

**How Do I Know God's Will?:
Principles for a God-Directed Life (Part 6)**

Where NOT to Start...

- Not Advice / Circumstances / Consensus / Desires / Feelings

3 Key Steps

1. *Identify Specific Commands*
2. *Evaluate General Principles*
3. *Exercise Biblical Wisdom*

Principle #1: The Principle of PRIORITY

Am I seeking to do what God wants, the way God wants it done?

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

Principle #2: The Principle of AUTHORITY

Am I yielding to my God-given authorities?

Rom 13:1-2 *Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God. Therefore whoever resists the authority resists the ordinance of God, and those who resist will bring judgment on themselves.*

1. *Toward God (James 4:7)*
2. *In the Family (Col 3:18; Eph 6:10)*
3. *In the Church (Heb 13:17a; 1 Cor 16:15-16; Eph 5:21)*
4. *Towards the World (1 Pet 2:13-14; Titus 2:9)*

Principle #3: The Principle of COMMUNITY

Does this hinder or help my church family?

1. *Unity: My connection in the Body? (1 Cor 10:14-17)*
2. *Humility: My consideration of the Body? (1 Cor 11:27-34)*
3. *Responsibility: My obligation to the Body? ("one anothers")*

Principle #4: The Principle of PURITY

Does this promote holy thinking or living in me or others?

One Key Motivation: Jesus' Return (1 Jn 2:28 – 3:3; 4:17)

1. *Does This Promote the Purity of My THOUGHTS? (Phil 4:8; Job 31:1)*
2. *Does This Promote the Purity of My BODY? (1 Cor 6:13-20; 1 Thes 4:3-5)*
3. *Does This Promote the Purity of My CONDUCT? (Titus 2:4-5; 1 Pet 1:13-19)*
4. *Does This Promote the Purity of OTHERS? (1 Thes 4:6-7; 1 Tim 5:1-2)*

Principle #5: The Principle of _____

Is this a good use of the time, energy, abilities and opportunities that God has given to me?

Am I doing what I can, the way I can, with what God has given me?

1. Am I properly measuring my _____ of service?

Luke 17:7-10 "And which of you, having a servant plowing or tending sheep, will say to him when he has come in from the field, 'Come at once and sit down to eat'?⁸ "But will he not rather say to him, 'Prepare something for my supper, and gird yourself and serve me till I have eaten and drunk, and afterward you will eat and drink'?⁹ "Does he thank that servant because he did the things that were commanded him? I think not.¹⁰ "So likewise you, when you have done all those things which you are commanded, say, 'We are unprofitable servants. We have done what was our duty to do.'"

2. Am I properly applying my _____ in service?

Eccl 9:10 *Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with your might; for there is no work or device or knowledge or wisdom in the grave where you are going.*

Rom 12:11 *not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord;*

3. Am I properly using my _____ for service?

Eph 5:15-17 *See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise,¹⁶ redeeming the time, because the days are evil.¹⁷ Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is.*

4. Am I properly taking my _____ for service?

Eph 5:18 *And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit,*

5. Am I properly viewing the _____ of service?

Col 3:23 *And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men,*

6. Am I properly using my _____ for service?

1 Pet 4:10-11 *As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.¹¹ If anyone speaks, let him speak as the oracles of God. If anyone ministers, let him do it as with the ability which God supplies, that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belong the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.*