

KNOWING God's will for your life

Have you ever wondered, “How can I know what God's will is for me?” What would God have me do today? What would God have me to do in a particular situation. What would God have me say to an individual I might meet on the street or on the job? Can I know what God's will is for me in everything? Yes, everything. Is it even possible?

Well, we have God's word, the Bible. God's word tells us a lot about what His will is. Studying the Ten Commandments, the transcript of His character or His will, and the stories in the Bible that relate what His will was for others, gives us a good idea of what He wants us to do. We can read how He worked with and dealt with others and in so doing discover the basics of what His will is for us. But reading God's word will only give us the basics of His will, not the specifics of His will for us personally. We can read what His direct will was for some Bible characters, but it will not let us know what He would have us do in our personal daily lives. Again, is this even possible? Does God even care about us on this level?

When Jesus was here God spoke to Him on a personal level. God communicated His will to Jesus day by day, and moment by moment, giving Him words to say, letting Him know where to go and when. Absolutely nothing happened in His life by chance. Everything Jesus said and did was orchestrated by the will of God. “Then answered Jesus and said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, The Son can do nothing of himself, but what he seeth the Father do: for what things soever he doeth, these also doeth the Son likewise. For the Father loveth the Son, and showeth him all things that himself doeth:” John 5:19, 20 “I can of mine own self do nothing: as I hear, I judge: and my judgment is just; because I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me.” John 5: 30 “Then said Jesus unto them, When ye have lifted up the Son of man, then shall ye know that I am he, and that I do nothing of myself; but as my Father hath taught me, I speak these things. And he that sent me is with me: the Father hath not left me alone; for I do always those things that please him.” John 8:28, 29

Where does God's will reside - His complete, unabridged will for everything and everyone? Is it in His Word? Obviously not. Not even all of God's will for Christ's life was revealed in His Word. Only a very small part of it was revealed there. Some of God's will for us is revealed in His Word, but His complete will for us, what he wants us to do moment by moment, on a personally basis is not there. If it isn't there, where is it? God's will is in His mind, isn't it? Where does our will reside? In our minds, also.

So, God's complete unabridged will is in His mind. With this understanding, how then did God communicate His will to Jesus? Well, we could say, that they communicated mind to mind, but it was on a far more intimate level than even this. But, you may be saying, how much more intimate can you get than communicating mind to mind? But, whose mind did Jesus have? Wasn't Jesus God in the flesh? Wasn't He the I AM? Verily God? Yes, Jesus was God in every sense of the word, and as God, He had God's mind. God the Father's thoughts were His thoughts. God's will was His will. Didn't Jesus say, “I and my Father are one.” John 10:30? So how did God the Father communicate with Jesus? Through their mind. Not minds, but mind, singular. They had the same mind. That is why Jesus was always in tune with His Father's will at all times. Because He had the mind of God in Him. He was in constant contact with His Father's will because He had His Father's mind in Himself.

So, what does this have to do with us? How can we know God's will for our lives? What does Paul say about our minds? In Philippians 2:5 he says, "Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:" **WHAT!?** Did you get that? He said, "**Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:**" Whose mind are we to have in us? The mind that was in Christ Jesus. Do you have any idea what that is saying? It is saying that we can have the mind of Christ.

I simply don't have words to express what that means. That is incredible! Me, have the mind of Christ!? The mind of God!? That is exactly what Paul is telling us. That we can have the mind of God in us in place of our sinful, fallen, human mind.

Ellen White puts it this way:

"As the will of man cooperates with the will of God, it becomes **omnipotent**. Whatever is to be done at His command may be accomplished in His strength. All His biddings are enablings." Christ's Object Lessons 333

"If we will consent, God can and will so identify us with Himself, so mold our thoughts and aims, that when obeying His will, we are only carrying out the impulse of our own minds. Then we shall not desire to carry out unchristian desires; we shall be filled with an earnest determination to do the will of God. We shall not try to work in our own strength, and we shall guard strictly against self-exaltation." Pacific Union Recorder, February 16, 1905

"The will is the governing power in the nature of man, bringing all the other faculties under its sway. The will is not the taste or the inclination, but it is the deciding power which works in the children of men unto obedience to God or unto disobedience.

