

Understanding God's Will

Series 1-10

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Introduction to the Series: Understanding God's Will

Every believer at some point has asked the question: **“What is God’s will for my life?”** It’s a question born of sincerity, of spiritual hunger, and often of deep confusion. Is God’s will only about the big decisions—like who to marry, where to live, or what job to take? Or is it something closer, something constant, something woven into the everyday choices we make?

In this 10-part devotional series titled **“Bread of the Word – Understanding God’s Will,”** we set out to explore not just *how* to discern God’s will, but *how to walk in it* with clarity, peace, and boldness. Like daily bread, the will of God is something we must learn to seek, chew, digest, and walk in—*daily*.

This series is not built on mystical formulas or modern confusion. It is rooted in the timeless truths of **Scripture**, the confirming work of the **Holy Spirit**, and the practical experiences of believers across the pages of **God’s Word**.

Why “Bread of the Word”?

Because just as Jesus taught that *“man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God”* (Matthew 4:4), so too do we understand that **God’s will is revealed and fed to us through His Word**—bit by bit, day by day. It is not always delivered in lightning bolts and clouds, but in the simple sustenance of Scripture rightly divided.

And like fresh bread, God's will is best when it is:

- **Nourishing** (feeding the soul),
- **Present** (daily and timely), and
- **Shared** (understood in community, through counsel and confirmation).

What This Series Covers

Each essay in this series builds upon the last, moving the reader from foundational understanding to spiritual maturity. This isn't just a theological study—it's a spiritual guide for **discerning, confirming, and doing the will of God.**

Here's a brief roadmap of where we'll go:

1. **The Will of God Revealed in His Word**

God's Word is the primary source of His will. Learn to trust Scripture over signs.

2. **The Will of God in Salvation**

Understand how God's desire that all be saved gives clarity to His general and personal will.

3. **God's Will and Our Daily Choices**

Not every decision comes with thunder and lightning. Learn how to navigate choices through wisdom and biblical principles.

4. **Closed Doors and Divine Detours**

How God uses "no" as a form of loving redirection—not rejection.

5. **Doors, Delays, and Divine Timing**

Why waiting is often a part of God's will, and how to trust His timing when you only see the clock.

6. **God's Will in Trials and Suffering**

Discover how hardship may not be a deviation from God's will but part of His refining process.

7. **Trusting God When the Path Is Foggy**

When clarity is missing, faith is tested. Learn to move with God even when the vision is dim.

8. **The Role of Peace and the Holy Spirit**

God leads with peace, not confusion. Learn to discern His guidance through spiritual stillness and confirmation.

9. **Counsel and Confirmation**

God often uses the wisdom of others and repeated affirmation to confirm His will. Here's how to seek wise input without handing over your decision-making.

10. **Walking Boldly Once You Know**

Once God has made His will clear, it's time to act. Learn how to move forward with courage, confidence, and full assurance.

Who This Series Is For

This series is for:

- The believer standing at a crossroads and needing divine direction.
- The new Christian learning how to walk by faith and not by sight.
- The seasoned saint who wants to sharpen their spiritual discernment.
- Anyone hungry for more than vague impressions and feelings—who wants to build a biblical framework for knowing God’s will with assurance.

Whether you’re navigating a major life decision or simply want to live more intentionally for the Lord, this series will equip you with **Scripture-based clarity** and **Spirit-led boldness**.

The Goal: Confidence in Christ, Not Confusion in Self

The will of God is not meant to be a riddle to solve—it is a relationship to walk in. We do not seek His will so we can live independently of Him. We seek it so that we might **walk more closely with Him**, bearing fruit, growing in faith, and becoming conformed to the image of Christ.

So many believers today are paralyzed by uncertainty because they’ve been trained to look for signs in the sky rather than **the voice in the Scripture**. They wait for a mystical green light when the Word of God already told them to *walk in the Spirit*.

This series aims to remove confusion, deepen discernment, and call you to obedience—**not someday, but today**.

How to Use This Series

You can read this series devotionally, one per day, or study them slowly, one per week, with your Bible open. Each entry is written with depth, but also with clarity, making it accessible for personal growth, small group study, or discipleship.

We encourage you to pray before and after each lesson:

- Ask the Lord to open your heart.
- Journal what He shows you.

- Take the bold step to **obey whatever He reveals**.

Let's Begin the Journey

If your heart is crying out, “*Lord, what would You have me to do?*”—this series is for you.

If you feel stuck, unsure, or simply want to grow in spiritual wisdom—this series is for you.

If you're tired of guessing and want the **confidence that comes from biblical clarity**—this series is for you.

The table is set. The Bread of the Word is warm and ready.

Now... let's eat.

1 of 10: Understanding God's Will – God's Will vs. Man's Desire

Key Text: *Proverbs 14:12 – “There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.”*

Introduction: The Collision of Two Wills

Every believer comes face to face with a battle that rages not just outside them—but within them. It's the collision of **God's divine will** and **man's desire**. One is eternal, wise, and perfect. The other is emotional, reactive, and short-sighted. Proverbs 14:12 draws a sharp line in the sand between these two: what *seems* right to us versus what *is* right in God's eyes.

The Christian life is not about asking God to bless our plans. It's about learning to *submit* to His. But herein lies the problem—man, by nature, wants control. Even saved believers, though new creatures in Christ, often default to old habits of self-determination and flesh-driven reasoning. So how can we, as God's children, surrender our desires and truly walk in His will?

This essay lays the groundwork for our entire series. Before we learn *how* to walk in God's will, we must understand the critical difference between *His* will and *ours*. And we must confront the subtle danger of assuming that what we want is automatically what He wants.

1. What Seems Right to a Man: The Deceptive Nature of Human Desire

Proverbs 14:12 doesn't say the way is *obviously* wrong. It says it *seems* right.

Desire, in and of itself, is not evil. God gave us desire. We desire companionship, provision, purpose, growth, security, success. These are not inherently wicked. But when desire becomes detached from God's Word and Spirit, it becomes dangerous. What "seems right" becomes a trap.

Consider:

- **Eve desired** wisdom and fruit (Genesis 3:6), but it led to death.
- **Lot desired** the well-watered plains of Sodom (Genesis 13:10), but it cost him his family.
- **David desired** Bathsheba (2 Samuel 11), and it wrecked his peace and household.

What all these examples share is not that desire was absent—it was that *God's will was ignored*.

Desire isn't the problem. **Ungoverned desire is**. When a man begins to lean on his own understanding instead of trusting in the Lord, he often walks a road that "seems right"—a relationship, a job, a ministry path, a lifestyle—only to find out too late that it leads to ruin.

2. The Will of God: Higher, Holier, and Hidden Without Revelation

Isaiah 55:8–9 reminds us: "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord..."

God's will doesn't operate on the level of human reasoning. His will is **higher, deeper, wiser, and more long-term** than ours. While man is often reactive, God is redemptive. He sees the end from the beginning. And more often than not, His will will challenge your comfort, confront your pride, and contradict your expectations.

But the beauty of God's will is that it's always **good** (Romans 12:2). Unlike man's short-term desires that often lead to emotional burnout, financial traps, or relational chaos, God's will leads to purpose, peace, and fruit that lasts.

But here's the catch—it's hidden without revelation. That's why Proverbs 3:5–6 tells us to "lean not unto thine own understanding." If you rely solely on what *feels* right, you'll miss what *is* right.

