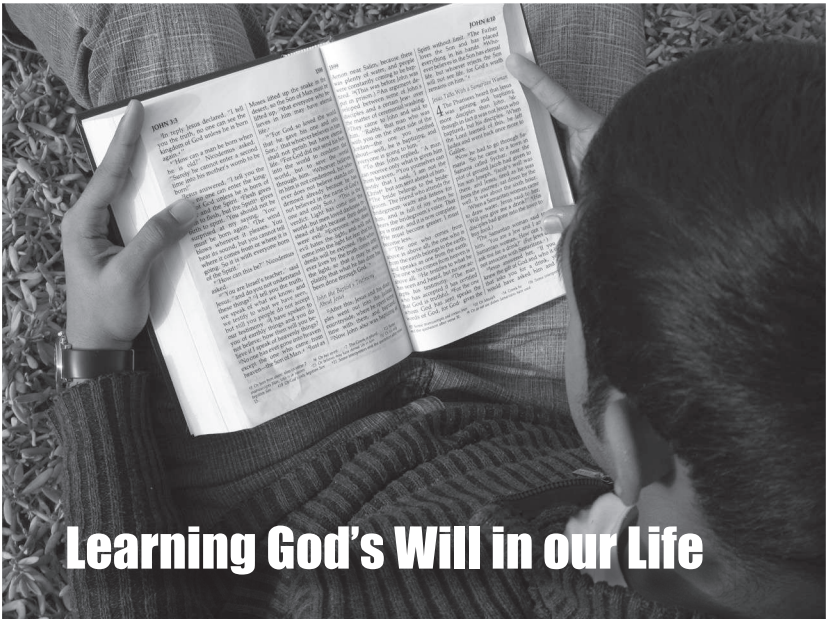
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Learning God's Will in our Life

"Uncle, there is no such thing as finding God's will in marriage. I only need to know the precepts of the bible. God has given us a watch (Bible), so every time I need to know the time, why should I ask God for it? Shouldn't I be checking the time from the watch (Bible)? So, I am reading The Bible to understand its principles in a detailed way and all my decisions in life will be based on those principles."

I had this conversation recently with a young graduate. Many others are holding this very view. On the surface, these words seem to be a result of immature faith and a polite refusal of the doctrine of God's will. Deep down, however, there is a dangerous doctrine hidden in them. As per this view, we need not to do our Quiet Time regularly to listen to God's voice, but we have to do Personal Bible Study to know about God and His principles. This boils down to the view that God no longer speaks to us and we need not listen to His voice to make any decision. This shakes the very foundation of the Christian belief system that UESI depends upon.

We must learn the principles laid in the Bible and apply them. But, if we learn all the principles and precepts, but do not learn to know the will of God, how are we different from the Pharisees of Jesus' time? According to Christ, our righteousness should exceed the righteousness of the Pharisees and Sadducees.

Confused Teachings

This generation gathers a lot of information from the internet. By reading and listening to various teachings, they are trapped under many false doctrines. One of the important teachings among them is "God's will in our life". It is natural for any human being to accept an easy teaching, which does not require any effort. Listening to God's voice and obeying His words needs effort anchored in faith.

Finding God's will becomes a major topic during the time of marriage. It is true that God's will is the most important factor in your marriage, but it is also applicable in every area of life from the tiniest matter to the biggest one. God's will denied is also the denial of God's plan and purpose for your life. Our God is an active God and He involves in every matter of our life. He speaks, listens and does not waste a single incident in our life, but moulds us and brings us closer to Him, through those. He is also not a God of random things, but is a God of purpose and plans. (Jeremiah 29:11) We make a number of decisions each day, most of them unconscious. It would be impossible to seek God's counsel in each of those. But there are still a number of significant decisions that capture our attention each day. A deliberate acknowledgment of the presence of God during these times will carry us far in making God's will a way of life, rather than a crisis experience. The fabric of our lives is woven out of the threads of such minor choices. Therefore, the habit of taking God seriously in small decisions will make major decisions less traumatic.

Christians, in certain situations find it difficult to determine God's will for their lives. When you don't find a clear direction, it can be very confusing and frustrating. God gave Moses the burning bush; He showed His will to Gideon with a fleece; and He spoke to Saul with thunder and lightning. If He does so with us too, it will be easy to understand God's guidance. But He seldom does it this way. To truly find God's will for our life, therefore, we must often step out in faith. This can be scary, but we should realize that God is beside us and He will not allow us to stray as long as we trust in Him.

Proverbs 3:6 promises, *"In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths."* Psalm 37:23 tells, *"The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord"* and Isaiah 30:21 informs, *"Your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, 'This is the way, walk in it,' whenever you turn to the right hand or whenever you turn to the left."* God's word is clearly saying that God will help us to find His direction. But how does it happen?

1. **Saturate yourself with the word of God.** The Primary way of knowing God's will is through God's Word! God's Word will never contradict God's will. Be totally obedient to the precepts and principles in the Bible. If you don't know God's Word, dig into it and you will find His will! Refer to Joshua 1.8 or 2 Timothy 3.16, 17 or Psalms 119.9-11, or John 14.21.
2. God speaks to us through his written Word as we study and meditate upon His holy Scripture. Sometimes, while we're struggling for God's guidance, a scripture that we are reading may pop out at us confirming which way God wants us to go. Psalm 119:105 tells us, *"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path."* Allow God's Word to illumine your pathway. John 15:7 records that *if we abide in Him and His word abides in us*, then whatever we ask it will be granted. That means, our will merges with the will of God. This



experience is achieved when we are soaked with the Word of God in obedience. At this stage whatever we ask it would be in the will of God.

