

## Knowing: How to Know God's Will for Your Life

Part 1  
Eph 5:17

### I. We Must Understand God's Will

Job 11:7-12 Can you find out the deep things of God? Can you find out the limit of the Almighty? It is higher than heaven—what can you do? Deeper than Sheol—what can you know? Its measure is longer than the earth and broader than the sea. If he passes through and imprisons and summons the court, who can turn him back? For he knows worthless men; when he sees iniquity, will he not consider it? But a stupid man will get understanding when a wild donkey's colt is born a man!

#### A. God has a Sovereign will

God's sovereign will involves His ultimate, complete control over everything.

##### 1. It is Secret

##### 2. It is Unstoppable

Isa 14:24 The Lord of hosts has sworn: "As I have planned, so shall it be, and as I have purposed, so shall it stand,

Isa 46:10b 'My counsel shall stand, and I will accomplish all my purpose,'

##### 3. It Includes Good and Evil

Even when things happen that He does not approve of or desire, they are still part of His Sovereign will.

Ezek 33:11 As I live, declares the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live

Rom 9:22-23 What if God, desiring to show his wrath and to make known his power, has endured with much patience vessels of wrath prepared for destruction, in order to make known the riches of his glory for vessels of mercy, which he has prepared beforehand for glory—

Prov 16:4 The Lord has made everything for its purpose, even the wicked for the day of trouble.

Acts 4:27-28 for truly in this city there were gathered together against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, along with the Gentiles and the peoples of Israel, to do whatever your hand and your plan had predestined to take place.

"People lift their hand to rebel against the Most High only to find that their rebellion is unwitting service in the wonderful designs of God" (John Piper).

#### B. God's has a Desired Will

In His will of desire, God sometimes wills things (desires things) that do not happen.

Matt 23:37 "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often would I have gathered your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you would not!

1 Tim 2:3-4 This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth

Luke 22:41-42 And he withdrew from them about a stone's throw, and knelt down and prayed, saying, "Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me. Nevertheless, not my will, but yours, be done."

Isa 55:9 For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

## **II. We Must Understand How God Revealed His will in the Past**

5 primary ways that God spoke in the past are...

### **1. Audibly**

Gen 12:1 *Now the Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you.*

Acts 9:3-4 *Now as he went on his way, he approached Damascus, and suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. And falling to the ground he heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?"*

### **2. Prophets**

Jer 11:3 *You shall say to them, Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel: Cursed be the man who does not hear the words of this covenant*

Ezek 3:27 *But when I speak with you, I will open your mouth, and you shall say to them, 'Thus says the Lord God.' He who will hear, let him hear; and he who will refuse to hear, let him refuse, for they are a rebellious house.*

### **3. Angels**

Luke 1:11-13 *and there appeared to him an angel of the Lord standing on the right side of the altar of incense. And Zechariah was troubled when he saw him, and fear fell upon him. But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid,*

Matt 28:5 *But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified.*

### **4. Dreams**

Gen 20:3 *God came to Abimelech in a dream by night*

Matt 1:20 *But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying,*

### **5. Scripture**

## **III. We Must Understand How God Reveals His will in the Present**

4 ways that God generally speaks today are...

### **1. The Canon of Scripture**

### **2. The Conviction of the Spirit**

### **3. The Counsel of the Spiritual**

### **4. The Circumstances Surrounding Us**