3. Why We Confuse God's Will with Ours

Many believers sincerely want to follow God's will, but unknowingly get swept up in the current of their own emotions. Here are some key reasons why:

- **Emotional Impulses Masquerade as Spiritual Promptings.**
People often say, "I just feel peace about it," even when it contradicts Scripture. Emotions can mimic spiritual assurance but are not the final authority.
- **Cultural Christianity Teaches God Wants You Happy.**
Many confuse happiness with holiness. They assume God's will must always align with comfort, ease, and open doors. But sometimes, the hardest thing *is* God's will.
- **Confirmation Bias.**
We tend to search for and accept only the input that affirms what we already want. We ignore the Scriptures, counsel, or convictions that challenge us.
- **Flesh Wants Control.**
The flesh resists submission to God's will. It prefers self-will dressed up in spiritual language.

4. Examples of God's Will vs. Man's Desire in Scripture

Let's take a look at some powerful examples of this tension in the Bible:

Jesus in Gethsemane

In Matthew 26:39, Jesus prayed, "Not as I will, but as thou wilt." The Son of God Himself showed us that surrendering to God's will often involves a death to our own—even when that will is righteous.

Jonah vs. Nineveh

Jonah *wanted* Nineveh to be destroyed. God *willed* that they be saved. Jonah was angry when God's mercy overruled his personal bias (Jonah 4:1–3). This shows how personal prejudice can blind us to God's greater redemptive plan.

Peter's Sword vs. God's Cross

When Peter drew his sword in Gethsemane (John 18:10), he was defending the *wrong* will. Jesus had to rebuke him. Peter's zeal was real—but it was misaligned. He didn't yet understand that the cross was God's perfect will.

5. The Cost of Following Your Own Way

When we follow our desires instead of God's will, we may initially feel excitement, success, or affirmation—but it always comes with long-term loss.

- **Spiritual dryness.** Your soul loses intimacy with God.
- **Emotional instability.** When things go wrong, your confidence crumbles because it was built on your plan.
- **Delay of God's best.** When we force our own way, we may miss or postpone what God had originally prepared.

Samson followed what he “saw right” in his own eyes (Judges 14:3), and it led to humiliation. Saul followed his own logic instead of God's command (1 Samuel 15), and it cost him the kingdom.

6. How to Test if Something is God's Will

Here are six checkpoints to help discern between your desires and God's direction:

1. **Is it rooted in Scripture?**
God's will never contradicts His Word.
2. **Does it exalt Christ or self?**
God's will always leads to glorifying Jesus, not building your platform.
3. **Does it align with wise counsel?**
Proverbs says in the multitude of counselors there is safety.
4. **Is it accompanied by lasting peace?**
Not emotional hype—but a deep inner confirmation from the Spirit.
5. **Does it require faith and surrender?**
God's will often stretches us out of our comfort zone and into deeper trust.
6. **Is there fruit or fallout?**
Time reveals whether a path leads to godliness or chaos.

7. Learning to Let Go of Control

The essence of surrender is trust. You will never fully embrace God's will until you **let go of your need to control the outcome.**

God's plan is not a negotiation. It's not a set of options. It's a call to **obedience**—often without the full picture. Abraham didn't know where he was going. Moses didn't feel equipped. Paul didn't expect prison. But each walked in God's will and changed history.

Letting go isn't weakness—it's worship. It's saying, "Lord, you lead. I'll follow. Even if it costs me what I thought I wanted."

8. When God's Will Hurts Before It Heals

Sometimes God's will wounds your ego before it heals your soul.

- **He may shut a door** you desperately wanted to walk through.
- **He may say no** to a relationship you thought was perfect.
- **He may keep you in a place** where you feel overlooked and forgotten.

But everything God does is for your refinement and ultimate good (Romans 8:28). His will is often painful in the short-term but powerful in the long-term.

Don't mistake delay or discipline as rejection. It's often redirection to something better.

9. Practical Steps to Align Your Desire with God's Will

1. **Start your day surrendering.**

Before you check your phone or make plans, ask: "God, not my will, but Yours."

2. **Journal your decisions.**

Write down major choices and the reasons behind them. This helps expose hidden motives.

3. **Fast from emotional decisions.**

Give yourself 24–48 hours before making a major decision based solely on passion.

4. **Study God's Word daily.**

The more Scripture you know, the less likely you'll confuse your feelings with God's voice.

5. **Ask, "What glorifies Christ most?"**

Let that question override the easier, more popular route.

Conclusion: Let Go of What Seems Right and Embrace What *Is* Right

Proverbs 14:12 is a sober warning, but also a divine invitation. You don't have to wander through life hoping your desires line up with God's plan. You can *know* His will. But it starts by admitting: "Lord, I may not know what's best—but You do."

The greatest danger in the Christian life is not always rebellion—it's assumption. Assuming our desires are divine. Assuming peace means permission. Assuming success equals God's blessing.

Instead, the wise believer constantly submits their heart to God and prays, "Search me, O God, and know my heart... lead me in the way everlasting" (Psalm 139:23–24).

You will never regret choosing God's will over your own. But you may deeply regret choosing your own will over His.

2 of 10: Understanding God's Will – The Word as Your Compass

Key Text: Psalm 119:105

"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path."

Introduction: A World of Fog, A Lamp of Fire

In a world of endless choices and conflicting voices, finding direction can feel like walking through a dense fog. The question that plagues the heart of every believer at some point is this: *How do I know what God wants me to do?* While the voices of culture, friends, family, and even our own desires grow louder by the day, one voice remains still, clear, and unchanging—the voice of God as revealed in His Word.

God's Word is not a GPS that lays out every twist and turn of your life in advance. It's a lamp—something that gives you enough light to take the next step. And it's a light—a consistent beacon that cuts through the world's darkness and guides you toward God's best.

If we are to understand the will of God, we must first anchor ourselves in His Word. Any claim of "hearing from God" or "being led by the Spirit" that contradicts Scripture is not divine leading—it's delusion. This essay will uncover how the Bible is not just a book of principles but a *living compass* that keeps our hearts, minds, and decisions aligned with heaven's direction.

I. The Unchanging Standard: Why Scripture is Supreme

God is not the author of confusion (1 Corinthians 14:33), and He has not left His children without clarity. The Bible is the revealed will of God for mankind. While not every detail of your future is spelled out on the pages, the heart, principles, and boundaries of God's will are unmistakably laid out.

1. Scripture is God's Voice in Written Form

Every verse carries divine authority. 2 Timothy 3:16 declares, "All scripture is given by inspiration of God..." That means it is God-breathed—His Spirit infused into language. Therefore, reading the Bible is not a suggestion; it's a direct encounter with the mind of God.

2. Scripture Trumps Feelings and Circumstances

How many believers have made shipwrecks of their lives by chasing "feelings" or "open doors"? Emotions fluctuate. Situations shift. But Isaiah 40:8 reminds us, "*The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand forever.*" What was true for Paul, Peter, and David is still true for you.

3. Scripture is the Final Arbiter of Truth

Many ask, "How do I know if this opportunity is God's will?" Simple—hold it up to the light of Scripture. If it contradicts God's commands, promotes sin, or draws you away from fellowship with Christ, it is not from God. Period.

II. How the Word Functions as a Compass

A compass doesn't change direction to match your feelings; it always points north. Likewise, the Word doesn't flex to accommodate modern trends or personal preferences—it always points to God's will.

1. It Exposes the Flesh

Hebrews 4:12 says the Word of God is "sharper than any twoedged sword... a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart." In other words, it cuts past your excuses and shines a spotlight on your motives. Sometimes we don't want God's will—we want God's stamp of approval on *our* will. The Word reveals that.

2. It Provides Daily Direction

Psalm 119:105 calls it a lamp to your feet and a light to your path. Lamps in biblical times didn't shine miles ahead—they gave enough light for the next few steps. God doesn't always reveal five years from now—but He will guide you today.

3. It Anchors You in Storms

When life becomes chaotic and decisions feel paralyzing, returning to Scripture realigns your perspective. Psalm 119:133 says, “*Order my steps in thy word.*” Not in your career plan. Not in your friend's advice. Not in your feelings. In *thy word*.