2. Pray continually and seek God's wisdom & guidance in everything you do.

In order for God to speak to us, we need to be in his presence listening to his voice. As we spend time in prayer, we may sense God's leading in our lives. We need to seek God in prayer. Luke 11:9-10 promises, *"So I say to you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened."* If we truly seek God's will, we will find it.

3. Weigh the Circumstances with discernment: Many times, God will cause doors to open, or others to close. If we are walking in obedience to him, we have to understand that events in our life are ordered by God. They don't just happen by chance. Events will sometimes indicate God's direction for us. Paul wrote about such a circumstance in his life in 2 Corinthians 2:12, *"Furthermore, when I came to Troas to preach Christ's gospel, and a door was opened to me by the Lord."* As you are seeking God's direction, events may establish what you have already felt God telling you to do.

4. Listen to the voice of the Holy Spirit in your heart.

Sometimes the Holy Spirit will minister to our spirit and reveal God's plan for us. We will have an assurance deep in our heart. We will feel God's voice guiding us. God will sometimes speak to our heart. Jesus promised that the Holy Spirit would help guide us in John 16:13, *"However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for he will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come."* Just like Elijah in 1 Kings 19:11-12, we need to be listening for God's still small voice speaking to our soul.

5. Listen to the voice of others. God can use other believers to reveal His direction. We may be singing a song at church or reading a Christian book or hear the Pastor's message or one of our friends could say something, that will direct us towards God's will.

God can reveal his direction to us in any of these five ways. In the Bible, God spoke through a donkey, a crow or anybody or anything in His creation. But none of these things will contradict God's Word.

Even when God directs, it is sometimes difficult to discern if what we feel is truly God's plan for our lives. Jesus said in Matthew 18:16, "...by the word of two or three witnesses every word may be established." Jesus is here quoting Deuteronomy 19:15. I believe this is a good principle to follow in trying to figure out God's plan for you. Initially, you get the direction from one of the five ways mentioned above, but now God will confirm his plan to you through the mouth of two or three witnesses. In other words: one or two more things will confirm God's direction for you. When you see this confirmation, then you will know it's time to step out in faith. There have been times in my life when I simply had to take that first step of faith, and when I did; God confirmed His plan for me in choosing the job and in my marriage.

Pray and read God's Word every morning, interpret God's Word, apply "dynamic equivalence", recognize God's voice, pray and obey as He reveals His will. Crosscheck with your mentor whether you are applying God's will correctly. Colossians 3:16 instructs us, *"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord."* God will confirm his will in our lives without any conflict with the principles of the word of God and giving undisturbed peace within.

God's will in our life is not a passive doctrine but an active one resulting in living our life anchored in faith. God's will




is not 'one' way of life; it is the Way of Life. He does not unfold His plan before us like a blueprint and expect us to do nothing until we see it. His will for us is a dependent walk, in which we invite Him to participate in all of our activities. To be a person of His choice, you must learn to listen to His voice, recognize it, and obey wholeheartedly. Let us submit ourselves to the will of God to guide us. Quite often our problem is not that we do not know the will of God; because God always speaks in our context; but the difficulty is in obeying. Let us submit to Him to reveal His will the way He wants and accept His ways in our life even though they seem to be different from our expectations.



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We hear people often say, “God-willing, I will do it.” This is in lieu with one of the instructions given by Paul in his letters.

God’s will is adhere to the plan of God for which we are created. For some it appears cumbersome. If our hearts are filled and overflowing with His love, nothing is hard. I just remember a quote I had read during my college days, “However hard the way might seem, it was planned by a loving Father.”

Jesus, during his tenure on earth, was in constant fellowship with His loving Father. That’s why he was always conscious of fulfilling His Father’s Will.

God’s will for everyone may not be the same. We need to wait upon the Lord in order to find out God’s will for us in career, marriage and future courses of action. It might differ from person to person.

At times, in fulfilling God’s Will one has to go against the wishes of their loved ones. It will definitely be a painful experience for them, but our face needs to be set on Jesus who will silently carve the pathway for us.

Bible reveals God's will in certain aspects which is common to all. Let us see just three things.

A Call to Suffer

1. It is God's will to suffer for the sake of righteousness. I Peter 3:17-(For it is better, if it is God's will, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil)

A Call to do Good

2. It is God's will that by doing good you should silence the ignorant talk of foolish people (1 Peter 2:15).

A Call to lead others to the Son of God.

3. It is not God's will that one of these should perish. (Matthew 18:14, KJV: "Even so it is not the will of your Father which is in heaven, that one of these little ones should perish.)

John 6:40 - For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who beholds the Son and believes in Him will have eternal life, and I myself will raise him up the last day."

These verses talk about soul winning.

