

How Do I Know God's Will?:

Principles for a God-Directed Life (Part 9)

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 EXPEDIENCY

1. Does this contribute? (Does it help? Does it profit somehow?) 1 Cor 6:12
2. Is this controlling? (Does it take over?) 1 Cor 9:12,19
3. Is this cooperating with God's plan? (Promote God's Word & work?) 1 Cor 10:23-24
4. Is this constructive? (Does it assist the body of Christ?) 1 Cor 8:4-13; Rom 14:19-20
5. Is this calming to relationships? (Does it promote peace?)
6. Is this considerate of others? (Does it hinder growth?)

Principle #8: The Principle of Liberty

1. Jesus _____ Liberty from Sin

John 8:31-36 Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, "If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. ³² "And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." ³³ They answered Him, "We are Abraham's descendants, and have never been in bondage to anyone. How can you say, 'You will be made free'?" ³⁴ Jesus answered them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, whoever commits sin is a slave of sin. ³⁵ "And a slave does not abide in the house forever, but a son abides forever. ³⁶ "Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed.

2. Liberty from Sin _____ at Salvation (Rom 6:11-23)

3. Liberty Transforms Us into Jesus' _____

2 Cor 3:12-18 Therefore, since we have such hope, we use great boldness of speech – ¹³ unlike Moses, who put a veil over his face so that the children of Israel could not look steadily at the end of what was passing away. ¹⁴ But their minds were blinded. For until this day the same veil remains unlifted in the reading of the Old Testament, because the veil is taken away in Christ. ¹⁵ But even to this day, when Moses is read, a veil lies on their heart. ¹⁶ Nevertheless when one turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away. ¹⁷ Now the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. ¹⁸ But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.

4. Liberty Is Not Meant for Self, but for _____

Gal 5:13 For you, brethren, have been called to liberty; only do not use liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.

5. Liberty Comes through _____ the Word

James 1:22-25 But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. ²³ For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; ²⁴ for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was. ²⁵ But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does.

6. Some Offer _____ Liberty (which Enslaves)

2 Peter 2:19 While they promise them liberty, they themselves are slaves of corruption; for by whom a person is overcome, by him also he is brought into bondage.