

God Time Day 1: Becoming More Decisive



We now look at the third obstacle that many people face: a lack of experience in making decisions in alignment with God's will. We make tons of decisions every day, like deciding what to eat. While we have all had that experience, and possibly decided poorly at times, many of us can be indecisive when it comes to living according to God's will simply because we don't have the experience.



Read Joshua 24:15.

But if it doesn't please you to worship the Lord, choose for yourselves today: Which will you worship—the gods your ancestors worshiped beyond the Euphrates River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living? As for me and my family, we will worship the Lord.

When we live our lives according to God's will, we are worshipping God with our lives. So, before going any further, the very first step of this process must begin with this question:

Is it your highest priority to live according to God's will?

Take some time to honestly reflect on this question.

God Time Day 2: Trusting the Process



Read Proverbs 3:5-6.

⁵Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not rely on your own understanding; ⁶in all your ways know him, and he will make your paths straight.

Lots of people will often say that they want to live according to God's will. For many, it is just empty words. But, if living according to God's will is their highest priority, then trusting God becomes easier. Unfortunately, this is where the decision-making process falls apart for a lot of people. Trusting God requires that we relinquish our control and give it over to God. Many people might say they want to live a godly life, but only on their terms and according to their control. This leaves no room in our lives for God's will.



Pray for God to humble your heart and to help you place your trust in Him by relinquishing control.

God Time Day 3: The Spirit's Prompting and Certain Uncertainty



The next step in decision-making is to follow God's lead through obedience. Let's consider Paul's journey and his obedience to follow God's will.



Read Acts 20:22-23

²²“And now I am on my way to Jerusalem, compelled by the Spirit, not knowing what I will encounter there, ²³except that in every town the Holy Spirit warns me that chains and afflictions are waiting for me.

According to Paul, he was on his way to one destination, but the Holy Spirit “compelled” him to redirect his journey to Jerusalem. We need to understand that the Holy Spirit can speak to us in many ways, but it is dangerous when we reduce the compelling of the Holy Spirit to just a feeling. This can lead us to use the Holy Spirit as an excuse to justify all kinds of behavior (E.g., “The Holy Spirit compelled me to eat an entire large pizza by myself in a single sitting”).

This is the reason why it is so important for us to have our “who” and “why” in the right place (see Week 1). When our “who” and “why” are aligned with God's will, we will be less likely to mistake our selfish desires and feelings for the leading of the Holy Spirit. Here are three practical tests you can use to know if what you are feeling is of the Holy Spirit.

1. Is what you feel compelled/called to do in alignment with scripture? (How well do you know scripture?)
2. Will it give glory to God, or yourself?
3. If you are married, can your spouse confirm or affirm what you feel you are being compelled/called to do?

Even when you have everything in line with God, there will always be a sense of uncertainty. After all, God is not sending you an email with specific “Step 1, Step 2...” instructions. If God did that, we would cease to be in a relationship built on faith.

Is there something you feel the Holy Spirit is leading you towards? How will you test it?

God Time Day 4: Predictable Resistance



In the process of making godly decisions, we need to address what happens after we make a decision. In Paul's case, he decided to follow the lead of the Holy Spirit knowing that it would come with adversity. (Reread Acts 20:23 from Day 3.)



Now, read what Jesus had to say in John 16:33.
I have told you these things so that in me you may have peace. You will have suffering in this world. Be courageous! I have conquered the world.



Circle the word "suffering."

As Jesus was teaching the people, he was not delicate about telling them of the difficulties and struggles that will come with following Him. (If you want a fuller picture, read all of John 15-16.) Jesus was upfront about these trials because He did not want people to be surprised or stumble away from their faith when facing adversity.



Jesus says it another way in Matthew 7:13-14.
¹³ *Enter through the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the road broad that leads to destruction, and there are many who go through it.* ¹⁴ *How narrow is the gate and difficult the road that leads to life, and few find it.*



Circle the word "difficult."

Too often, people make the right decision based on God's leading, but upon facing resistance they immediately "jump-ship" and assume that "this was not part of God's plan." The reality is, if we are living according to God's will, we should be expecting resistance and trials. Jesus warns us not to be caught off-guard but to maintain a posture of peace in Him. If the road we are walking on offers no resistance or trials, it is possible we have compromised and are not walking the "difficult road" according to God's will.

Are there areas in your life where you are facing resistance or trials?



Pray for God to give you endurance and wisdom along your road.

God Time Day 5: Uncommon Confidence



Read Acts 20:24.

But I consider my life of no value to myself; my purpose is to finish my course and the ministry I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of God's grace.

Paul travels to Jerusalem, expecting trials and hardships to come. Even in the face of imprisonment, bodily harm, and possible death, Paul seems unwavering in his dedication to following the leading of the Holy Spirit. Paul's confidence in the face of such trials might seem otherworldly to us, and the reason is that it is otherworldly.

Go back and reread John 16:33 from Day 4.

Underline the phrase, "in me you may have peace."

Paul's confidence is otherworldly, because it is not a confidence based in anything of this world, but rather a confidence rooted in the one who is beyond this world and created this world: Jesus Christ.

Because Paul has this uncommon confidence that is rooted in Jesus, he can maintain peace in trials which allows him to remain grounded in his purpose.



Circle what Paul says is his "purpose," his "ministry," in Acts 20:24 above.

We need to realize that Paul's purpose is also our purpose. Everyone who is a follower of Christ is called to the same ministry, "to testify to the gospel of God's grace." We call it our CBC 3D Mission: Demonstrate God's Love, Declare the Good News (of the gospel), and Make Disciples Near and Far (who then go do the same).

As we continue to explore what it means to make godly decisions, here are some practical places to start:

- Prayer is always a good place to start. And consider incorporating fasting into your prayer life.
- When struggling with a decision, consider turning to another person of faith and have them join you in seeking God's will. Who can you ask to join you?