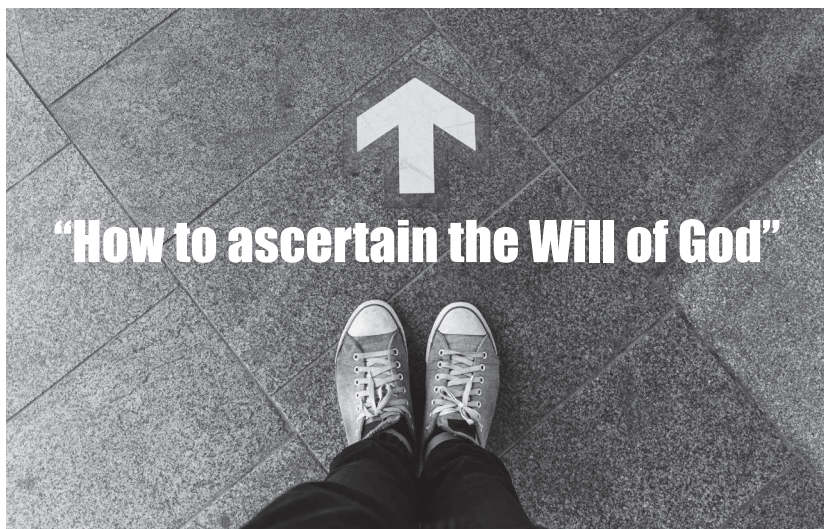
Matthew 7:21 goes like this. If you call me "Father" "Father" and do not do my will you will not enter the Kingdom of God."

So as Children of God, we need to fulfill the will of God if we own Him as our heavenly Father. The world may not understand us and even criticize us but our reward will be greater in Heaven.

Let us visualize our eternal Kingdom and continue to live as Kingdom people and follow the instructions of our King.



Mekala Prabhakar, Ex MICEU, worked in the North Indian states as a missionary with FMPB since 1982 till 2017. At present assisting in the communications department of FMPB headquarters in Chennai.



God's Plan

God's Purpose

God's Will

Cannot Be Challenged, Changed, Or Questioned.

**But Has To Be Accepted By A Mature, Humble And
Obedient Child Of God.**

What does God want you to do with your life? May be you have an idea of what He is calling you to but you'd like confirmation. Or maybe you're not sure what God's will is. If we want to discover God's will for our lives, then we need to intentionally draw near to Him every day. And although there isn't one correct way to do this, there are steps we can take that helps. Also, Before taking any tough, difficult, and important decisions in one's life, remember to do the following points. It is imperative to withdraw

from all known sin Ps. 66:17–20 and to seek God's will as a cleansed person. 1 Jn 1:9.

1. Surrender your own will. As you begin to seek God's will, get your heart into such a state that it has no will of its own regarding a given matter. Most of the difficulties are overcome when our heart is ready to do God's will.

2. Do not depend on feelings. Leaning towards the feelings will make one liable to great delusions.

3. Seek the Holy Spirit's will through

God's Word. The Holy Spirit guides us according to the Scripture and is never contrary to the truths of the Word of God. Ps 118:11. (Beware of isolating special verses and taking them as guidance, unless confirmed to you in other ways.)

4. Note providential circumstances. Make a spiritual-minded interpretation of events. Remember Satan acts to deter and hinder us from God's will. I Thes 2:18; 1 Tim 4:1

5. Pray. Keep the matter constantly before God in Prayer. Acts 13:1-3

6. Wait. Wait on God till you get the peace of God that passes all human understanding. Willingness to submit to the Lord's direction is a basic prerequisite.

7. Be committed. Rom 12:1&2. Wholehearted trust. Pro 3:5&6 says "Trust the Lord with all your heart." James says, "A double-minded man is unstable." So IMPLICITLY TRUST GOD about the matter.

8. Wear Christ's Yoke: Mt 11:29. Taking His yoke means:

a. Learning from close contact.

b. Being steered in the right direction.

c. Moving at a right pace.

9. Wisdom of Counsellors. Share your concern with spiritually-minded seniors whose opinion you value. Very often confirmation comes through their reaction or advice. Pro 1:5; 12:15

10. Ways of guidance for others. Study the biographies of men of God, from Scripture, as well as historical stalwarts and missionaries' lives. Acts 10, Jug 6: 37-39. Write down all that, in the ways God is leading you.

11. Be prepared to step out in faith. If you know God has spoken, then the only course is to obey trusting Him. Luke 5:1-9

12. Share with your close friend in the Lord, who will stand with you in positive faith for God's mind to be revealed and pray together with.



Rev. Dr. Subrata Fullonton, has been serving the Most High God since 1970. His family lives in Sainikpuri, Hyderabad.

To Know The Will Of God Is The Greatest Knowledge.

To Find The Will Of God Is The Greatest Discovery.

To Do The Will Of God Is The Greatest Achievement.



GOD'S WILL

"So then do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is."

Ephesians 5:17 (HCSB)

(Scripture References)

Ephesians 5:1-2, Matthew 22:36-40

How would I know God's will?

First of all, we should have a desire and zeal to know what is God's will for our life. To know the will of God we must have a personal relation with Him through Prayer and His Word (Bible). As we grow in prayer and in our knowledge of God's Word, gradually we understand His will for our lives. Jesus said, His true relationship is with those who know and do the Father's will. *"For whoever does the will of God is My brother and my sister and mother."* Mark 3:35 (NKJV)

God's will

Paul writes to the Church of Ephesians that "God is love and His great desire and will is that we may love God and

love each other" Eph. 5:1-2 (NKJV) and He emphasised this through two commandments *"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: "Love you're neighbour as yourself."* Matt. 22:37-39. If we say I love my God and I love my neighbour, then we must have a zeal to preach to our neighbours the work Christ did on the cross.

