

## How Do I Know God's Will?: Principles for a God-Directed Life (Part 7)

### 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?

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 (Rom 13:1-2; 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 INTENSITY

#### Am I using my God-given ability at my God-given capacity?

1. *Am I properly measuring my quantity of service? (Luke 17:7-10)*
2. *Am I properly applying my effort in service? (Eccl 9:10; Rom 12:11)*
3. *Am I properly using my availability for service? (Eph 5:15-17)*
4. *Am I properly taking my opportunities for service? (Eph 5:18)*
5. *Am I properly viewing the focus of service? (Col 3:23)*
6. *Am I properly using my abilities for service? (1 Pet 4:10-11)*

## Principle #6: The Principle of \_\_\_\_\_

### Am I embracing difficulty as a normal result of obeying God?

#### 1. Following God will bring difficulty because of my \_\_\_\_\_.

Matt 5:11-12 "Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. <sup>12</sup> "Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you." (cp. Luke 6:22)

John 15:19-21 If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. <sup>20</sup> Remember the word that I said to you, 'A servant is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you. If they kept My word, they will keep yours also. <sup>21</sup> But all these things they will do to you for My name's sake, because they do not know Him who sent Me.

1 Pet 4:12-16 <sup>12</sup> Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you; <sup>13</sup> but rejoice to the extent that you partake of Christ's sufferings, that when His glory is revealed, you may also be glad with exceeding joy. <sup>14</sup> If you are reproached for the name of Christ, blessed *are you*, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you<sup>1</sup>. On their part He is blasphemed, but on your part He is glorified. <sup>15</sup> But let none of you suffer as a murderer, a thief, an evildoer, or as a busybody in other people's matters. <sup>16</sup> Yet if *anyone suffers* as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in this matter.

#### 2. Following God will bring difficulty because of my \_\_\_\_\_.

Matt 5:10 Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

1 Pet 3:14-16 But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, *you are* blessed. "And do not be afraid of their threats, nor be troubled." <sup>15</sup> But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always *be* ready to *give* a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear; <sup>16</sup> having a good conscience, that when they defame you as evildoers, those who revile your good conduct in Christ may be ashamed.

#### 3. Following God will bring difficulty because of my \_\_\_\_\_.

Phil. 1:27-30 Only let your conduct be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of your affairs, that you stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel, <sup>28</sup> and not in any way terrified by your adversaries, which is to them a proof of perdition, but to you of salvation<sup>1</sup>, and that from God. <sup>29</sup> For to you it has been granted on behalf of Christ, not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake, <sup>30</sup> having the same conflict which you saw in me and now hear *is* in me.

#### 4. Following God will bring difficulty because of my \_\_\_\_\_.

2 Tim 3:10-12 But you have carefully followed my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, love, perseverance, <sup>11</sup> persecutions, afflictions, which happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra – what persecutions I endured. And out of *them* all the Lord delivered me. <sup>12</sup> Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.