

Privileged travellers

Life can be a painful and futile “hit and miss” journey of aimless wanderings or it can be a fulfilling journey that is divinely directed for success. Christians are privileged travellers who have been promised faithful and perfect guidance in life by their loving God.

God says to us in Isaiah 42:16 ...

*“I will lead blind Israel down a new path,
Guiding them along an unfamiliar way.
I will make the darkness bright before them
And smooth out the road ahead of them.
Yes, I will indeed do these things; I will not forsake them.”*

You don’t have to live as a victim of blind chance or be reliant upon your human ability for knowing the right way forward in life. Through God’s guidance you can know how to stay in the centre of His will and enjoy a purposeful and satisfying life.

What do the following verses say about the quality of life that you can expect from following God’s guidance?

Jeremiah 29:11 _____

Romans 8:28, 29 _____

Romans 12:2 _____

God has a *perfect* plan for each of us. Unless we see our need to come to Him for special guidance we will fail to discover His good, pleasing and perfect plan for our lives.

Promises about finding God’s will

Consider these four promises the Bible gives regarding finding God’s will – His plan for your life.

God will give you precise *guidance* and *direction*

God promises to show you the right way ahead in your journey of life.

What do the following verses say about this?

Psalm 37:23 _____

Proverbs 3:5-6 _____

God will give you *wisdom* to discover His will

God doesn't hide His will from us. He wants us to know His will, but it's up to us to seek after it.

What do the following verses say about this?

Ephesians 5:17 _____

James 1:5 _____

God gives you a *desire* to do His will

From the moment you became a Christian, God began to work within you, helping you to live a life that is pleasing to Him.

What has God done to help you know His will?

Philippians 2:13 _____

God *warns* you when you depart from His will

This built-in warning device is called the "peace of Christ" in your hearts. Whenever you sense the loss of this peace you need to stop and see where and how you have strayed from God's will.

How is this truth expressed in the following verse?

Colossians 3:15a _____

The word "rule" comes from a Greek word that refers to the decision of a judge in an athletic event. It is the final deciding factor of knowing when you are in or out of God's will.

Steps to finding God's will

There are certain steps that must be taken if you are to know God's leading in particular situations. The following five steps are vital in this matter.

Present your body to the Lord as a living sacrifice

God is not pleased with anything less than the willing sacrifice of your whole life. You must give yourself completely to Him before He can guide you in the discovery of His will for your life.

How does Paul present this truth?

Romans 12:1 _____

Presenting yourself sacrificially to the Lord is a daily act of worship. As *living* sacrifices we have a tendency to crawl off the altar of sacrifice when "things get too hot".

Study God's Word

Much of God's will concerning our living with right attitudes and actions is revealed in the Bible. You need to take these truths and store them in your mind for actioning.

The following verses reinforce the role of Scripture in your life for discerning God's guidance.

What benefit comes from following God's Word?

Joshua 1:8 _____

Psalms 119:105 _____

Obey what is shown to you

It is important that you obey every instruction, warning, direction and command given by God.

Your obedience is a test of your genuine desire to understand and follow His will for your life. It is important to act on what has been revealed to you. God will not reveal the second step unless you obey the first.

God seldom shows us the end from the beginning. He only reveals as much to us as we can respond to safely and correctly. Discovering more of God's will is dependent on your readiness to obey.

What element is conditional to you "receiving from God whatever you ask"?

1 John 3:21, 22 _____

Counsel with mature Christians

In seeking to know God's will in certain matters, it is wise to consult with mature Christians who know you. Their counsel can be helpful because of their knowledge of God's Word and their sensitivity to the Holy Spirit's voice. Although you must not look to your counsellors to make your decisions, their advice can be very helpful.

How does the following verse state this truth?

Proverbs 11:14 _____

Pray consistently

It is through prayer you gain a sense of intimate communion with God and can be more alert and open to His guidance. As you pray, much will be shown to you.

You must be patient, however, allowing God to reveal His will for you according to His perfect timing.

What advice is given through the following verses concerning prayer?

Matthew 7:7-8 _____

James 1:5 _____

Summary

As you apply the truths of this lesson you will increasingly discover God's direction for your life.

Stepping out in faith and doing all that God directs will keep you satisfied and safe in His good, pleasing and perfect plan.