Abraham is an example of Love

Sarah in her jealousy sent Hagar and Ishmael away into wilderness, she didn't even care that they may die but Abraham had a concern for his son Ishmael, he woke up early morning and gave them bread and water. Genesis 21:14 (NKJV). Abraham fulfilled his responsibility of being a father, in love he provided them to survive and not to die without water and bread. Question for us, today do we love our neighbour and provide them the living water and bread of life the Jesus Christ?

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Knowing God and His Will



While the pagan world of its time was groping about in the dark after God, the first words spoken by the God of the Bible are, "Let there be light." The Bible presents God as an intelligent being, and he is *intelligible* as well. The Bible is not a mystery book, its message is meant to be read and understood. Even in his unapproachability, God "dwells in unapproachable *light*" (1 Timothy 6:16). "The secret things belong to the Lord our God, but the things that are revealed belong to us (the people of God) and to our children forever" (Deuteronomy 29:29). We can know God, and therefore his will, because God has revealed them in Scripture, in history and most clearly in his Son. While trying to understand God's will, let's begin by discussing what it is not.

- **God's will is not revealed randomly in the Bible:** One day, a young person praying for a life partner happened

to be reading one of the 85-odd passages in the Bible which mention iron. Around that time, she received a proposal from someone working in an iron and steel plant. Based on the passage she had read, she felt “led” to conclude that God was telling her to marry this young engineer working in the iron and steel plant. They went on to have a long and blessed married life, but to claim God’s guidance from one of those passages is a blatant violation of every principle of Bible interpretation. The Bible always reveals its message in its context. To pluck verses out of context is misinterpretation at best and false teaching at worst.

- **God’s will is not mystical, magical or mysterious:**

Before digital technology took over our lives, every Christian home in India had a “Golden Text Calendar” hanging on its living room wall which was a monthly calendar with a Bible verse for each day. The calendar was well intentioned but many of us have been guilty of having a “verse-for-the-day” approach to knowing God’s will – almost like a daily horoscope. This senseless tradition continues today in the form of daily WhatsApp forwards with Bible verses. God’s will is not presented as a discrete set of verses meant for daily guidance. Verses from the Bible do not mysteriously or magically take on new meaning based on the circumstances we are undergoing.

- **God’s will is not neatly packaged:** In certain Christian circles, we have been taught that God’s will is either his “perfect will” when circumstances turn out favourably and his “permissive will” when they don’t. The Bible asserts that God is sovereign over all human events – from the epoch-making to the everyday and mundane. Even something as statistically random as the throwing of dice is within the scope of God’s sovereignty (Proverbs 16:33). Even when the worst and unimaginable disaster strikes, it is not because God has passively permitted it. The clear teaching of the Bible is that he has actively

caused not all the disasters, there are some which are man made – Amos 3:6, Isaiah 45:7, Lamentations 3:38. Of course, he does not cause these calamities sadistically but with restorative intent (Lamentations 3:31-33, Ezekiel 33:11). God is not anxiously pacing up and down, wringing his hands helplessly, when disaster or tragedy strikes. Nothing is at the periphery of his will.

- **God's will is not a matter of convenience:** We love fairy-tale endings even as adults. Take the landmark passage in Genesis 24 as a case study. It is read at almost every engagement ceremony in Christian circles. We love how the chapter ends with the hope that Isaac and Rebekah will live happily thereafter – after all, God's will so beautifully unfolded in this story. If we read on the following chapters, we can easily see that their marriage was far from perfect. Also, in the overarching context of Genesis, chapter 24 is not meant to be a treatise on finding one's life partner. God's will often blooms in the slush and mess of our ordinary lives. When God brings adversity upon us, we should like our Lord at Gethsemane pray "Nevertheless, not my will, but yours, be done" Luke 22:42. Remember "it was the will of the Lord to crush him" - Isaiah 53:10.
- **It is never human free will versus God's will:** God is sovereign and at the same time, humans have free will and choice. It's never either God's will or human free will operating in any given situation, but the Bible emphasizes both fully and equally. Human will and responsibility are real with eternal consequences and at the same time, God's sovereignty is absolute. There is a mysterious interaction between human free will and God's sovereignty. God's sovereign will always prevails over human choices and actions (somehow) without ever violating them.

God's will cannot be separated from the being and the person of God. We must know him in order to know his will. scriptures reveal the general will of God, not the particular.



We derive the specific will of God for our circumstances from the principles and patterns laid out in Scripture. We know God and therefore his will by immersing ourselves in Scripture, by not being “conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect will of God” Romans 12:1. John Owen said “If private revelations (extra-biblical dreams, visions, voices from God, etc.) agree with Scripture, they are unnecessary and if they disagree they are false.” I close with the words of the apostle Peter who, instead of boasting in his mountaintop transfiguration experience, considered the revelation of Scripture to be “a more sure word of prophecy” because “the prophecy came not . . . by the will of man: but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit to which we will do well to pay attention” (1 Peter 1:19-21).

