

Biblical Decision Making¹

1. God has a specific will for my life.
 - a. _____ believed this (**Ps 48:14**).
 - b. Solomon believed this (**Prov 3:5-6**).
 - c. Isaiah believed this (**Isa 58:11**).
 - d. Jesus believed this (**John 4:34; 5:30; 6:38-40**).
 - e. The early church believed this (**Acts 13:2-3**).
 - f. _____ believed this (**1 Cor 1:1; 2 Cor 1:1; Eph 1:1; Col 1:1**).
 - g. James believed this (**Jas 4:15**).
 - h. Summary: Scripture teaches that God works all things after the counsel of his will (**Eph 1:11**). Since you are part of the “all things,” it stands to reason that God has a specific will for your life.

2. Incorrect ways to determine God’s will.
 - a. I don’t find God’s will by looking for _____ (cf. **1 Cor 16:8-9**).
 - i. How do you know God opened the door?
 - ii. We have an open door to sin every day!
 - b. I don’t find God will be looking at _____.
 - i. How do you know how to interpret circumstances? They can mean one thing to you and another thing to someone else.
 - ii. Circumstances are not vehicles of divine will.
 - c. I don’t find God’s will by _____.
 - i. Jesus Christ earthly ministry ended in death—that didn’t go so well.

¹ For a deeper look at the issue, discussing the theology involved and various implications, see the three lessons: “The Theological Foundation for Biblical Decision Making,” “How Not To Make Decisions,” “How To Make God-Honoring Decisions,” available at the GCBC sermonaudio.com webpage.

- ii. Jeremiah had few results in his ministry. If Jeremiah look at the results, he would have quite on doing God's will long time ago.
 - iii. Success doesn't determine God's will.
- d. I don't find God's will based on my _____ (cf. **2 Cor 2:12-13**).
 - i. Feelings can be deceptive.
 - ii. Having unrest about a decision does not necessarily mean that it's not God's will.
 - iii. The Bible never tells us to make decisions based on having "peace."
- e. I don't find God's will by putting out a _____.
 - i. God had already given Gideon specific instructions (**Jug 6:37**).
 - ii. Gideon was spiritual weak when he put out the fleece, and indication of his doubt, not faith (**Jug 6:11-22, 36**).
 - iii. Scripture nowhere commands us to put out a fleece.

3. Correct way to determine God's will.

- a. Find and do what is clearly revealed in _____. Examples:
 - i. God's will for me is to be an active member of a church (**Heb 10:24-25**).
 - ii. God's will for me is to give thanks in everything (**1 Thess 5:18**).
 - iii. God's will for me is to remain pure (**1 Thess 4:3**).
- b. Apply general _____.
 - i. Gather data on your heart: What is the reason for wanting it?
 1. To impress your friends? God says pride is sin (**Prov 16:18; 1 John 2:16**).
 2. I must have it! We must be content (**Phil 4:11; 1 Tim 6:6; Heb 13:5**).

- ii. Gather data on your decision:
 1. How would you pay for it? We are to be good stewards, not going beyond our means (**1 Cor 4:1-2**).
 2. How would the choice affect my life? Seek God's kingdom first (**Matt 6:33**).
- iii. Gather data from others: What do my parents, pastors, and/or friends think, someone who will tell me what I need to hear not necessarily what I want to hear (**Prov 11:14; 12:15; 13:10; 19:20; 24:6**)?
- iv. After you apply specific verses and biblical principles, the decision will often be made. What if you are left between two biblical alternatives?
- c. God will make my _____ his _____.
 - i. This is the promise of **Ps 37:4: Delight yourself in the Lord; and He will give you the desires of your heart.**
 1. This does not mean that when you "delight in the Lord," then you can get what you want.
 2. It means that when you are following specific verses and biblical principles, you are in that moment delighting in the Lord.
 3. And when you are "delighting in the Lord," he will make your desires to be his desires.

4. Summary

- a. Perform the specific verses of God's revealed will in Scripture to the best of your ability.
- b. Apply biblical principles to the decision. Don't rely on open doors, circumstances, results, feelings, or fleeces.
- c. If you are still left with a decision, and *only* after you are doing steps 1 and 2, do what you really want. God will make his desires your desires.

Group Discussion:

1. Look up the following verses and complete the statement: "I know that it's God's will..."
 - a. Rom 12:2
 - b. 2 Cor 7:9-10
 - c. Eph 5:17-18
 - d. Eph 6:6
 - e. 1 Thess 4:3
 - f. 1 Thess 5:16-18
 - g. 1 Tim 2:4
 - h. Heb 10:24-25
 - i. 1 Pet 2:13-15
 - j. 1 Pet 3:17
 - k. 1 John 2:17
2. Why use Scripture to determine God's will for you? (Hint: 2 Tim 3:16-17)
3. Talk through an upcoming decision at your table, applying the principles from this lesson.