

Knowing and Doing God's Will with your future

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TO KNOW GOD'S WILL, I MUST TRUST GOD'S PROMISES FIRST!

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These are God's promises for my life:

- *I am made in His image, crafted EXACTLY according to His design inside and out! No matter how you see yourself, God's promise is that He will always see you in His image. Gen 1:27; Psalm 139*
 - *I'm who Christ came to Bethlehem for. – Galatians 4:4*
 - *I was worth sending Christ to the cross for. – Romans 5:8-10*
 - *I'm under the constant care of the Great Shepherd. – John 10*
 - *Because of Jesus, I'm free from condemnation. – Romans 8:1*
 - *Because of Jesus, my grave is only temporary. – 1 Cor 15*
 - *I have an inheritance just like Jesus' inheritance. – Romans 8*
 - *My future is certain. . .and so is Satan's. – Hebrews 13:4; Rev 20-21.*
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TO DO GOD'S WILL, I MUST TRUST GOD'S TRANSFORMATION IN MY LIFE.

James 1:5 If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you.

The transformation Christ calls us to changes us from every corner. There's nothing that should be left unchanged. Our minds, our hearts, our attitudes, our behaviors, our choices, our words, our thoughts – every one of those pieces requires me to listen well

Here are some ways to find God's will for your life:

— **Look at God's Word, the Bible.** *Psalm 119:105* – "Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path." What does God command of you? Has a verse motivated you to do something? Has God inspired a direction for you through His word?

— **Pray and ask God to reveal His will to you.** *Jer. 33:3* 'Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know.' *Acts 16:7* When they came to the border of Mysia, they tried to enter Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus would not allow them to. *16:8* So they passed by Mysia and went down to Troas.

— **Confess and make right any behavior or relationships that might keep you from knowing God's will.** Is there a certain sin that continues to plague your life? Are you in an unhealthy relationship? Confess any wrongdoing, eliminate anything that might distract you from living a godly life and commit your life to God who can make your paths straight (Prov 3:5-6). The Bible says, "I strive always to keep my conscience clear before God and man" (*Acts 24:16*).

— **God will never ask you to do something against His Word, immoral or unethical.** Do you feel like He's telling you to take a certain action? Have godly friends encouraged you to use a certain talent? Don't ignore wise advice or your own common sense.

- **Does the Bible specifically forbid it?** If so, it is a sin and that is your answer. It is NOT God's will.
- **Will it hurt my relationship with Christ?** This is to be guarded at all costs and anything that hurts it is to be eliminated.
- **Will it defile my body?** Your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit and you are to keep it pure.
- **Will it lead to sin?** The Bible says that whoever looks on another to lust after them is guilty of adultery (Leviticus 18:28). Sin is first a thought before it becomes an act.

- **Will it set a bad example for others?** Paul said that if drinking wine or doing anything that would cause somebody else to stumble and fall, he would deny himself that pleasure (Romans 14:21). We are our brother's keeper. And God holds us responsible for our influence.
- **Can I do this with a clear conscience?** Would I feel guilty or ashamed if my family, my pastor, or someone else knew about it? The desire to keep a thing secret is one of the surest signs that it is wrong and not in keeping with God's will.

- **Would it be okay for everybody else to do it?** Would it be okay if your spouse did it, or your child, or your sibling, or best friend?
 - **Seek wise counsel about the decision I'm considering.** - *Prov. 13:20* *He who walks with the wise grows wise, but a companion of fools suffers harm.* If wise people who care about me feel it's a bad idea, I probably should listen. If they're encouraging the decision and I'm still reluctant, perhaps I should take the next step.
 - **Volunteer in a service that excites you** - *Psa. 37:4* *Delight yourself in the LORD and he will give you the desires of your heart.* It might not be the right one, but you grow your spiritual life best by serving.