Suggested reading

1. Readers are urged to read the chapter on *Guidance* from John Stott’s “The Contemporary Christian.”
2. For a brilliant exposition on the Isaac-Rebekah passage in Genesis 23, please listen to “Covenant Romance first Presbyterian Church (sermonaudio.com)”

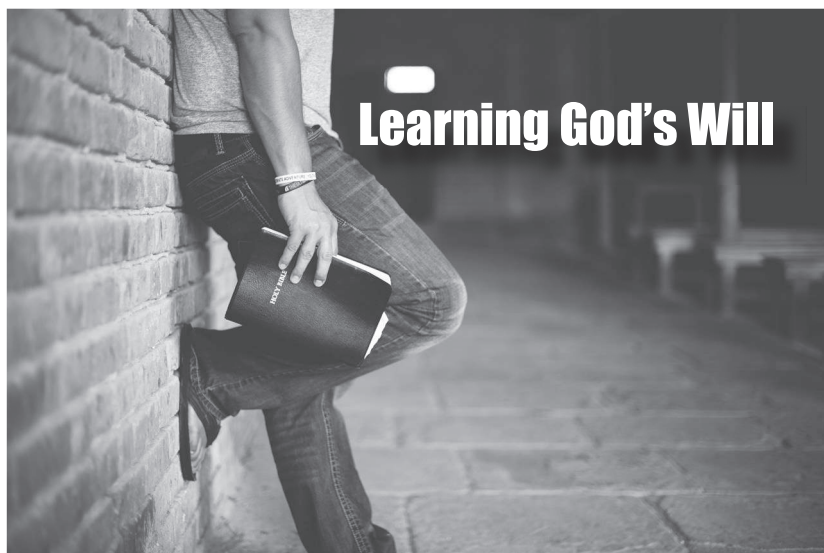


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READERS' RESPONSE

Dear CL readers, we would like to get your feedback about CL. Kindly send your constructive feedback to campus.link@uesi.in

Hon. Editor



We all go through a process of learning from childhood, and keep learning until the end of our lives. There are Music Schools to train us, Driving Schools to teach how to drive safe and Art Schools to improve the hidden talents within us. As a disciple of the Lord Jesus Christ, He puts us in His **School of learning** to teach various aspects of Christian life. His desire is that we may become mature disciples in order to serve Him the way He wants. Learning to pray, to study God's Word and to serve Him are basic to Christian discipleship. **Learning God's will** is a life-long process which requires total submission to God and a willingness to obey Him in all things.

The will of God is not a formula, it is a relationship. The Lord Jesus said, I am the Good Shepherd, I know my sheep and my sheep know me. My sheep listen to my voice, I know them and they follow me. (John 10: 14, 27). In this article let us look at a few details about God's blueprint for His children and the spiritual discipline of learning God's will and doing it.

Here are three great truths about God's will First, God has a blueprint for each of His children. In Jeremiah 29:11 God says 'For I know the plans I have for you,' declares the Lord, 'plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.'

Secondly, Many are the plans in a person's heart, but it is the Lord's purpose that prevails. (Proverbs 19:21). Whatever you may plan, finally it is God who works in you to will and to act according to His good pleasure (Philippians 2:13). So as a child of God it is a blessing to be in the centre of His will.

Thirdly, God wants us to be careful about how we live, making most of every opportunity. We are instructed "not to be foolish but understand what the Lord's will is". Ephesians 5:17. This is possible when we give total control of our lives to God and be willing to be led by His Spirit.

Jesus Christ is the pattern and Role Model

Learning the will of God is possible by living in an intimate relationship with Him as Jesus did.

In John 4:34, Jesus said to His disciples when He was on His mission in Samaria, "My meat is to do the will of Him that sent me, and to finish His work." There must be a willingness to die to one's own self. Many times, we make up our mind about a matter and then go to God for His sanction. This is contrary to the discipline of learning God's will. Lord Jesus Christ before going to the cross prayed in the garden of Gethsemane saying "O my Father, if it be possible let this cup pass from me ; nevertheless not as I will but as thou wilt (Matthew 26:39). This is the lesson we learn from the Lord Jesus Christ.

In John 17 :4, Jesus prayed the High Priestly prayer, "Father I have glorified Thee on the earth, I have finished the work which Thou gavest Me to do." In order to finish the work given to us we must follow Christ's example.

Steps in learning the will of God

- **Willingness to learn.** Psalm 143:10 David says “Teach me to do Thy will; for Thou art my God: Thy spirit is good; lead me into the land of uprightness. We must be willing to learn and do His will. God will not force us and push us. .So we must say with faith “Lord teach me Thy will and help me to obey”.
- In my life, I started learning God’s will when I finished my UG course in Agriculture at Bangalore in 1964. I wanted to join PG course in Coimbatore. When I was at these crossroads, I had the privilege of attending the UESI Leadership Conference in Kotagiri. In this Conference I made a total surrender of my life to the Lord Jesus Christ and returned from the conference with renewed joy. I committed my future and asked the Lord to teach me His way and fulfil His purpose in my life. I was praying as in Psalm 25:4 “Show me thy ways, O Lord; teach me thy paths”The Lord opened a way to do my PG course in Coimbatore and then in UK.

This following song, which I learnt in that Leadership Camp became my prayer and experience from that time and had continued while choosing my career and life partner. This spiritual habit by God’s grace continues even now while taking decisions.

