

D1-4: Biblical Decision Making and the Fallacy of “Finding” God’s Will

INTRODUCTION:

I. God’s will in Scripture.

1. God’s revealed will.

➔ *God’s commands reveal His will.*

Matthew 7:21.

1 Thessalonians 5:18.

1 Thessalonians 4:3.

➔ *God’s broad intentions for believers reveal His will.*

Romans 12:2.

➔ *God’s plan for human history reveals His will.*

Galatians 1:4.

Ephesians 1:9-10.

Summary:

2. God's unrevealed will.

Proverbs 16:1, 3, 9; 19:21; 20:24.

Romans 15:30-32; 1:9-10.

Acts 18:20-21; 1 Corinthians 4:18-19.

James 4:13-15.

Deuteronomy 29:29.

Conclusion:

II. Man-centered attempts to "find God's will" in decision making.

1. The purely pragmatic approach.

2. The "lucky-dip" approach with Scripture.

3. The prophecy approach.

4. The peaceful approach.

5. The opened or closed door approach.

6. The sign-seeking approach.

Observations and Conclusions:

III. Decision making informed by Scripture.

- 1. In God's strength, be obedient to God's revealed will (commands, broad intentions).**
- 2. Pray for wisdom.**
- 3. Gather information and counsel.**
- 4. Does the Bible speak directly to my decision?**
- 5. How does the Bible speak indirectly to my decision?**
- 6. Humbly follow your desire and decide.**

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building the disciplines of faithful leaders

March 24, 2018

Name: _____

build homework

DUE: April 7, 2018

Before you begin your homework, take some time to pray and direct your heart and mind towards God and His Word. Ask God for help in submitting your life and thoughts to His word that you might draw near to Him in this time. Ask Him to increase your desire to know and love and obey Him.

LOOKING BACK...

Look back at your outline and notes from March 24 (D1-D4 - Biblical Decision Making). Remind yourself of the man-centered ways of making decisions. What are some things that stood out to you from that lesson? Were there any parts of that lesson that were new or a challenge to you?

LOOKING DAY BY DAY...

Take a few minutes to reflect on your devotional time alone with the Lord in the last two weeks. What parts have been enriching to your soul? Write them down here. Then take a minute to praise the Lord for that!

LOOKING AHEAD...

Spend a few minutes thinking through the things that introduce obstacles to meet consistently with the Lord. Take a minute to write some of them down. Then take some time to bring each of these things before the Lord. Ask Him to help you see each of those things the way He sees them.

Q1: Do you find yourself using some of the man-centered justifications for making decisions? If so, which one(s)? What principles from our last lesson help you think clearly in this area?

Q2: Our last lesson taught about the weakness of using inner peace as a basis for making a decision. Why is it unwise to use inner peace as a good reason to make a good decision? How trustworthy is your heart as an indicator in this area?

Q3: Are you characterized by committing an issue to prayer before making a decision? What factors tend to dominate our thinking when we don't pray over an issue? What about when we do?

Q4: Can you think of a decision you made in the past that was well informed by Scripture? What effect did that biblical process have on your walk with the Lord? What effect did it have on your relationship with those closest to you?

Q5: What is the best way to improve your ability to make decisions that are guided by principles from Scripture?