

Discovering God's Will - Part 1 Proverbs 3:5-6

If I had to guess the #1 Question that I have been asked in 23 yrs of being a Pastor

A) Without a doubt it would be this one – Pastor Rob how, do I discover God's will for my life

B) God's will in a situation

C) If I had \$100.00 for every time that I have been asked that question I would be a rich man.

People want to know God's will for things like Choosing a Career / a mate/ Ministry.

A) Do I put my kids in Private school, public school or home school.

B) If you are a younger person here today: We could say that Life is a Series of Decisions for You

1) Where you end up in the next 10 yrs will be determined by decisions you will make in the next 3-5 yrs

C) You might hear a statement like that and think – Wow that is a lot of **PRESSURE**

D) But not really – You see you are in a relationship with a God who **is madly in love with You** He loves you so much He sent His only son to die to give you – life – not leave you hanging now!

Today we are starting a series dealing with the subject of Discovering God's will.

A) Talk about subjects like hearing God's voice – How does God talk to us

B) Should discovering God's will be such a mysterious thing

1) I don't think so

C) Over the next 2-3 weeks we are going to consider some very Practical Principles – which I think will help you immensely in understanding God's will

Principle #1:

A) God wants us to know His will more than we want to know His will!

B) He has a plan for your life and wants to lead you in that plan.

C) You are in a relationship with the one who created communication – that makes Him the greatest what?

COMMUNICATOR

Proverbs 3:5-6

**“Trust in the LORD with all your heart,
And lean not on your own understanding;
In all your ways acknowledge Him,
And He shall direct your paths.”**

Make paths straight or clear

Now the Bible talks about the will of God in 3 ways

#1 Providential will of God: God does what He wants when He wants – how He wants.

Nothing we do is going to change that!

#2 Is the Moral will of God – specific things in Scripture He has made clear – His will for all believers

#3 The one we are most interested in – **His personal will for each of our lives**

Examples of the Providential will of God

Galatians 4:4-5

But when the right time finally came, God sent his own Son. He came as the son of a human mother and lived under the Jewish Law, to redeem those who were under the Law, so that we might become God's sons.

In other words there was a specific time when Jesus was going to come into the world – Didn't matter how much pp prayed for Messiah –

God had a time table – it was going to happen

Jesus is going to return: 2nd coming – God has a specific time – written into the Plan of God – nothing is going to alter that plan

Israel becoming a nation again – Part of the providential will of God.

Examples of the moral will of God!

1 Thessalonians 4:3-6

“God's will is for you to be holy, so stay away from all sexual sin. Then each of you will control his own body and live in holiness and honor not in lustful passion like the pagans who do not know God and his ways.”

Boyfriend wants to fool around – no need to pray
Move in together – car test drive – pair of shoes

I know that is not God's will

2 Corinthians 6:14 “Do not be unequally Yoked...”

A) Cute unsaved guy asked you out – No need to pray – God has made it clear – that is not my will

B) Romans 13 Obey the Government.

C) Ephesians 5 Husbands love your wives as....., wives be submissive and a supporter to your husband

D) Anything that is clear cut direction given in the form of a command in Scripture – that which is not optional – is part of the moral will of God.

Principle #2:

The more familiar you become with the Providential and the moral will of God – the easier it will become for you to discover the 3rd area which is the personal will of God!

Several weeks ago – Amanda was invited to a birth party at a friend's house from school.

A) Address was something **Whispering lane**
I asked where live? What City I think Vista or OCSD
Yahoo directions –whispering lane in Oceanside –

B) Sure enough **Whispering lane in Oceanside** – we were on our way – gated community

1) Amanda called – what is the pass code – what gate
I don't live in a gated community –

Not OCSD BUT ESCD {**Not even right city!**}

Listen when you are familiar enough with the Providential and the moral will of God – it puts you in the right city – the right neighborhood

Directions start making sense!

A) This is how God does things -

It is as I surrender to the Known will of God that it PAVES THE WAY to understand what is the **Unknown will of God.**

B) It is surrender and obedience to what we do know that sets us up to be able to learn what we don't know!

Back to our verse Proverbs 3:5-6

“Trust in the LORD with all your heart,
Surrender

And lean not on your own understanding;
In all your ways acknowledge Him,
And He shall direct your paths.”
Make paths straight or clear

The word ACKNOWLEDGE in the Hebrew is a lot stronger than in the English. – English is yes **I see you** { *Look to Him – include Him –*

Hebrew: Acknowledge = To be riveted to something, – to be fastened.

A) In other words what we are saying is this: **In all my ways God I want to be riveted to you.**

B) I want to live my life fastened on what you have laid out for me.

So here is how this works – you have this area of your life that you are seeking direction in.

A) But there are all these other areas of your life where it **is clear** what you are supposed to be doing –

B) So in those areas **be riveted to Him – His will** – be doing those things.

C) Example from my life: **Life divided in this way:**
David Jeremiah: Person / Partner/ Parent / Pastor

So here is the deal – after my personal relationship to the Lord

A) The 2nd most important relationship in my life is my relationship to DENISE

B) So I know that one of the clear cut areas of my life that it is **God's will** that I give attention is my marriage.