Teach me thy way, O Lord; teach me thy way!
Thy guiding grace afford; teach me thy way!
Help me to walk aright, more by faith, less by sight;
lead me with heav’nly light; teach me thy way! [B .Mansell Ramsey]

- **We must take delight in His will.** God’s plan is the best for us and we should accept it wholeheartedly. I desire to do your will O my God; your law is within my heart. (Psalm 40:8).
- **Not to have confidence only in our own understanding**

Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding. We must go to the Lord for any small or great things and seek His guidance. We have to acknowledge Him in all our ways. (Proverbs 3:5,6)

- **We must Pray for wisdom.** God has promised to give us wisdom in any matter (James 1.5). This includes wisdom concerning His will for our life and concerning specific matters.
- **Be willing to have a renewed mind.** If we want to learn God's will we must have a renewed mind as our natural mind is stubborn and self-willed. In Romans 12:1, 2 Paul exhorts us to offer our bodies as a living sacrifice, which involves our heart, mind and will. By the transformation of our mind we will be able to know the good, acceptable and perfect will of God. Instead of learning the will of God, if we insist on having a thing in our own way, we may achieve it, but we will be losers in the end.

Five major steps in learning God's will

1. Word of God

When we are reading and meditating on the Word of God, we will learn and discern the will of God. From our daily scripture portion God will give a verse or a thought to confirm His will. The Bible verse can light our way and help us to take the next step. (Psalm 119 :105)

2. Prayer

Spend focused time in prayer asking God, what He wants you to do. Ask the Lord to instruct you and direct you in the way you should go. (Psalm 32 :8). He is always ready to give you bountiful supply of wisdom when you ask Him in prayer (James 1:5,6). Do not be anxious but by prayer ask the Lord to teach and lead you. (Philippians 4: 6)

3. Counsel of God's people and Elders

Seek the counsel of mature Christians and Mentors. In Proverbs 15 :22 we see that "Plans fail for lack of coun-

sel, but with many advisers they succeed". Prayers with fellow believers will bring more confirmation to the already revealed will of God. Proverbs 11 :14 says "In the multitude of counsellors there is safety"

4. **Ask for God's confirming Peace**

Our God is the God of Peace. When we are waiting for God to confirm His will, first there should be an inward peace in our hearts which will multiply. When we experience this growing peace we can be sure of His will. (Colossians 3:15)

5. **Consider the Circumstances.**

When learning and doing the Will of God, after you have followed the above steps, you should see the circumstances around you. When we are willing to obey the Lord to the revealed will he will order the circumstances to be favourable from His perspective.

Conclusions

Learning God's will and being obedient to Him is the blessed experience of a child of God. It is a life-long process of taking delight in doing God's will to bring glory and honour to Him, through our life and witness in this world.

As the Bible teacher Warren Wiersbe said, "The Christian who waits for God's leading and waits on God's working will not be disappointed or ashamed. True faith is not in a hurry until God opens the way"



Dr. R. Earnest Dhanaraj, edhanaraj@gmail.com

"The happiest pillow on which you may rest your head is the knowledge of God's will. I cannot imagine a more miserable situation than consciously to be out of God's will." - R.T. Kendall



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"When we want to know God's will, there are three things which always concur: the inward impulse, the Word of God and the trend of circumstances. Never act until these three things agree." - F.B. Meyer

Thank you Lord!

Hello ,I am M. Satya Swaroop Roy and my wife is Asha Roy. We were married in 2017 and we serve as a graduate family in the Agricultural University Zone, Hyderabad, Telangana. God has gifted us baby Dhanya Roy on July 1st 2019 and through her God took us through some tough situations, and showed His abundant mercy and helped us, which I would like to share with you all.

In October 2018, we were overjoyed to know we were going to be parents for the first time. While Asha had her regular checkups at a gynecologist in Hyderabad, in the end of her first trimester she was hospitalized because of high temperature for a day. As we continued our regular visits to the doctor, scan reports were all good.

During the seventh and eighth months, the reports showed that the baby's brain had developed extra fluid and her growth was hampered. Asha was healthy, the amniotic fluid was sufficient, and they said there were 90% chances the baby would be healthy and may be 10%, not. The doctors' team was very careful, doing scans twice a week until the delivery.

During that time, God has been reminding us of His promises in Joshua 1:9, 3:5 . Upon this promise, we were encouraged not to fear, but to look forward to the miracle He was going to do. In anticipation to always be thankful to the Lord, we decided to name her as Dhanya (Dhanyavaad), if it was a baby girl. When we went for the regular checkup on July 1st , the doctors said the baby was critical and they conducted an emergency C-section, and Dhanya was born. We were thankful to the Lord for giving the doctors timely wisdom.

But as the doctors predicted, she had extra fluids in the brain, infection in the lungs, P.O.A and V.S D holes in the heart, feeding problems, and she was underweight (1.84 kgs).She was admitted in an I.C.U. for 28 days. During these days, we saw the fulfillment of God's promise (Joshua 3:5), His mighty hand was with us physically, financially and mentally. While we had to pay an amount of Rs. 50,000 at the hospital for the 2-3 days stay and we had no money. God in an amazing way had provided it by the end of 3rd day through one of His servants. When we had to pay the final bill, we were supposed to pay Rs 1 lakh, but we were surprised to see the account department ask us how much we can pay. We had only Rs. 40,000 and that they accepted that as final, and discharged us. As she was born with many problems, Dhanya's blood samples were sent for chromosomal tests. Bringing her back home with weight 1.54 kgs, it was a challenge for us to take care of her. Every 15 days she used to turn blue and had problems in breathing, so we had to hospitalize her for 2-3 days. The doctors told us that there was no hope of her survival if the chromosomal test turns out positive. This had made us tremble, but we kept praying and waiting for the results for 45days.