III. Practical Ways to Use the Word to Discern God's Will

Knowing the Word is one thing. Using it as a compass for real-life decisions is another. Here's how to make the Word your go-to guide:

1. Saturate Your Mind with Scripture Daily

Don't treat the Bible like a menu where you pick verses to suit your appetite. Read it wholly, systematically, and prayerfully. The more Scripture you absorb, the more your instincts will align with God's heart.

2. Meditate, Don't Just Memorize

Joshua 1:8 says, “*This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night.*” Meditation means soaking in the Word until it shapes your desires. When you meditate, God's will becomes more intuitive.

3. Use Scripture to Evaluate Your Desires

When a new opportunity arises, ask:

- Does this glorify God?
- Will this draw me closer to or further from fellowship with Christ?
- Is this consistent with biblical values?
- Would Jesus be pleased with this path?

If your desires conflict with the answers, then your compass is trying to spin against true north.

4. Let the Word Confirm Your Prayers

Before you say “God told me,” make sure God actually said it in His Word. Prayer and Scripture should be in harmony. God does not answer prayers with options that violate His commandments.

5. Study with the Spirit, Not Just the Flesh

The Bible is spiritually discerned (1 Corinthians 2:14). That means without the Holy Spirit, even the smartest theologian can miss the point. Always pray before reading. Ask the Holy Spirit to illuminate truth and reveal application.

IV. When the Word is Silent: Following Biblical Principles

What about decisions not explicitly covered in the Bible—what job to take, whom to marry, where to move? These gray areas are where the principles of Scripture become your guide.

1. Principle of Wisdom

Proverbs is filled with divine wisdom for practical living. Proverbs 11:14 says, “*Where no counsel is, the people fall: but in the multitude of counsellors there is safety.*” The Word encourages wise counsel, planning, and diligence.

2. Principle of Peace

Colossians 3:15 says, “*Let the peace of God rule in your hearts...*” If you’ve prayed, searched the Scriptures, and find peace that aligns with biblical principles, that peace can help guide your decision.

3. Principle of Lordship

Romans 14:8 reminds us that we live and die unto the Lord. So ask: “Can I do this to the glory of God?” (1 Corinthians 10:31). If not, don’t do it.

V. Misuses of the Word as a Compass

The Word is a tool, not a toy. Many misuse it to justify what they already want. Be on guard against these traps:

1. Cherry-Picking Verses

Plucking one verse out of context to fit your situation is not biblical discernment—it’s manipulation. Always read verses in light of the whole passage.

2. The “Magic Eight Ball” Approach

Some believers open the Bible at random and point to a verse, hoping for a magical answer. That's not how a compass works. Study, context, and prayer must go hand-in-hand.

3. Justifying Sin with Scripture

Satan quoted Scripture to Jesus (Matthew 4). The devil knows how to twist truth. Beware of justifying rebellion with out-of-context verses.

VI. Testimonies of God's Direction Through His Word

Believers throughout history have testified to how God used His Word to reveal direction:

- **Hudson Taylor**, missionary to China, read "Ask of me, and I shall give thee the heathen for thine inheritance..." (Psalm 2:8) and knew he was called to missions.
- **Amy Carmichael** meditated on Romans 12 and was led to serve in India.
- **Your story** might not involve a mission field, but it will involve moments where a verse grips you, convicts you, or comforts you. That is the Word acting as your compass.

VII. Jesus: The Living Word as the Ultimate Compass

Finally, let us not forget that the written Word points us to the Living Word—Jesus Christ. John 1:1 calls Him the Word made flesh. His life is the embodiment of Scripture's truth.

- **Jesus used the Word** when tempted (Matthew 4).
- **Jesus fulfilled the Word** in His life and death.
- **Jesus taught the Word** as the foundation for all of life.

When you follow Scripture, you are following Jesus.

Conclusion: Trust the Compass—Even When the Trail is Dark

God never promised a clear path, but He did promise a trustworthy lamp. His Word won't give you every detail, but it will give you every principle needed to walk rightly.

You may not see the finish line. You may not know how it ends. But if you take one step at a time with the light of God's Word, you will never be outside His will.

So, in every decision, every fork in the road, and every storm—reach for your compass.

Open the Bible.

Turn on the lamp.

And walk with confidence.

“Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.” – Psalm 119:105

3 of 10: Understanding God’s Will – Prayer and the Will of God

Key Text: 1 John 5:14–15

“And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us: And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him.”

Introduction: The Divine Dialogue of Prayer

Prayer is often misunderstood as a means to bend God's will to our desires. We treat it like a spiritual wish list, and God as a cosmic genie who either grants or denies. But in reality, prayer is not a transaction—it is a transformation. Prayer does not change God's mind. It changes *ours*. It is the primary way God aligns our hearts with His purposes. The more we pray, the more we see clearly—not because God gave us what we wanted, but because He showed us what *He* wanted.

This essay dives into how consistent, faith-filled prayer serves as one of the most vital tools in discovering and living out the will of God. When we understand prayer not as manipulation but as communion, we begin to pray with open hands and surrendered hearts.

I. The Purpose of Prayer: More Than Asking

At its core, prayer is communication with God—but it’s far deeper than a hotline for emergencies. Prayer is a sacred privilege given to believers to enter into intimate dialogue with their Creator. And in that dialogue, God reveals, convicts, comforts, and directs.

The Apostle John makes it clear: our confidence in prayer hinges on whether we ask *according to His will*. This flips the script. Prayer is not just about bringing God our list; it's

about being willing to *receive His list*. Many believers approach God to get something from Him—fewer come to *give themselves* to Him.

Jesus Himself demonstrated this truth in Gethsemane when He prayed, “Not my will, but thine, be done” (Luke 22:42). If the Son of God, in His humanity, submitted His will in prayer, how much more should we?

II. The Posture of Prayer: Surrender, Not Control

1 John 5:14–15 teaches us to pray boldly—but not arrogantly. There’s a world of difference between “claiming something into existence” and *submitting to God’s will*. The former puts us in control; the latter puts God on the throne.

Too many modern teachings reduce prayer to positive declarations or name-it-and-claim-it routines. But biblical prayer is not about wielding God’s power like a magic wand—it’s about bowing before His sovereignty.

When we approach prayer with a surrendered heart, we’re not just telling God what we want; we’re asking Him to refine what we want.

Prayer is not about gaining leverage—it’s about yielding lordship.

In prayer, God often reveals that the thing we thought we needed wasn’t His plan at all. Or sometimes, the timing we thought was right is not yet. That’s not unanswered prayer. That’s *perfect* prayer—prayer that aligns with God’s infinite wisdom.

III. The Process of Alignment: How Prayer Adjusts Our Desires

Think of prayer like tuning a guitar. The strings might sound close, but they need subtle adjustments to resonate with the master’s melody. That’s what prayer does. It fine-tunes our will to harmonize with God’s.

God has three primary answers to prayer:

1. **Yes.**
2. **No.**
3. **Wait.**

And “Wait” might be the hardest. But it's often where God does the most refining work. The longer you sit with God in prayer, the more clarity you get about your own motives, fears, and pride.

Sometimes the breakthrough isn't in the answer but in the *asking*. We discover God's will in the *repetition* of prayer, not just in the result. As we keep coming back to Him, we realize what truly matters.

Prayer is not a shortcut to get around the will of God—it's the pathway that leads us through it.

IV. Hearing God in Prayer: The Role of the Holy Spirit

Romans 8:26 reminds us that the Spirit “helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought.” That verse is one of the most freeing in all of Scripture. Why? Because it humbles us. It reminds us that even our prayers need help.

And help is exactly what God provides.

