

CONSECRATION

Week 3 | January 15th - January 21st

How To Know God's Will For Your Life

With the new year just beginning (and because many of us often wonder about this practical matter) I want to talk about how to know God's will for our lives in both major and minor decision making. It is not always easy to figure it out and there are conflicting views on how to do it. So I want to help you think biblically about this.

Much of God's will is revealed in the commands and principles of His Word. You do not need to pray for guidance in these areas. In fact you would

be wrong if you prayed about whether you should do something that God's Word *forbids* you to do. At that point, we just need to understand and obey the commands and principles that are in the Bible. But what about the decision to marry Jane or Sally, or marry Tom or Harry, when both individuals love the Lord? What about deciding your major in college, which job to take, or where to live? There are many decisions where we need to know God's will, but there are no verses that relate to the decision at hand.

Some Christians depend heavily on subjective feelings, signs, or thoughts that they interpret to be God's voice, or even a verse out of context. If Jane and Sally and Tom and Harry are both dedicated single Christians, then you are free to marry the one you choose. You would be wasting time to ask God to reveal His will, especially through some sign or inner impression. I believe that God would tell you to get wise counsel and do as you please.

My main gripe is this: If we do not seek God's guidance when we make our decisions, then we don't need to rely upon Him in prayer about the decisions we made without Him. The bad (or good) news, based on how you look at it, is there is no simple formula spelled out in the Bible on how to face decisions about His moral will. The good news side of it is that God primarily guides us through our relationship with Him as we grow to understand His Word and walk in true dependence upon the Holy Spirit.

We should walk so closely with God that we discern His guidance as we live in obedience to His Word.



Our Guide To Praying

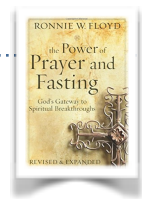
- ✱ Pray for church growth.
- ✱ Pray for honor and respect for God regarding the tithe and offerings to the local church.
- ✱ Pray for submission to spiritual leaders.
- ✱ Pray for believer's expression of love towards each other.
- ✱ Always pray for the souls of the lost. We believe that the Lord wants to save them.
- ✱ Petition God for our church's breakthrough into the future.
- ✱ Pray for sensitivity to God's Word and His movement.
- ✱ Ask God to give us a burden to see our area reached for Jesus and for God's people to experience a mighty spiritual revival.
- ✱ Pray for excitement about Jesus Christ, what He is doing in our lives and in the life of the church.
- ✱ Pray for the restoration of broken relationships that need to be restored.
- ✱ Pray for the reaching of lives and strengthening of families. through the Husband and Wife Retreat and Singles' Summit.
- ✱ Pray for the success of the FTCC Mass Choir's Created for Worship CD. I believe it is an avenue for evangelism. It can reach people that we cannot reach in the pulpit or the pew.

Here are seven principles for how to know God's will for your life:

1. To know God's will, you must write God a blank check for your life. It does you no good to speculate about God's will for your life unless you are totally committed to obeying it.
2. You must grow to know Him intimately through His Word and His Spirit. I've been married to my wife for over 40 years. On many matters, I could tell you what she would want without asking her opinion. I know her will because I *know* her. In the same way, knowing God's will in a specific situation is very much bound up with knowing God himself.
3. To know God's will, learn to act on biblical principles rather than human wisdom.
4. Always analyze your gifts, motives, and desires in light of God's purpose of being glorified among the nations.
5. Listen to, and prayerfully, evaluate the counsel of godly believers.
6. Prayerfully evaluate the circumstances that God brings into your life.
7. After prayerfully following all of the above in dependence on God, follow your inner peace/your convictions in these situations.

Ultimately, each person must determine God's will for him- or herself. You cannot blame others for the decisions that you make.

We are going into the third week of our consecration, and so at this point, we will ask for everybody to abstain from beef or any red meat for the duration of the fast. Continue reading our prayer resource for the month, "The Power of Prayer and Fasting" by Ronnie Floyd.



REFLECT ON THESE QUESTIONS:

Do you struggle with being obedient to God? Why?

Which one of 7 above do you need the most in your life?

What is the last specific prayer that God answered for you?

Meet us on Mondays (at 7 PM) and Fridays (at 7:30 PM) for our corporate prayer/problem solving gatherings.

Pastor Earl & Denise Goings