But , finally the test had turned out positive, and we were told that she was born with Trisomy 18 and chromosomal abnormality and it is not because of the parents, but one out of 5000 babies one are born with this issue, that

they will be usually aborted during 6 -12 weeks of the pregnancy, and even if they are born, they can live only for 5-10 days. We were told that even if we spent all our money, she would not live for many days. Giving her supportive care was all that could be done.

But we still continued to hope, and consulted different pediatricians. Some doctors called her a miracle baby. Alongside us many who knew about Dhanya's health condition prayed for us, and God gave us courage and peace in this situation. We had never imagined that prayer could make weak people like us this strong!

By the Grace of God and with everyone's prayers, Dhanya was now 5 months old. One day, on November 28th 2019, she had high temperature and breathing problem. Hospitalized again as per the routine, and after her condition stabilized she was discharged. As we were taking her back home, her lung infection relapsed and the fever returned. While she was just 2 kgs and there was pressure on her heart, she was being supported with High flow oxygen. The doctor told us of the possibility of heart failure. We couldn't digest the news, and we continued to pray for her healing. While we were praying on the night of December 5th, 2019, a Christian doctor from the hospital called us and said "It is a wonder that Dhanya is still alive till now, may be God prolonged her days for you. But the pain she is going through is more than a woman experiences during labor. She is struggling so hard to breathe as if she is at the gym working out all day, so go and take the baby and spend these last few hours with her". We rushed to the I.C.U. and took her into our arms and we couldn't bear to see the pain she was going through.

Till then we had prayed for her healing, but now we changed it – "Lord, it is enough, we can't see her suffer anymore. Let your will be done!" 5 hours later, on December 6th at 3:55am, she went to be with the Lord. God had allowed her to stay with us until we asked Him to take her! In these 5 months and 5 days, God has helped




us each and every day to get treatment from the best doctors, paying about Rupees 10 lakhs.

Even though Dhanya is not with us anymore, and we don't have answers to a few questions, we believe our God won't make any mistakes. Many helped and prayed for Dhanya. With God's Word, their personal experiences many encouraged us and my heartfelt thanks to everyone. God kept us reminding from His word not to get depressed. We've experienced the fruit of prayers and the Word of God. The meaning of the word "Dhanya" (Dhanyavaad) is "Thankful". Pray that we will always, be thankful to the Lord who has been with us, guided us, loved us and strengthened us.



**Roy and Asha, Agricultural University Zone,
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GOD'S WILL AND HUMAN RESPONSIBILITY



Decisions! Decisions!! Decisions!!! We all make so many decisions in our day to day lives. We often experience being at crossroads with multiple options when we take an important decision. The greatest decision we will ever make in our entire life is to receive Jesus Christ into our lives as our Saviour and Lord. This one single decision is bound to govern all our future decisions as He becomes the Lord of our lives. Jesus knocks at the door of our heart (Rev 3:20), but He neither opens the door nor forces himself in. He patiently waits and expects us to open the door of our heart from inside. We become a Christian when we renounce our will and submit ourselves to His will. This is exactly the meaning of opening the door of our heart!!

We need to align our will with the will of our Creator God as we cannot understand our future with our finite minds. We do not have the capacity to plan our lives. Our omniscient God in His infinite wisdom knows what is best for us now as He knows the next 50-60 years of

our life. Learning to understand the will of God keeps us from spending our energies, efforts and time aimlessly. Obedience to the will of God causes great joy and peace while disobedience to same is sin. Obedience to His will is costly, but disobedience is costlier.

Famous theologian Dr. R. C. Sproul explained that God's will can be explained at three levels.

- The *Decretive, Sovereign or Hidden* will of God ordains everything that comes to pass. Whatsoever God decrees is hidden to us until it happens. It is God's secret plan that determines everything that happens in the universe. We cannot miss it as it will always come to pass. We must receive God's Sovereign will with a **humble trust in Him**.
- The *Preceptive, Moral or Revealed* will of God is revealed in the law (precepts) and is very plain to us. This aspect is written and revealed in His inspired Word and God has also written His moral law in our conscience. We have the ability (but not the right) to break these commands. We must **know His Word and obey it** so that we may walk in holiness.
- *God's Dispositional Will* deals with His disposition or attitude. His will of disposition is what pleases or displeases Him. God is pleased when we find our pleasure in obedience and He is very displeased when we are disobedient. We must **exercise freedom and wisdom**.

The best time in learning God's will is when we are in a closer walk and relationship with our saviour. We understand His will clearly when we are fully committed to do it. God will keep us guessing when He is sure that we will not obey His revelation. We can truly decipher God's thoughts about us when we seek Him by holding on to the mirror – His Word and meditating on it regularly. The true mark of spirituality is seen in those seeking to know the will of God that is revealed in His preceptive will. Hence the *pri-*

mary way of knowing God's Will is through God's Word! God's Word will **never** contradict God's will. We must have a general understanding of how God works in our lives. We must also be willing to listen to wise counsel and take confirmation from others.