The Holy Spirit intercedes for us, not just by bringing our groans before the Father, but by shaping *how* and *what* we pray. If you ever find yourself not knowing what to say in prayer—good. That's the beginning of honest prayer. The Spirit will lead from there.

When prayer is led by the Spirit, it becomes more than ritual. It becomes revelatory. We begin to feel nudges, impressions, convictions that weren't there before. That doesn't mean we hear voices or see neon signs—it means our spiritual discernment sharpens. What once seemed gray becomes black or white.

The will of God becomes clearer the closer we walk with the Spirit—and prayer is how we walk.

V. Jesus: The Model of Perfect Prayer

Let's return to the Garden of Gethsemane for a moment. Here's Jesus, sweating drops of blood, about to face the agony of the cross. And what does He pray?

“Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done” (Luke 22:42).

That is the most perfect prayer ever prayed.

Why? Because it reveals the *honesty* of human desire ("remove this cup") and the *humility* of divine submission ("not my will").

Jesus teaches us that it's okay to bring our real emotions to God. It's okay to plead. But it's not okay to demand. Prayer is not about coercion—it's about consecration. Jesus didn't exit that prayer with less suffering—He exited with *greater strength* to endure it.

True prayer doesn't always take the burden away. Sometimes it gives you the back to carry it.

VI. Confidence in Prayer: When the Answer Is "Yes"

1 John 5:15 says, "And if we know that he hear us...we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him." That's not a blanket promise that every prayer gets a yes. It's a promise that *when* our hearts align with God's will, we can have *confidence*—not *control*—that He will answer.

When your requests begin to mirror God's character and mission, the answer often becomes "yes." Why? Because you're not praying selfishly; you're praying strategically.

Let's say you pray for wisdom, or for someone to be saved, or for doors to be opened to share Christ—those are prayers God *delights* to answer.

The more time you spend in prayer, the more your prayers sound like God's heart—and the more answers you'll see.

VII. Wrestling in Prayer: When the Answer Is "No"

But what about when the answer is "No"?

Paul, in 2 Corinthians 12, prayed three times for God to remove his "thorn in the flesh." God didn't. And yet Paul didn't walk away angry. He walked away *strengthened*.

"My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness" (2 Corinthians 12:9).

There's something holy about unanswered prayers—because they reveal that God is not a vending machine. He is a Father. And fathers say no when it's necessary.

Sometimes, what we think is good would destroy us. And only God can see it.

The "No" isn't rejection—it's *redirection*. It's God saying, "That's not My will for you—but I have something better."

VIII. Waiting in Prayer: The Silent Will of God

Then there's the dreaded silence. When we pray and hear nothing. Feel nothing. See nothing.

But silence is not absence.

God's will isn't always loud. Often, it's quiet. Subtle. Whispered through circumstances, Scripture, or conviction. Just because God is silent doesn't mean He's idle.

“Wait on the LORD: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart” (Psalm 27:14).

Waiting is not wasted time. It's preparation. In the waiting, our faith deepens. Our motives purify. Our vision sharpens.

IX. Aligning Your Will Through Ongoing Prayer

If you want to know God's will, pray daily. And not just with your mouth—with your *mindset*. Prayer is not a one-time event—it's a lifelong habit of surrender.

Ask yourself:

- Am I willing to accept God's will *even if it's different* from what I wanted?
- Do my prayers sound more like a demand or a desire to surrender?
- Am I listening in prayer or just speaking?

The more honestly you answer those, the more clearly you'll understand God's will.

X. Walking Out God's Will with Prayer as Your Companion

Finally, prayer doesn't just *reveal* God's will. It *sustains* it.

Once you know what God wants—keep praying. Why? Because obedience is hard. Walking in God's will often brings resistance, pain, or uncertainty.

But when prayer is your companion, you're never walking alone.

You may not have all the answers, but you have *access* to the One who does.

Conclusion: Praying in the Will of God Is Living in the Will of God

Prayer is not a last resort. It is the first step in understanding God’s will—and the daily rhythm of remaining in it.

When you pray:

- With the Word as your filter,
- With the Spirit as your guide,
- With a heart of surrender,

You will not only *know* the will of God—you will begin to *live* it.

So go ahead—keep asking. Keep listening. Keep surrendering. His will is not hidden in the heavens; it’s whispered in the quiet places of prayer.

"This is the confidence we have: If we ask anything according to His will, He hears us."

And when God hears—you *will* be changed.

4 of 10: Understanding God’s Will – Situational Guidance: When the Bible Doesn’t Say

Key Text: James 1:5

Focus: What do you do when there’s no verse to answer your situation? Explore how God gives wisdom and peace to guide you when Scripture is silent.

Introduction: Between the Lines of Scripture

For every believer, there will come a moment—not once, but often—when a decision needs to be made, and there is no direct Bible verse to point the way. You won’t find a chapter or verse that says, “Take this job,” “Move to that city,” or “Marry this person.” In those moments, Christians often feel like they’re navigating in a fog without a compass. But God hasn’t left His children stranded. His Word is the foundation, but His wisdom is fluid—it flows into the cracks where specific verses may not speak, guiding with peace, providence, and personal leading.

This essay explores the divine help available when the Bible doesn’t give explicit instructions—what we call *situational guidance*. When facing morally neutral decisions or

life transitions that Scripture doesn't directly address, how does a believer move forward in faith, not fear?

I. Understanding the Limits—and the Strength—of Scriptural Specifics

The Bible is perfect, infallible, and sufficient—but it is not exhaustive in every practical detail of your life. Nowhere in the Bible will you find explicit answers to questions like:

- Should I take this job offer or the other?
- Is it time to leave my hometown and move elsewhere?
- Should I go to college, and if so, which one?
- Is this the person God wants me to marry?

The silence on such matters does *not* mean God is indifferent. Rather, it points to a deeper kind of relationship—one built not just on instructions but on intimacy. God calls us to trust Him, seek His wisdom, and walk in step with His Spirit. That's why James 1:5 says:

"If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him."

Scripture is the guardrail, the boundary line. It shows what *not* to do. But when multiple paths are morally right and biblically sound, God invites us into a walk of wisdom.

II. Wisdom Is the Key to Situational Guidance

James 1:5 doesn't promise God will always give us a *voice*—but He does promise to give us *wisdom*. Wisdom is God's guiding principle for decisions where a clear "yes" or "no" doesn't exist in black-and-white ink.

What is Wisdom?

Wisdom is more than knowledge. Knowledge fills your head; wisdom steers your heart and feet. It is:

- Discernment between two or more good options.
- Awareness of long-term consequences.
- Sensitivity to timing and season.
- The humility to seek counsel.

- The peace to wait or move forward without fear.

In situational guidance, wisdom helps you *weigh*, not just *react*. And James 1:5 assures us—God *gives* wisdom. Freely. Lavishly. Without rebuke.

III. Five Ways God Provides Situational Guidance

1. Through a Renewed Mind (Romans 12:2)

“Be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind...”

Your ability to discern God’s will is directly connected to your spiritual maturity. A mind soaked in Scripture, trained in truth, and free from worldly patterns becomes sensitive to God’s nudges.

God’s will is often not “revealed” in the moment—it’s discerned through transformation. It becomes a byproduct of a sanctified heart. A mind that has been renewed doesn’t chase the world’s wisdom; it instinctively leans toward righteousness.

2. Through Peace and Rest (Colossians 3:15)

“And let the peace of God rule in your hearts...”

The word *rule* here means to “act as an umpire.” In other words, peace helps you *call the shots*. If your heart is conflicted, anxious, or uneasy, that’s not God’s green light. Peace isn’t just an emotion—it’s spiritual confirmation.

God’s situational guidance often whispers, not shouts. And peace is a key indicator of His leading.

