



HOW CAN I UNDERSTAND & EXPERIENCE GOD'S WILL?

"Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is." (Eph 5:17)

DO:



1. CULTIVATE A CHRISTLIKE HEART

Key Verses: Rom 8:29; Jn 14:15, 21, 31; 15:4-17; Eph 5:1-17

- Q: Am I loving God with all my heart, soul, mind, and strength? [Mk 12:30]
- Q: Am I following Christ's example and attitude toward God and others? [Phil 2:1-11]
- Q: Is there anything in my life that is currently keeping me from obeying God's will? [Ps 139:23-24]



2. LISTEN CAREFULLY TO GOD'S WORD

Key Verses: Lk 11:28; 2 Tim 3:14-17; Ps 19:7-11; 119:97-104, 130

- Q: Am I meditating on scripture regularly to understand God's counsel, character, will, and ways? [Ps 1:1-2; Ps 119:1-16]
- Q: Am I doing whatever is necessary to obey the moral guidelines and commands of scripture right now? [1 Sa 15:22; Ja 1:22-25]
- Q: Is scripture revealing any unrighteous thoughts and motives in my life right now? [Heb 4:12-13]



3. PRAY AND TRUST GOD TO HEAR AND ANSWER

Key Verses: Jn 15:7; 16:23; Heb 11:1, 6; Jam 1:5-8; 1 Jn 5:14-15

- Q: Am I believing and trusting that God cares and has power to divinely intervene and provide in my life? [Gen 22:1-14]
- Q: Is God answering prayer through the counsel and words of others in this situation? [1 Cor 14:34, 26; 1 Th 5:11]
- Q: Is there anything in my life that is currently keeping me from obeying God's will? [Ps 139:23-24]



4. ENGAGE AND SERVE IN CHRIST'S CHURCH

Key Verses: Rom 12:3-8; 1 Cor 12; Eph 4:4-16; 1 Pet 2:4-5; 4:10-11

- Q: Am I actively engaged in Christ's church? [1 Cor 12:21-25]
- Q: Am I currently investing the gifts that God has given me to serve others in Christ's church? [Gal 5:13-14; 1 Pet 4:10-11]
- Q: Am I doing whatever possible to encourage ministry and maintain unity in the body of Christ? [Eph 4:3, 13]



5. LIVE AND ACT WISELY

Key Verses: Ps 37:28-31; Pr 4:5-7; 16:16; Eph 5:8-15; 1 Co 10:23

- Q: Have and sought out wise counsel from others? [Pr 1:5; 11:14; 12:15; 13:10; 15:22; 19:20; 20:18; 27:9]
- Q: Does this decision make sense or is it foolish? [Ez 7:18; 1 Sa 1:23; 2 Sa 18:4; 1 Ch 13:2; 2 Ch 30:23; Acts 15:22; 20:16]
- Q: Is this in line with who God has created me to be? [1 Sa 17:39]
- Q: Have I prayerfully considered all the costs and benefits, including the impact this will have on others? [Lk 14:28-31]
- Q: Would a "yes" or "no" to this opportunity interfere with other "yes" and "no" commitments I've made? [2 Cor 1:15-19]
- Q: Have I tested the spirits to see if they are consistent with God's Word, character, and ways? [Mt 7:15-16; 1 Th 5:19-21; 1 Jn 4:14; 2 Pet 2:1]

AVOID:

LOOKING FOR SIGNS VS. LOOKING TO SCRIPTURE

Key Verses: Mt 12:38-39; 16:1-4; 2 Pet 1:19-21

"LAYING OUT FLEECES" VS. LIVING BY FAITH

Key Verses: Jdg 6:36-37; Jam 1:5-8; Is 40:28-31; Gal 2:20

SEEKING SELF-FULFILLMENT VS. SERVING CHRIST'S CHURCH

Key Verses: 2 Cor 5:9, 14-15; Gal 5:13-14; Phil 2:3-4

OVER-SPIRITUALIZING CIRCUMSTANCES VS. APPLYING WISDOM

Key Verses: Pr 12:15; 26:12

DOING # 2-6 (TO THE RIGHT) WITHOUT DOING # 1

Key Verses: Mt 15:8; 1 Cor 13:1-13

IF YOU HAVE DONE 1-5 ABOVE

6. DO WHAT WILL BRING YOU THE GREATEST JOY

Key Verses: 2 Sa 23:5; Ps 37:4; 1 Cor 7:19, 39; 8:8; 10:23, 25, 27

- Q: To the best of my knowledge, are the deepest desires and dreams of my heart in line with God's Word? [Ps 139:23-24]
- Q: Will this decision bring pleasure to the Lord if I do it? [Eph 5:10, 17; 1 Jn 3:21-22]

"God is most glorified in us when we are most satisfied in Him."

+ John Piper