

“Do not be bound together with unbelievers; for what partnership have righteousness and lawlessness, or what fellowship has light with darkness? Or what harmony has Christ with Belial, or what has a believer in common with an unbeliever?”

- **Believers value all things: 1 Cor. 2:14-15** “...a natural [unbelieving] man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually appraised [examined]. But he who is spiritual appraises all things...”
- **May the Lord bless us** with Biblically mature Christian friends who ♣ care about us, ♣ pray for us, and ♣ can give us sound Biblical advice.

4: Circumstances – By being open to all available options!

- **Before deciding, identify all available options:** Years ago, seeking a new job, I considered options that made sense to me. But then, *after God worked a huge change in my life*, I considered all options: “...nothing will be impossible with God” (Luke 1:37).
- **God controls the options:** For example, we initially have three options, but, over time, God may reduce our options to two. Why? God is showing us His will and working all things together for good (Rom. 8:28).

5: Time – By allowing time for God to confirm His will!

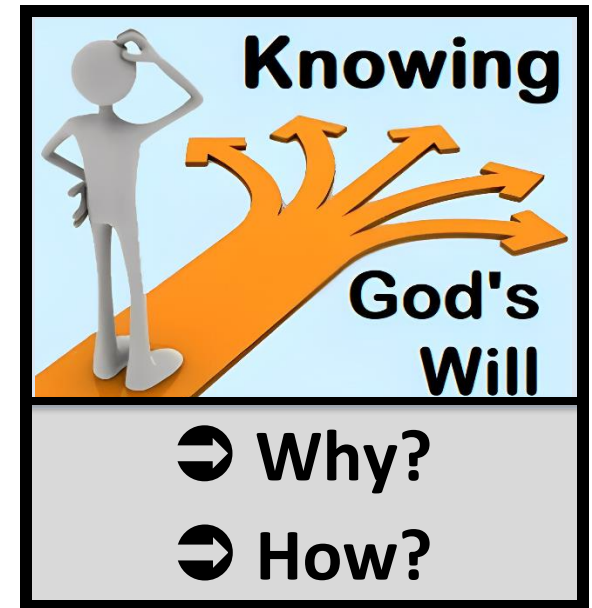
- **Think about God’s timing:** From the first promise of the Savior (Gen. 3:15) until God sent His Son into the world (Gal. 4:4-5), it was approximately 4,000 years. Now, as we await Jesus’ return, it has been about 2,000 years. Why? The Lord is allowing time for everyone to repent (2 Peter 3:9).
- **When God wants us to do something, He will keep impressing it upon us:** Think about the LORD’s desire for Jonah to go to Nineveh. Even though Jonah initially went in the opposite direction, *the LORD did not give up* (read Jonah 1:1 – 3:3).
- **Therefore, let us seek out God’s will** and give Him time to confirm His answer. He will do so in various ways, *so let us be sensitive to His leading.*

Conclusion

Some decisions are much more important than others. For all that is important, let us **seek, know, and follow** God’s will!

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Introduction

Dear Friend: Have you ever made a bad decision and suffered the consequences? For example, have you ever:

- Taken the wrong job offer, which brought stress and uncertainty.
- Chosen the wrong friends, who led you into criminal activity.
- Picked the wrong stock, which resulted in financial loss.

Why keep reading?

- To be certain that God’s will is best!
- To learn five ways to know God’s will!

Why Is God’s Will Best?

This is the BIG picture of what God ♣ has done for us and ♣ wants for us:

- God made us!

- God loves us!
- God provides whatever we need!
- God sent His Son into the world to take away our sins!

In summary: God wants to bless us now and forever!

To what are God's blessings connected?

- **Deut. 6:24** "...the LORD commanded us to observe all these statutes [things we owe to the LORD], to fear the LORD our God for our good always and for our survival..."
- The LORD gave ancient Israel two options: **Deut. 11:26-28** "...I am setting before you today a blessing and a curse: the blessing, if you listen to the commandments of the LORD your God...; and the curse, if you do not listen to the commandments of the LORD your God..."

Even when we listen, God permits difficulties – to benefit us and others:

- **Through trials:** God permits trials to build up our endurance – *no pain, no gain* (**James 1:2-4**).
- **Through discipline:** God trains us to be His holy children (**Heb. 12:5b-11**).
- **Through afflictions:** God uses afflictions to teach us how to comfort others when they are afflicted (**2 Cor. 1:3-4**).
- **Through suffering:** God uses us to point others to Him. So let us suffer ✦with peace (*knowing our sins are*

forgiven), ✦with patience (*knowing God will relieve us according to His timing*) and ✦without complaint (*knowing God is in control*)!

God has planned certain good works for each believer in Jesus: It's best when we are open to His plan for our lives (**Eph. 2:10**).

God can accomplish anything through us: Therefore, *being like a tool in God's hand*, let us put no limit on His ability (**Eph. 3:20**).

Now, *having a greater desire for God's will to be done in your life*, keep reading to discover some ways to know God's will for your life.

How Can We Know God's Will For Our Lives?

1: Bible – By listening to God!

- **The Bible is God's word to us:** **2 Peter 1:21** "...no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God."
- **The Bible is true:** **Psalms 119:160** "The sum of Your word is truth..."
- **The Bible will benefit us in many ways:** **2 Timothy 3:16** "All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness..."
- **Since the Bible is God's word to us, let us read it:**
 - a. **Confidently** – knowing it is true!
 - b. **Faithfully** – each day!

- c. **Thoughtfully** – carefully considering what it says!
- d. **Prayerfully** – asking the Holy Spirit to help us make proper application in our lives!

2: Prayer – By talking to God!

- **God hears those who know Jesus as Savior and Lord:** **Proverbs 15:29** "The LORD is far from the wicked, But He hears the prayer of the righteous."
- **Jesus encourages us to ask, seek, and knock:** **Matthew 7:7** "Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you."
- **Martin Luther explained the meaning of the Lord's Prayer Intro:** "With these words God tenderly invites us to believe that He is our true Father and that we are His true children, so that with all boldness and confidence we may ask Him as dear children ask their dear father."
- **Let us pray in detail:** Read about Abraham's servant *praying a very specific prayer and receiving a very specific answer:* **Genesis 24:10-26**

3: Advice – By receiving advice from Christians who believe and live in agreement with the Bible!

- **Believers and non-believers are very different:** **2 Corinthians 6:14-15**