3. Through Open and Closed Doors (Revelation 3:7–8)

“...he that openeth, and no man shutteth; and shutteth, and no man openeth.”

God has a way of sovereignly shaping circumstances—blocking one path while clearing another. These “doors” are His way of guiding you through opportunity or prevention. We must learn to interpret circumstances without forcing them.

Don’t mistake delay for denial, or opposition for a closed door—seek confirmation.

4. Through Godly Counsel (Proverbs 15:22)

“Without counsel purposes are disappointed: but in the multitude of counsellors they are established.”

God places wise, mature believers in your life not to control you—but to confirm, warn, or sharpen your discernment. Seek counsel from people who know God, His Word, and your walk.

A mature believer can often see the iceberg beneath the waterline that you're too close to notice.

5. Through the Desires He Plants (Psalm 37:4)

“Delight thyself also in the LORD; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart.”

This verse isn't a blank check for wishes—it's a promise of *alignment*. As you delight in God, your desires begin to reflect His heart. And when you are submitted to His lordship, the longings of your heart are often whispers of His will.

God doesn't just drop instructions—He stirs the heart, so you *want* what He wants.

IV. When Scripture Is Silent, Stay Anchored in the Character of God

In moments of silence, don't panic. Go back to who God is:

- He is good (Psalm 145:9)
- He is faithful (Lamentations 3:23)
- He is sovereign (Isaiah 46:10)
- He is near (Psalm 34:18)

His silence is not His absence. In fact, silence often means He's *building your trust*. It teaches you to walk by faith, not by sight.

God's character becomes your compass when your emotions are confusing and logic is foggy. When you're unsure about the next step, be sure about this: **God is trustworthy.**

V. Practical Steps for Discerning God's Will in Situational Decisions

When facing a tough decision and the Bible doesn't spell it out clearly, take these steps:

1. Pray for Wisdom

Start by asking—don't assume. Lay your request before God and ask for clarity without presumption. Be specific. Then, listen.

2. Check the Word

Even if there's no direct verse, are there biblical principles that apply? Does this decision align with God's values, priorities, and spirit?

3. Evaluate the Fruit

Jesus said, "You shall know them by their fruits." Apply the same to decisions. Will this bear good fruit—spiritually, emotionally, and relationally?

4. Seek Counsel

Don't walk alone. Wise believers can help you confirm or caution a direction.

5. Watch for Providence

Is God opening doors in that direction? Is He orchestrating circumstances? Or is everything blocked and strained?

6. Wait for Peace

Peace is powerful. Don't act until your spirit is settled.

7. Take the Step

Once confirmed, don't stall. Obedience delayed can become obedience denied. Move forward in faith—even if it's just one step at a time.

VI. When You Still Don't Know—Stand Still

Sometimes, after all the praying, evaluating, and seeking, you still don't know what to do. What then?

"Stand still, and see the salvation of the LORD..." (Exodus 14:13)

Standing still is not passivity. It is active trust. When the cloud doesn't move, neither should you. Rushing ahead without clarity is worse than standing still in trust.

God doesn't test your ability to guess right—He tests your trust to wait well.

VII. Biblical Examples of Situational Guidance

Abraham and the Sacrifice (Genesis 22)

No verse told Abraham to offer Isaac. It was a unique test, revealed only through a personal word from God. Abraham obeyed—step by step—until God redirected him.

Nehemiah Rebuilding the Wall (Nehemiah 2)

Nehemiah didn't get a direct verse to rebuild Jerusalem's wall. But his burden became his assignment. God used his discernment, favor, and timing to guide his steps.

Paul's Journeys (Acts 16:6–10)

Paul tried going to Asia—but the Spirit forbid him. Then he tried Bithynia—again, the door closed. Finally, a vision redirected him to Macedonia. Even apostles didn't always get it right the first time.

But notice: God didn't strike Paul for trying—He redirected him. Don't fear missteps if your heart is surrendered.

VIII. Common Pitfalls to Avoid in Situational Guidance

- **Over-Spiritualizing Everything:** Not every open parking spot is divine intervention. Be spiritually aware without becoming mystical.
- **Waiting for Voices Instead of Using Wisdom:** God speaks through wisdom more than whispering.
- **Using “God’s Will” to Justify Desires:** Don't baptize your emotions in spiritual language.
- **Neglecting the Word:** God never guides in contradiction to Scripture.
- **Acting Out of Fear or Pressure:** Don't rush decisions under emotional duress. Wait on peace.

IX. God's Guidance is a Relationship, Not a Formula

Situational guidance isn't a math equation—it's a walk. God doesn't hand you a blueprint—He invites you to walk beside the Architect.

The more you walk with Him, the more natural the discernment becomes. Like a child learning the voice of their parent, you begin to recognize His tone, His touch, His timing.

The goal is not just making the right decision—the goal is deeper dependence.

Conclusion: When the Bible Is Silent, the Shepherd Still Speaks

God's Word is our foundation. But when the Bible doesn't give a direct answer to your situation, God has not left you alone. He gives wisdom. He speaks through peace. He stirs desires. He opens doors. He redirects paths. And above all, He walks with you.

Don't let fear of missing God's will paralyze you. If your heart is surrendered, your steps are secure. Psalm 37:23 says:

"The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD: and he delighteth in his way."

When Scripture is silent, the Spirit is not. When the road is unclear, the Shepherd still leads. Walk humbly, wisely, prayerfully—and trust that God *will* get you where He wants you.

Because He's not trying to *hide* His will—He's trying to *walk it out* with you.

5 of 10: Understanding God's Will – How to Discern His Will Practically

Key Text: Romans 12:2

"And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God."

Introduction: The Problem of Daily Discernment

For many Christians, understanding God's will seems like trying to read the wind. How do you know what college to attend, what job to take, who to marry, or what ministry to serve in? We know that God has a will, but the question that plagues believers isn't whether He has one—it's how to discern it.

God is not playing hide-and-seek with His plans. He wants us to know His will more than we want to know it. The issue is not His unwillingness to reveal—but our unpreparedness to receive. That's why Romans 12:2 is so pivotal. It tells us the will of God can be *proven*—tested, discerned, understood—but only after a transformation of the mind has taken place.

This essay offers practical, biblical steps for discerning the will of God daily, not through guesswork or emotional whims, but through tested spiritual principles that renew the mind and anchor the heart.

1. Surrender: Start With the Altar

Before you can discern God's will, you must first *want* God's will. That may sound obvious, but the truth is many believers secretly want God to bless *their* plans, not reveal *His*. The key is what Paul said just before our key verse:

Romans 12:1 – *“I beseech you therefore, brethren...that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice...”*

Surrender is the gateway. God reveals His plans to those who've laid their own down. If you're still clinging to your own preferences, dreams, or timelines, don't expect clarity. God doesn't show His blueprint to someone still holding their own pen.

Application:

- Daily prayer: “Lord, I am willing to do *whatever* You want—even if it's not what I expected.”
- Let go of predetermined outcomes. Don't ask for God's will while secretly planning your own.

2. Renew Your Mind: Align Thinking With Scripture

The transformed mind is the discerning mind. You cannot think with the mind of the world and expect to know the will of God. That's why Paul said, “Be not conformed to this world, but be ye transformed...”

This isn't just about moral behavior—it's about spiritual filters. How do you interpret the world? Yourself? Opportunities? Trials? If your thinking hasn't been soaked in Scripture, your discernment will be foggy.

Colossians 3:16 – *“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly...”*

The Word of God cleanses your perspective. It fine-tunes your instincts. The more Scripture you know, the sharper your spiritual “instincts” become—not mystical feelings, but trained senses (see Hebrews 5:14).

Application:

- Read the Bible *daily* with the lens: “What does this teach me about how God works?”
- Meditate on God’s principles—not just verses out of context, but whole chapters and their meanings.

