

How Do I Know God's Will?: Principles for a God-Directed Life (Part 8)

Where NOT to Start...

3 Key Steps

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

Principle #1: The Principle of PRIORITY (Matt 6:33)

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

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 DIFFICULTY

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

1. Following God will bring difficulty because of my connection. (Mt 5:11-12)
2. Following God will bring difficulty because of my conduct. (Matt 5:10)
3. Following God will bring difficulty because of my calling. (Phil 1:27-30)
4. Following God will bring difficulty because of my commitment. (2 Tim 3:12)

Principle #7: The Principle of _____

1 Cor 6:12 All things are lawful for me, but all things are not helpful. All things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any.

Πάντα μοι ἔξεστιν ἀλλ' οὐ πάντα συμφέρει· πάντα μοι ἔξεστιν ἀλλ' οὐκ ἐγὼ ἔξουσιασθήσομαι ὑπὸ τινος.

1. Does this _____? (Does it help? Does it profit somehow?)
2. Is this _____? (Does it take over?)

1 Cor. 9:12,19¹² If others are partakers of *this* right over you, *are* we not even more? Nevertheless we have not used this right, but endure all things lest we hinder the gospel of Christ. ¹⁹ For though I am free from all *men*, I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win the more;

3. Is this _____ with God's plan? (Does it promote God's Word & work?)

1 Cor. 10:23-24 All things are lawful for me¹, but not all things are helpful; all things are lawful for me², but not all things edify. ²⁴ Let no one seek his own, but each one the other's *well-being*.

²³ Πάντα ἔξεστιν ἀλλ' οὐ πάντα συμφέρει· πάντα ἔξεστιν ἀλλ' οὐ πάντα οἰκοδομεῖ.

²⁴ μηδεὶς τὸ ἑαυτοῦ ζητεῖτω ἀλλὰ τὸ τοῦ ἐτέρου.

4. Is this _____? (Does it assist the body of Christ?)

1 Cor 8:4-13 Therefore concerning the eating of things offered to idols, we know that an idol *is* nothing in the world, and that *there is* no other God but one. ⁵ For even if there are so-called gods, whether in heaven or on earth (as there are many gods and many lords), ⁶ yet for us *there is* one God, the Father, of whom *are* all things, and we for Him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, through whom *are* all things, and through whom we *live*. ⁷ However, *there is* not in everyone that knowledge; for some, with consciousness of the idol, until now eat *it* as a thing offered to an idol; and their conscience, being weak, is defiled. ⁸ But food does not commend us to God; for neither if we eat are we the better, nor if we do not eat are we the worse. ⁹ But beware lest somehow this liberty of yours become a stumbling block to those who are weak. ¹⁰ For if anyone sees you who have knowledge eating in an idol's temple, will not the conscience of him who is weak be emboldened to eat those things offered to idols? ¹¹ And because of your knowledge shall the weak brother perish, for whom Christ died? ¹² But when you thus sin against the brethren, and wound their weak conscience, you sin against Christ. ¹³ Therefore, if food makes my brother stumble, I will never again eat meat, lest I make my brother stumble.

Rom 14:19-20 Therefore let us pursue the things *which make* for peace and the things by which one may edify another. ²⁰ Do not destroy the work of God for the sake of food. All things indeed *are* pure, but *it is* evil for the man who eats with offense.

¹⁹ Ἄρα οὖν τὰ τῆς εἰρήνης διώκωμεν καὶ τὰ τῆς οἰκοδομῆς τῆς εἰς ἀλλήλους.

5. Is this _____ to relationships? (Does it promote peace?)
6. Is this _____ of others? (Does it hinder growth?)