The other very important way of learning God's will is when we spend time in His presence in prayer and seek to listen to His voice and leading. We are also led by God the Holy Spirit when we yield ourselves to be controlled by Him. We will have an assurance deep in our heart, of certain things bothering us when we are filled by the Spirit. When He guides us and we live in accordance to God's Word, the events of our life are ordered by Him. He will cause many doors to open and others to be closed. He guides us through various circumstances in our life. God also speaks to us through mature believers who bring us His directions. He may speak through a Pastor's message, a choir song or a Christian book which we are reading. Seek counsel from people who are prayerful, who know the Word of God and practicing Christians.

God also places a personal desire or burden within us in a certain direction that will accomplish His will and purpose. Most important is that God has given us a renewed mind that is intelligent. He has bestowed us with common sense that He expects us to use to make decisions. Believers are free to choose their course of action and must be responsible to ensure that it is within God's preceptive will. The objective is to make wise decisions with God given wisdom, reasoning and mind. We need to humbly submit to the outworking of God's sovereign will in all decisions. He has also specifically addressed many areas in the Bible and we must obey the revealed commands and principles.

God can reveal his direction to us through any one of the above ways. He will however confirm His direction for you in one or more of the other ways in case of confusion or ambiguity. God is not a sadist or a joy killer. He wants to give us the desire of our hearts, and the only reason why



we don't get it is because it may not be the best for us in the present time. Many times, it appears God is silent as He simply wants us to take the step of faith. Once we take that step, He unfolds the plan for us as we depend on Him to move ahead. God uses various means to communicate His mind to us and we must be very alert to feel His very gentle nudge or hear His still small voice.

It is very easy in learning to find God's Will when compared with the difficulty in handling and obeying His will. The first step in handling God's will is to pray and continually seek God's wisdom and guidance in everything we do. The next step is to be obedient to the level what God has already shown or revealed to you. We must be willing to change ourself and adapt ourselves to be willing to rearrange our priorities that we glorify God in everything we do. We will be able to accept God's perspective in our life when we have saturated ourself with the Word of God. We find obeying His will for our lives possible as we continue to listen and learn from the examples of others.

I would like to conclude with a quote from the well-known missionary Jim Elliot who said, "God always gives His best to those who leave the choice with him". When we have a heart willing to do God's will, He will reveal it to us in ways we understand. When we continue to obey, He will reveal more of Himself to us. We will grow in spiritual maturity and will not be surprised or caught unaware by the sovereign acts of God in our lives. I invite you to join many of our fore-fathers in UESI who have studied in the school of obedience and have left a trail for us to follow. Let us give up what we are holding away from Him and let God.

Emmanuel Pilli and Phoebe Vanmathy



Emmanuel Pilli is faculty with NIT Jaipur. **Phoebe** teaches Maths in a High School. They are blessed with a daughter **Pramiti Evangeline** who has just started her class IX.

They are active members of Jaipur EGF.

GOD'S WILL - Contd frm. Pg. 16

Jesus is a great example of Love

Jesus in His love was always working hard and travelling from one place to another to share the Good News (gospel) with people. We need to think; Are we intentional in sharing the good news with our neighbours?

Once Jesus wanted to go from Judea to Galilee and Bible says, *"Jesus had to go through Samaria."* John 4:4 (NKJV). The Samaritans whom the Jews despised with whom they had a history of dispute, yet Jesus in His love decided to go through Samaria. We need to think; do we love our enemies? We need to decide in our hearts that we have to give them Gospel that they may also get saved.

The relations with these neighbours, the samaritans had so worsened over the years that the proud Jews would not eat, drink from their hands or talk to them. Today, many of us also have poor relationship with our neighbours in our city. Jesus in His love took the initiative to go through Samaria. He built a bridge through a woman He met at the well. We need to ponder whether in love we are building bridges to provide people the **"Life well spring"** (Jesus Christ).

May God Bless you !



Rev. Rahul Kuchekar, A former Computer Networking Engineer and Microsoft Certified System Engineer is a Theological Teacher and a Pastor in in Delhi and He equips Bible College Students and Churches in Delhi & Dehradun for Evangelism. He is also committed to sharing the gospel among Ishmaelite's group.

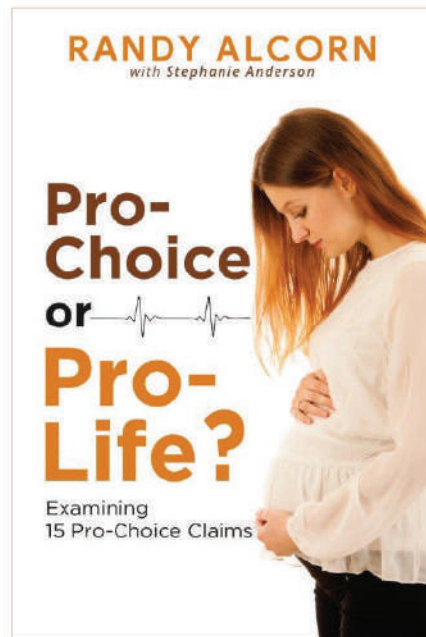
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"Our difficulty is not that we don't know God's will. Our discomfort comes from the fact that we do know His will, but we do not want to do it." - Henry Blackaby

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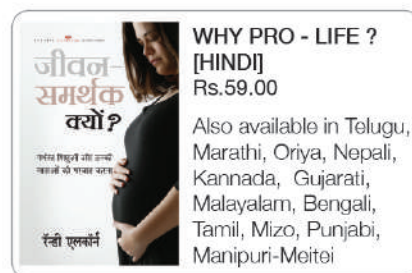
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