3. Look for God’s Patterns, Not Just Promises

Many believers flip open their Bibles, point to a verse, and say, “That’s God’s answer!” But discernment isn’t about hunting random verses—it’s about understanding God’s patterns.

God’s will is consistent with:

- His character (He won’t ask you to do something contrary to His holiness),
- His ways (He often works through waiting, testing, and faith),
- His priorities (He’s more interested in your sanctification than your speed).

For example:

- Joseph’s detour to the prison was part of God’s will.
- Moses spent 40 years in the desert before leading Israel.
- Paul’s thorn wasn’t removed, yet he was in the center of God’s will.

Discernment isn’t about ease or open doors—it’s about alignment with God’s greater purpose.

Application:

- Study Bible characters and ask, “How did God guide this person?”
- Ask yourself: “Does this opportunity align with what God values?”

4. Obey the Known Will of God First

This principle cannot be overstated. You cannot expect to receive fresh guidance when you are neglecting the guidance already given.

Examples of the known will of God:

- **1 Thessalonians 4:3** – *“For this is the will of God, even your sanctification...”*

- **1 Peter 2:15** – *“For so is the will of God, that with well doing ye may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men.”*
- **1 Thessalonians 5:18** – *“In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God...”*

If you’re walking in disobedience, bitterness, sexual sin, rebellion, or unthankfulness—don’t expect clarity from heaven.

Application:

- Regular self-examination: “Am I walking in obedience to what God has already shown?”
- Confess and forsake sin that blocks spiritual perception.

5. Use Godly Counsel: Don’t Walk Alone

God has placed others in the body of Christ to help us discern. Wise counsel acts as a sounding board. Sometimes others can see what we are too emotionally invested to admit.

Proverbs 11:14 – *“Where no counsel is, the people fall: but in the multitude of counsellors there is safety.”*

Not every opinion counts—choose godly, biblically sound advisors who walk in humility and fear of the Lord. Avoid people who always “affirm” what you want.

Application:

- Ask for counsel early in decision-making—not just after you’ve made up your mind.
- Be open to correction and redirection.

6. Evaluate Doors, Don’t Just Walk Through Them

Not every open door is from God. And not every closed door means “no.” Paul said in **1 Corinthians 16:9**, *“For a great door and effectual is opened unto me, and there are many adversaries.”*

Satan can open doors. The flesh can fabricate “opportunities.” We must test doors through the lens of God’s Word, prayer, peace, and timing.

Ask:

- Is this door consistent with God’s character?

- Will this glorify God or just gratify me?
- Does this door come with God's peace or just pressure?

Application:

- Don't walk through a door just because it's open—pause, pray, test it.
- Ask for divine confirmation—not just circumstances, but internal peace and external counsel.

7. Learn to Wait: Timing is Key

Impatience is one of the biggest enemies of discernment. Some of the worst decisions happen when people rush into what *seems* right.

Isaiah 28:16 – “*He that believeth shall not make haste.*”

God's will is not just *what* you do, but *when* you do it. Sometimes His silence is not a “no,” but a “not yet.” If you move before He says so, even the right decision becomes a disaster.

Application:

- Build the discipline of patience—don't force decisions out of fear.
- Trust God's timing more than your need for answers.

8. Watch for Peace, Not Pressure

Colossians 3:15 – “*Let the peace of God rule in your hearts...*”

That word “rule” literally means “to umpire.” Peace is the umpire in the believer's heart. If you're walking in anxiety, fear, or pressure—it's not God's voice leading. His direction comes with peace, even when it's difficult.

Now this doesn't mean there won't be spiritual resistance or warfare, but it means there will be *internal calm* despite external chaos.

Application:

- Ask, “Is this decision fueled by faith or fear?”
- Don't confuse temporary emotion with lasting peace.

9. Don't Expect a Formula—Expect a Relationship

God's will is not always revealed in ten easy steps. Sometimes He wants you to walk closely with Him *daily* rather than hand you a roadmap for the year. Why? Because He desires intimacy, not just instruction.

Jesus said in **John 10:27** – “*My sheep hear my voice...*” That implies ongoing relationship, not one-time communication.

Application:

- Don't idolize signs—pursue the Shepherd.
- Spend more time getting to know *God* than trying to decode His plan.

10. Trust the Destination Even When the Path Is Unclear

Sometimes God only gives you enough light for the next step. That's not cruelty—it's mercy. If He showed you the full journey, it might scare you or tempt you to skip dependence.

Psalms 119:105 – “*Thy word is a lamp unto my feet...*”

A lamp doesn't light up a mile ahead—it lights your next step. That's enough when you walk with the One who holds the future.

Application:

- Take the next *right* step with faith.
- Trust that the God who called you will sustain you.

Conclusion: Proving the Perfect Will

Romans 12:2 says you can prove the *good, acceptable, and perfect* will of God. That means His will is:

- **Good** – It's morally pure and leads to blessing.
- **Acceptable** – It's pleasing to Him and satisfying to the obedient heart.
- **Perfect** – It fits you exactly, down to the detail.

You were made for His plan—not your own. His will is not a punishment; it is your purpose fulfilled. Discernment is not about decoding mystery, but about walking in yieldedness and faith, with the Word as your compass, prayer as your breath, and the Spirit as your guide.

So walk on, friend—step by step, you will see His plan unfold.

6 of 10: Understanding God’s Will – Doors, Delays, and Divine Timing

Key Text: Revelation 3:7–8

"These things saith he that is holy, he that is true, he that hath the key of David, he that openeth, and no man shutteth; and shutteth, and no man openeth; I know thy works: behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it." — Revelation 3:7–8, KJV

Introduction: A Clock You Can’t Control

If we’re honest, one of the most frustrating aspects of the Christian life is waiting. We want answers. We want clarity. We want progress. And we want it now. But God’s will often unfolds not in a straight line, but in seasons, stages, and strange detours that seem more like delays than directions.

What we must understand is that God is not bound by our clocks or calendars. His purposes are eternal. His timing is perfect. And He is sovereign over every door—both open and closed.

The key to peace in the will of God is not getting everything we want when we want it—but trusting that God knows when the time is right.

This essay unpacks how doors, delays, and divine timing are part of God’s will—not signs of rejection, but tools of redirection, preparation, and protection.

1. God Holds the Keys—Not You

Revelation 3:7 makes one thing absolutely clear: it is Christ who “openeth, and no man shutteth; and shutteth, and no man openeth.” That means He is the Keyholder. Not your ambition. Not your talent. Not your timeline. Not even your prayers.

God is not in heaven trying to catch up with your plans. He’s inviting you to surrender to His.

Doors in Scripture represent opportunities—ministries, decisions, places of influence, relationships, and next steps. And while we may have preferences, it is the Lord who determines the access.

If a door is shut, don't force it. If a door is open, don't fear it. Either way, trust the One who holds the key.

“The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord: and he delighteth in his way.” — *Psalms* 37:23

2. Closed Doors Are Not Cruel

Let's settle something right now: A closed door is not a sign that God doesn't love you. Quite the opposite. It may be His mercy keeping you from a disaster you don't see.

The world teaches that persistence breaks down every barrier. But faith understands that not every opportunity is from God, and not every delay is from the devil.

Remember how Paul wanted to preach in Asia, but the Holy Spirit forbade him (Acts 16:6)? That was a closed door. Was it because Paul was in sin? No. Was it because God had abandoned him? No. It was divine redirection.

God wasn't punishing Paul—He was pointing him to Macedonia, where revival would break out. Closed doors protect you from the wrong place so you can be in the right one at the right time.

So the next time a door shuts, don't panic. Praise. He's saving you from the wrong timing or the wrong path.

