

I KNOW I CAN DISCERN THE WILL OF GOD

Proverbs 3:6 (September 22, 2024)

I. SIX MYTHS CONCERNING THE WILL OF GOD

1. The Map Myth; 2. The Misery Myth; 3. The Missionary Myth;
4. The Miracle Myth; 5. The Missed-It Myth; 6. The Mystery Myth

II. CLEARING UP THE MYTHS (3 Principles on God’s guidance)

Two crucial questions from Paul’s encountering Jesus (Acts 9:5-6)

- First, “Who are You, Lord?”
- Next, “What do You want me to do?”

1. Principle #1 Guidance Is Promised.

(1) God’s Prevailing Will

21 There are many plans in a man’s heart, nevertheless the LORD’s counsel—that will stand. **Proverbs 19:21**

(2) God’s Permissive Will

9 The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is long-suffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance. **2 Peter 3:9**

(3) God’s Personal Will

23 The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD, and He delights in his way. **Psalms 37:23**

2. Principle #2 Guidance Is Provisional.

(1) Willingness

6 So he, trembling and astonished, said, “Lord, what do You want me to do?” Then the Lord said to him, “Arise and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do.” **Acts 9:6**

(2) Meekness

9 The humble He guides in justice, And the humble He teaches His way. **Psalms 25:9**

(3) Openness

11 Then He said, “Go out, and stand on the mountain before the LORD.” And behold, the LORD passed by, and a great and strong wind tore into the mountains and broke the rocks in pieces before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake;

12 and after the earthquake a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire; and after the fire a still small voice. **1 Kings 19:11–12**

(4) Yieldedness

1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. **2** And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God. **Romans 12:1–2**

3. Principle #3 Guidance Is Practical.

- (1) We Are Guided by the Miracles of God. (They can be private or public.)
- (2) We Are Guided by the Word of God. (Psalms 119;105)
- (3) We Are Guided by the People of God. (Proverbs 24:6)
- (4) We Are Guided by the Spirit of God. (Romans 8:14; Galatians 5:18)
- (5) We Are Guided by the Wisdom of God. (Ephesians 5:15-18)
- (6) We Are Guided by the Providence of God. (Acts 9:23-25)

III. THREE PRINCIPLES ABOUT THE WILL OF GOD

- 1. The will of God is for your welfare.
- 2. The will of God will never take you where the power of God and the grace of God cannot enable and keep you.
- 3. You are free to choose.

19 I call heaven and earth as witnesses today against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that both you and your descendants may live. **Deuteronomy 30:19**

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

- 1. Which of the six “myths” outlined in this chapter is the most descriptive of how you’ve viewed and practiced your own search for God’s will through the years? How has this misunderstanding clouded your ability to hear and respond to Him?
- 2. How have you experienced the sovereignty of God in your own life? How have you recognized that His knowledge, plans, and purposes far exceed your own ability to know what to do? What comfort does His sovereignty provide you?
- 3. In what way is obedience the key to being able to hear from God and respond to the direction He gives you? Where might you be practicing resistance toward God’s Word or an unwillingness to follow His expectations? Why does this make His will difficult to discern?
- 4. How do you handle the notion that God’s will for you may sometimes be marked by the presence of pain, loss, difficulty, or challenge? What enables a Christian to walk through these kinds of life events without losing his or her peace, hope, and contentment?

I AM INTERESTED IN TAKING A CLASS FOR MY SPIRITUAL GROWTH.

- () Membership 101
- () Maturity 201
- () Ministry 301
- () Mission/Evangelism 401

OTHER CLASSES

- () Foundations for basic Christian doctrines
- () Fresh Start for starting my faith in Christ
- () How to do daily Quiet Time with God

NEED TO TALK TO A PASTOR?

- () I would like to talk with a pastor to understand the biblical view on a subject.
- () I would like to know what it means to be a member of MBF (NVCCC)

ANY OTHER QUESTION? LET US KNOW, PLEASE.