1) I am always supposed to be working on my marriage.

C) The minute I stop doing that I am living in disobedience to the known will of God in my life

D) So if things are not really right between Denise and I - I'm out of the known will of God

1) Can I really expect God to speak to me in this area of his unknown will.

E) Seeking direction in a situation. – NO – I think God's response would be – get this right I then I will speak to you.

F) Now there are exceptions to that – because of God's grace –

but a general rule in scripture is we need to put ourselves in **that place of walking in obedience** to the known will of God before God starts leading us in those areas **of His unknown will.**

Abraham had to get out of Egypt before God started leading him again.

A) David had to quit hiding out with the philistines before God started leading him again

B) Some of you men and young men are wondering about God's will for your life right now

1) Problem is you are struggling in Sexual sin Pornography

C) God's will is that you would be sanctified in your life in that area – **You would know how to control your body in sanctification and honor.**

D) You are not going to get the direction that you are looking for until – you take care of that sin

FOOTNOTE: Men / women don't struggle with Pornography – they sin in it.

A) To look at porn takes a willful disobedience – you go to that sight – you know it is wrong –

B) That is not struggle with Porn – that is sinning

C) **Men can struggle with Lust** – Women low cut blouse – struggle not to look –

1) Natural

D) Men need to stop talking in this way: **Struggling Compassionate – I understand –**

1) Listen it is sin – Weep –

So when you are walking in obedience in those areas of the known will of God in your life

A) It puts you in the right neighborhood to hear God's voice in those UNKNOWN AREAS – where seeking direction.

B) **My antenna is tuned into the right frequency there is no static – but if I have several areas where I am not doing what I already know God wants –**

C) **My reception is going to be full of static**

Note I said obedience not perfection

A) I am not the perfect husband – I can be insensitive I can be selfish

B) But my heart is to walk in obedience – and grow in my consistency – being more like Jesus

C) Another Known area for me is Parenting

1) Ask anyone of my kids – I am not a perfect parent

D) So Discovering God's will happens naturally as I just walk with Him – acknowledge Him.

Phillip Yancey

“I do not get to know God and then do His will
I get to know God more deeply by doing His will”

In other words as He lays out His will in specific areas – and I seek to walk in that.

A) He reveals Himself by supplying what I need to be a good husband / father / pastor / friend

B) He gives direction – His gives grace – all the way along He is revealing himself to me.

C) I am getting to know Him and becomes friends with Him like Abe – like David –

1) Seeking to follow His known Will

Now when it comes to discovering the Personal will of God for our lives – **the real challenge** is not in hearing God's voice or discerning God's direction

The real challenge is found in our unwillingness to follow thru with His direction.

A) So often this is our mentality – “God I really want to know what is your will – I want you to show me your plan –

Because I want to weigh out my options !

B) I want to add your plan to my list so I can consider it – I can weigh out my options!

Principle #3:

God does not give us direction for our consideration.

He doesn't work that way.

In fact as long as that is our mentality He will often refrain from giving us the direction we are seeking

A) See God never wants to be an option in our lives

B) He desires that our lives revolve around our relationship with Him – { **The Pie analogy**

C) I have fallen into that trap where I have my ideas about how things should go

1) Seeking God - Does your plan fit my plan

D) I have to be willing to completely abandon my plan to walk in submission to His plan.

So when God gives us direction He is assuming participation / He is assuming action.

A) So it is really important that we understand if I really want to know God's will – I need to be in a place where I am ready to receive it – really open

B) That is why Broken pp often get clear direction from God! – New Believers

1) **God I have so messed up my life – things are such a mess – no other options – what do you want for me**

C) They are tuned in – they are ready to spring into action – ready to say **yes yes yes to what God says**

D) The problem that a lot of us face is that we still think that our plan is pretty good

God will wait for us to get to a place – where our plan fails ready to be led – out of options opinions

**A) 1 Samuel 30 – David living with the Philistines
Double life { compromise**

**B) Philistines think he is great – attacking Israel
In reality he was attacking their friends –**

1) No survivors

C) One day David shows up at his home in Ziklag and all the city has been burned down –

1) **Women and Children taken captive**

D) David's men are ready to Stone him to death

1) That is when He breaks - repents

Jacob burned bridges – Uncle Laban glad to see him go / Brother Esau not stoked coming back – 400 men

A) Jacob spends a night wrestling with God

B) Broken – crippled – NAME CHANGE –

1) Israel governed by God

C) God will do that – He will wait for you to be broken out of options – ok – God I surrender

Review:

Principle #1 God wants to lead you more than you want to be led.

A) He is more interested in His will for our lives than even we are.

Question: Do you really believe that – if so, does your life reflect that type of trust in Him?

Principle #2:

The more familiar you become with the Providential and the moral will of God – the easier it will become for you to discover the 3rd area which is the personal will of God!

Question: Are you seeking to walk in obedience in those areas where God has made His will clear already?

Marriage / purity/ friendships / forgiveness etc

Are you in the right neighborhood to receive his instruction? – Antenna clear or Static.

Principle #3:

God does not give us direction for our consideration.

Question: Are you ready to submit to His leading, even if that means abandoning your will, desires and options?