3. Delays Are Often Divine Development

Let's talk about delays. Oh, how we hate delays.

We live in a microwave culture. We want results in minutes. But God often works in slow cookers. Why? Because development takes time. Character takes time. Roots take time.

Moses waited 40 years in Midian before God used him. Joseph waited over a decade in prison before God promoted him. David was anointed as king but had to wait years before wearing the crown.

Delays don't mean denial. They often mean **preparation**.

While we're looking at the door, God is looking at our heart. He won't open the next step until the character in us can carry the responsibility of what's on the other side.

"But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing." — *James 1:4*

4. When God Says "No"

There's a lie in modern Christianity that if you just pray hard enough, believe hard enough, sow enough seed, or claim it in Jesus' name—it's yours.

But that's not faith. That's manipulation disguised as spirituality.

Sometimes God says "No." And His "No" is part of His will.

Paul prayed three times for his thorn in the flesh to be removed (2 Corinthians 12). He was sincere. But God said no. Why? Because the thorn kept Paul dependent on grace. It protected him from pride.

God's "No" is not cruelty. It's clarity. It's Him saying, "I have something better, even if it doesn't look like it yet."

We must grow spiritually to the place where we say, "Lord, if it's not your will, I don't want it. Even if it looks good, feels good, and sounds good—if it's not your door, shut it tight."

5. When God Says "Not Yet"

Perhaps even harder than "No" is "Not yet." It's not rejection. It's redirection. It's divine pause. It's the space between promise and fulfillment—and it's where most believers lose heart.

Abraham waited 25 years for Isaac. That's 9,000 mornings wondering, "Is this the day?"

But in that waiting, Abraham grew in faith. He learned obedience. He became the father of faith not just because he received a promise, but because he waited on it without wavering.

The "Not yet" of God teaches you to worship without the answer, to pray without the outcome, and to trust without the map.

"For the vision is yet for an appointed time... though it tarry, wait for it; because it will surely come, it will not tarry." — *Habakkuk 2:3*

6. Open Doors Require Discernment

Not every open door is from God.

Yes, Christ opens doors—but Satan knows how to crack a few open too. The enemy can give opportunities that appeal to your flesh, feed your pride, or speed up your timeline. Just because something is available doesn't mean it's ordained.

Jesus was offered all the kingdoms of the world by Satan (Matthew 4:8–10). It was an open door—shortcut to glory. But it was a trap. Jesus refused.

Discernment says, “Just because I can, doesn't mean I should.”

You don't judge a door by how wide it's open. You judge it by whether it aligns with God's Word, confirms with the Spirit, and bears fruit in righteousness.

“Try the spirits whether they are of God.” — *1 John 4:1*

7. Divine Timing is Sovereign

When God says go, no man can stop it. When He says stay, no effort can rush it.

The beautiful truth is this: **God is not late.**

He never has been. He never will be.

He waited until the fourth day to raise Lazarus. He came walking on the sea in the “fourth watch of the night.” He sent Jesus in the “fullness of time” (Galatians 4:4).

And He will move in your life at the right moment—not when you panic, but when His purpose is ready.

God's will is not just about what, but **when**. He's not working on your urgency—He's working on your legacy.

“To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven.” — *Ecclesiastes 3:1*

8. Trusting the Mapmaker

Most of us want the GPS version of God's will—step-by-step instructions, with voice prompts and estimated arrival times.

But God rarely gives maps. He gives **moments**.

Moments to obey. Moments to wait. Moments to grow. And moments to follow Him when the way isn't clear.

He wants us to trust the Mapmaker more than the map.

“Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.” — *Psalm 119:105*

A lamp doesn't show the whole road. It gives just enough for the next step. Why? Because it forces you to stay close to the Source.

When doors don't open or delays wear you down, remember: The Mapmaker hasn't changed. Stay close.

9. Your Timeline Is Not Wasted

Nothing is wasted in God's economy. Not your tears. Not your waiting. Not even your missteps.

Even if you missed a door, He's the Redeemer. Even if you delayed by disobedience, He can restore the years the locusts have eaten (Joel 2:25).

The time you think you've lost in waiting, He multiplies in His purpose.

And when the door opens—finally—you'll see that it was never random. It was always right.

10. From Panic to Peace

So where does that leave us?

Right where God wants us: in a place of surrender.

His doors are perfect. His delays are merciful. His timing is eternal. So we rest—not because we know what's next, but because we know **Who** holds the next.

The cure to fear about the future is faith in the Father.

The cure to anxiety about timing is abiding in truth.

And the cure to pressure about performance is peace in His providence.

Conclusion: The Door Is Christ

In the end, every door you're looking for—career, marriage, purpose, calling—finds its center in one person: **Jesus Christ**.

He is not just the Door Opener. He **is** the Door.

“I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved.” — *John 10:9*

If you’re in Him, you’re in the will of God. And if you stay in Him, you’ll never be outside of it.

So breathe.

If a door’s shut, He has a better one. If it’s open, walk in courage. If it’s delayed, be faithful.

You don’t need to push the door open—just stay close to the One who holds the key.

7 of 10: God’s Will in Trials and Suffering

Series: Bread of the Word – Understanding God’s Will

Key Text: 1 Peter 4:19 – “Wherefore let them that suffer according to the will of God commit the keeping of their souls to him in well doing, as unto a faithful Creator.”

Introduction: When God’s Will Hurts

For many believers, the phrase “God’s will” conjures images of peace, provision, and open doors. We often imagine His will as the path of least resistance—the gentle road, the comforting breeze. But Scripture paints a far more complete picture. Sometimes, the will of God **leads directly through suffering**.

1 Peter 4:19 challenges everything we instinctively think about suffering:

“Let them that suffer according to the will of God...”

Pause there. Yes, it says **suffer... according to the will of God**.

That truth feels unsettling at first. Is it really possible that hardship, trial, pain, and pressure could be part of the divine plan? Not merely tolerated by God, but actually *appointed* by Him?

In this essay, we will not only answer that question with a resounding yes—but we’ll show from Scripture that **suffering is often the very tool God uses to refine, redirect, and reveal His will**. Pain is not always punishment. Sometimes, it is purpose.

I. Understanding Suffering in Light of God’s Character

Before we can grasp suffering in the will of God, we must begin with a firm foundation: **God is good. Always.** He is not sadistic. He is not cruel. He does not delight in our pain.

James 1:17 says:

“Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights...”

But here’s the key: sometimes the gift doesn’t *look* good at first. Sometimes, what seems painful in the moment becomes the means of our greatest spiritual growth.

God is not only good in what He gives—but in *why* He gives it, and *how* He uses it.

So when Scripture says we may “suffer according to the will of God,” it is not a contradiction of His goodness—it is a confirmation of it. God doesn’t waste pain. He **wields** it. Not to harm us, but to **help, humble, and heal** us.

II. Suffering in the Life of Christ – The Ultimate Pattern

Jesus is the ultimate model of one who suffered in the will of God.

Isaiah 53:10 says:

“Yet it pleased the Lord to bruise him; he hath put him to grief...”

Peter echoed this truth in 1 Peter 2:21:

“Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps.”

Consider this:

- Jesus was **perfect**—yet suffered.
- He was **loved by the Father**—yet bruised.
- He was **completely obedient**—yet led to a cross.

If suffering was in the will of God for Christ—how can we think it won’t also be in His will for us?

The will of God for Jesus included both the Mount of Transfiguration and the Garden of Gethsemane. And if we want to walk in the will of God, we must walk where He walked—*even when it leads to the valley.*

III. Three Categories of Suffering in Scripture

Not all suffering is the same. The Bible reveals at least **three major categories**:

1. Corrective Suffering – God uses it to bring us back

Example: Jonah. He ran from God’s will and found himself in the belly of a great fish. That wasn’t coincidence—it was *correction*.