The tempted one needs to understand the true force of the will. This is the governing power in the nature of man-- the power of decision, of choice. Everything depends on the right action of the will. Desires for goodness and purity are right, as far as they go; but if we stop here, they avail nothing. Many will go down to ruin while hoping and desiring to overcome their evil propensities. They do not yield the will to God. They do not choose to serve Him.

Your will is the spring of all your actions. This will, that forms so important a factor in the character of man, was at the Fall given into the control of Satan; and he has ever since been working in man to will and to do of his own pleasure, but to the utter ruin and misery of man. But the infinite sacrifice of God in giving Jesus, His beloved Son, to become a sacrifice for sin, enables Him to say, without violating one principle of His government: "Yield yourself up to Me; give Me that will; take it from the control of Satan, and I will take possession of it; then I can work in you to will and to do of My good pleasure." **When He gives you the mind of Christ, your will becomes as His will, and your character is transformed to be like Christ's character.**" Mind, Character, and Personality Volume 2 p. 685, 686

Once we comprehend and understand this, then all the texts that talk about the mind begin to make sense. Texts like: Numbers 16:28, I Samuel 2:35, Isaiah 26:3 Matthew 22:37, Luke 12:29, Acts 17:11, Acts 20:19, Romans 12:2 and 12:16 and 15:6, I Corinthians 1:10, I Corinthians 2:16, II Corinthians 13:11, Ephesians 2:3, Philippians 1:27 and 2:2-5, Philippians 4:2, II Timothy 1:7, Hebrews 8:10, I Peter 3:8 and 4:1, come into clear focus.

Romans 6, 7, and 8 make sense and come alive when we understand that we are to have the mind of Christ instead of our sinful human mind. Texts like Romans 7:24 and 25 take on a whole new meaning.

“O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death? I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin.” If we have the mind of Christ we will not serve the law of sin.

So, when we have the mind of Christ in us, where is God's will? Isn't it also in us? Yes, as long as we let the mind of Christ be in us, God's will is also in us. Our thoughts are His thoughts our feelings are His feelings, our impulses are His impulses. We are of one mind with Christ. And all those who let Christ's mind be in them will all be of one mind.

How can we have the mind of Christ and know and be in God's will all the time?

We must confess and believe:

That Jesus is the Christ, the Great I AM of the Old Testament.

That Jesus was the Messiah as foretold in the Old Testament the Only Begotten Son of God.

That Jesus, being God, took upon Himself human flesh and lived among us, as one of us.

That Jesus was tempted in all points as we are, yet never sinned.

That Jesus came and took our sins as though He had committed them and died for them in our place so that we would not have to die for them ourselves.

That Jesus came to save us from our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

That Jesus will give us a new heart, spirit and mind, His mind.

We must confess our sins, repenting of them, asking for forgiveness for them, and forsaking them. Surrendering everything to Him - our desires, hopes, dreams, and plans - then and only then can we ask God to give us the mind of Christ. As we do this, He will give us the mind of Christ and teach us all things, leading us into all truth, guiding us day by day, moment by moment, as to what His will is for us. As long as we remain in this surrendered state we can be sure that our will is His will because our mind is one and the same with His mind.

How can we be sure that we have the mind of Christ? When our thoughts, feelings and desires are in tune with His revealed will which is found in the Word, the Bible we may then know that we have the mind of Christ and are doing His will. “Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?” 2 Corinthians 13:5.

We may humbly seek God every morning and throughout the day, to give us the mind of Christ. Once we have the mind of Christ, our lives will never be the same, and we will be blown away by what we begin to think and do. Not only will God impress you with what He wants you to do and say, but by having His mind all the conditions for His promises to you will be filled. This opens the flood gates of heaven and once you realize the possibilities you will be blessed beyond your wildest dreams. Promises like Matthew 6:25-34, Matthew 7:7, 8, and John 16:23, 24 will become fully available to you.

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