



# THE LORD'S FLOCK GROWTH DIGEST

## PASTORAL GROWTH SERIES

### How to Know the Will of God (Part 2/3)

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How will we know God's will for us?

What is the correct process to discover the individual will of God?

- God's individual will is likened to a blueprint or roadmap. But, it is not revealed in its totality, it unfolds over time.
- Each of us has a unique divine blueprint even before we were born (Jer 1:5). This life plan is the basis of God's daily guidance, which is given through the Holy Spirit, who is our advocate (Heb1:1), who always guides us, and progressively reveals God's plan for us (Jn 14:26-27). He always gives confirmation at the point of each decision (2 Tim 3:16-17).
- The Bible reveals 100% of God's moral will ("matuwid na panukala"). In some instances, a specific command is said to be God's will: "Rejoice always. Pray unceasingly . . . for this is the will of God" (1Thess 5:17).
- The Bible gives general instructions which affect all of our lives, but these do not determine each decision. For instance, "Do not be bound together with an unbeliever" (2Cor 6:14-18). A Christian is prohibited from marrying an unbeliever, by the moral will of God; but the scripture will not specify which particular person to marry. When it comes to making decisions, it is important to know God's general will.
- We are told to walk in the Spirit, because the desire of the flesh is an enemy of the Spirit (Gal 5:16-19). Thus, your decisions should be in harmony with the moral will of God. When making your decisions on relationships (deciding whether or not to indulge pre-marital sex) or on money matters (considering cheating on income taxes to donate to a good cause), you do not need to ask God for direction, because He has given the moral will in the Bible

#### What Should We Be Doing?

- Paul urges believers to give themselves as a living sacrifice to God, to be holy and acceptable, and "*be transformed and not be conformed to the world*" (Rom12: 1-2); that means, do not adapt or follow the ways of the world if they are wrong.

When we begin to be *transformed in our minds*, then we will be able to discern if something is coming from the devil or from God. If our mind is filled with God's teachings, then we will discover the will of God - what is pleasing and perfect.

#### How will we know God's will?

1. **Talk to God.** Have time with Him, be intimate with Him, communicate with Him.
2. **Read and study the Bible.** "My people perish because they lack knowledge" (Hos 4:6). "Be strong and steadfast" (Josh 1:9). Meditate on His words day and night, so that whatever you do, you will be successful. It will be easy for you to discern God's will if you meditate on each word the Bible.
3. **A renewed mindset.** Nothing that is not going to glorify God should enter our minds. "We used to walk this way in the life that we once lived, but now rid yourself of anger, rage, malice, slander, filthy language. Do not lie to each other. Put on the new self in the image of God (Col 3:5-12).

#### Examples in th Bible:

- Joseph's Life: the individual plan for him was to be the ruler of Egypt & rescue his family from famine.
- Jesus: He fulfilled the will of His Father. "I have come to do your will". He came to save us and seek those are lost (Heb 10:7-9, Jn 4:34, Jn 6:38). While we have free will, we should consult the Lord. Jesus was doing the business of His Father. "Not my will, but yours be done" (Lk22:42, Jn 8:42, Jn 7:17). We are all serving God. As we are serving, do we ask our Master first? Wherever God places us, we must do the best we can (Jn 5:36). Whatever God's will or calling for us, we must obey and complete it, and we must witness for Him (Mt 25:14-30).
- **Paul:** He was a prosecutor, an evil man, but He was called to be an apostle. He was directed on his missionary journey. Every step that he would take, God revealed to him. (Acts 9, 1 Cor 1:1, Gal 1:1). As a leader in the community, do you stop and ask the Lord what's your next step? (Acts 13:1-2). Paul was being guided step by step by the Holy Spirit (Acts 16:10).
- **Philip:** He was directed to a specific place to meet and baptize an Ethiopian Eunuch who wanted to know the Scripture (Acts 8 :16-29). Do not be surprised when there is a spirit in you that will

direct you; the Holy Spirit may prompt you to talk to someone or do something. Allow God and the Holy Spirit to direct you. If you know Him, you will recognize His promptings.

- **Peter:** He was told to “Get up and go downstairs. Do not hesitate for I have sent them” (Acts 10:20). The Holy Spirit will not burden you with anything that is beyond your requirements (Acts 15:28).

#### **Soar’s Calling:**

When God called me, I was hesitant to follow His will because I was earning much at that time. But, there were several promptings (from my mom and others) that this ministry was His will for me.

If you follow, you will feel the joy of serving Him. He will make His specific will known to you if you trust Him first rather than your own understanding (Prov 3:5).

#### **Conclusion:**

- Commit to the Lord whatever you want to do. Submit your plan and leave it to Him; He will direct you to its proper end (Prov 16:9). We are incapable of directing our own way; It is not for us to direct our steps (Jer 10:23-24).
- Sin has deprived us of living contact with God. We are blinded from seeing the light of the Gospel. Surrender your will to Him and He will fix those plans in your life. Make your plans and submit them to the Lord. Take every step according to what God wants you to do. Learn to wait patiently. Only God knows the future. (Isa 46:9-10). But, before you submit, make sure they are according to the will of God. Will it be good for you, for your family, and the community? Will the decision separate you from your family (e.g. working abroad) or from your faith (going to a place where Catholicism is not allowed)?

#### **Reflection:**

1. *God has a big plan for your life! Do you know what it is? If not, be meek, teachable, open and yielded to God. Listen for His leading voice in His Word, His people and His Spirit, and He will reveal His will unto you.*
2. *If you know His will, are you doing it? If not, there is no time like the present to surrender and yield to do the will of God.*

#### **Prayer**

Lord, we take this moment to wait for your signal, when to take the next step, for your guidance, without rushing you, we are willing to wait. Forgive us for our forgetfulness and for purposely not submitting our plans to you. We submit all to you Lord.

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