Hebrews 12:6 – *“For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth...”*

This kind of suffering is not rejection—it’s redirection. God disciplines those He loves, not to destroy them, but to restore them.

2. Constructive Suffering – God uses it to grow us

Example: Job. His suffering wasn’t because he did something wrong—it was because God was refining his faith and revealing His glory.

James 1:3 – *“The trying of your faith worketh patience.”*

God sometimes allows pressure to purify our motives, deepen our dependence, and strengthen our character.

3. Consecrated Suffering – God uses it as a testimony

Example: Paul. He suffered shipwrecks, beatings, imprisonments—not because he was out of God’s will, but because he was *smack in the center* of it.

2 Corinthians 4:11 – *“We which live are always delivered unto death for Jesus’ sake, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our mortal flesh.”*

This kind of suffering makes heaven’s values visible on earth. It testifies to others that Christ is worth it—even when it costs us everything.

IV. Suffering According to the Will of God – 1 Peter 4 in Context

Let’s look closely at the full context of 1 Peter 4:19.

The entire chapter addresses Christians who are **doing right**—and suffering for it. Peter encourages them not to be surprised by the “fiery trial,” but to rejoice.

1 Peter 4:12-13 – *“Think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you... but rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ’s sufferings.”*

In other words, **suffering is not a sign of abandonment—it's a mark of identification.** It proves you're walking the same path your Savior walked.

Then verse 19 gives the climactic call:

“Let them that suffer according to the will of God commit the keeping of their souls to him in well doing, as unto a faithful Creator.”

That verse contains **three powerful commands:**

1. **Recognize** your suffering may be God's will.
2. **Commit** your soul to Him.
3. **Keep doing well**—don't stop just because it's hard.

And above all, trust in the **faithfulness** of your Creator.

V. God's Will in the Furnace: Lessons from the Fire

Let's be honest: suffering strips us. It removes distractions. It exposes what's real. That's precisely **why God uses it.**

Here are some of the refining purposes of suffering in God's will:

1. It breaks self-reliance

We are never more dependent on God than when we have nothing else to lean on.

2 Corinthians 1:9 – *“That we should not trust in ourselves, but in God which raiseth the dead.”*

2. It purifies faith

Gold isn't destroyed by fire—it's revealed. So it is with true faith.

1 Peter 1:7 – *“That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth...”*

3. It kills pride

Paul said his thorn in the flesh was given *“lest I should be exalted above measure”* (2 Corinthians 12:7). Pain humbles us. And that's a gift.

4. It prepares you for ministry

You can't comfort others unless you've been comforted. Suffering qualifies you to minister with compassion.

2 Corinthians 1:4 – *“Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble...”*

5. It keeps you eternally focused

When life gets comfortable, heaven feels far. But when suffering strikes, we begin to long for the city whose Builder is God.

Romans 8:18 – *“The sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.”*

VI. Misconceptions About Suffering and the Will of God

Let's confront a few **false assumptions** many Christians make:

- **“If I'm in God's will, things should go smoothly.”**
Wrong. The storm may come *because* you're in God's will.
- **“God only allows pain when He's punishing me.”**
Not always. Job suffered because he was righteous, not sinful.
- **“Suffering means God has forgotten me.”**
False. The cross proves He *never* forgets you.
- **“I can't take this much longer.”**
Yes, you can—with God's strength. *“My grace is sufficient for thee...”* (2 Corinthians 12:9)

VII. When Suffering Doesn't Make Sense

Sometimes the pain feels pointless. The loss too great. The silence too long. It's in those moments that we cling—not to answers—but to **God Himself**.

Psalms 46:1 – *“God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.”*

When your theology is shaken, when your questions go unanswered, when the night refuses to lift—you don't need to understand the “why.” You need to remember the **Who**.

The will of God is not always explained—but it is always anchored in **the goodness of the One who holds you**.

VIII. Testimonies of Suffering in God's Will

The Bible is full of people who suffered not because they were outside of God's will—but because they were **chosen for a higher purpose**.

- **Joseph** was betrayed, enslaved, and imprisoned—but it was the path to saving a nation.
- **Esther** risked her life—but saved her people.
- **Daniel** was thrown to lions—but changed a kingdom.
- **Paul** was beaten and chained—but wrote half the New Testament.
- **Jesus** was crucified—but rose again and brought salvation to all.

The thread is clear: **suffering was not the end of their story—it was the method God used to write it.**

IX. Practical Encouragement for Those in the Trial

If you are walking through a season of suffering right now, and wondering “*Is this really God's will?*”—consider the following:

- **Don't panic.**
Suffering doesn't mean God has left. He is nearer than ever.
- **Don't isolate.**
Let the body of Christ surround you. You were not made to suffer alone.
- **Don't quit.**
Keep doing well. Stay in the Word. Keep praying. Keep worshiping.
- **Don't waste the pain.**
Ask: “Lord, what are You showing me? What are You refining in me?”
- **Don't forget the promise.**
Romans 8:28 is still true. “*All things work together for good...*”

X. Conclusion: The Will of God May Hurt—but It Will Never Harm

Suffering doesn't feel good. But it often *does good*.

It makes us more like Christ. It deepens our faith. It prepares us for glory. And most of all—it keeps us dependent on the One who never fails.

1 Peter 4:19 gives us our marching orders:

“Let them that suffer according to the will of God commit the keeping of their souls to him in well doing, as unto a faithful Creator.”

So we suffer. We endure. We trust. And we keep doing good—because we know the One who holds our soul is *faithful*.

Even when the fire burns... He walks with us.

Even when the waters rise... He holds us.

Even when nothing makes sense... He is writing something greater.

And in the end, we will say—*“It was worth it.”*

8 of 10: The Role of Peace and the Holy Spirit

Series: Bread of the Word – Understanding God’s Will

Key Text: Colossians 3:15 – “And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful.”

The Quiet Ruler Within

In the noisy courtroom of life’s decisions, opinions and pressures shout from every corner. Some voices come from others—well-meaning friends, urgent deadlines, even our own anxieties. But above that clamor, the believer in Jesus Christ has been given a quiet Judge within—**the peace of God**, ruling in the heart, directed by the ever-faithful **Holy Spirit**.

Colossians 3:15 doesn’t offer peace as an optional comfort. It declares peace as something that is to *rule*—like an umpire, a referee, a decision-maker. And not just any peace, but *the peace of God*. This is not simply an emotion or absence of conflict; it is the divine witness of the Holy Spirit confirming or cautioning as we move through life.

In this essay, we explore how peace is a powerful tool in discerning the will of God—and how the Spirit uses it to guide, warn, confirm, and keep us walking in step with the Savior.

I. The Peace of God vs. Peace with God

Before diving into the role of peace in daily decisions, we must make a critical distinction:

- **Peace with God** is the result of salvation (Romans 5:1: “Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ”). This is a settled position. When a sinner believes on the Lord Jesus Christ, the enmity between man and God is removed.
- **The Peace of God**, however, is experiential. It’s the inner calm and settled assurance that comes when the Holy Spirit is in control of our thoughts, desires, and direction (Philippians 4:7: “And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus”).

You cannot have the *peace of God* if you don’t first have *peace with God*. But sadly, many believers who have the former don’t always live in the fullness of the latter—because they ignore the voice of the Spirit and let worry, fear, or confusion rule instead.

II. The Holy Spirit: Our Divine Guide

When Jesus promised the Holy Spirit in John 16, He didn’t describe a vague force or a mystical feeling. He said clearly:

“Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth...” (John 16:13)

And again in Romans 8:14:

“For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.”

This is not mere poetic language. The Holy Spirit actively speaks, nudges, convicts, illuminates Scripture, and stirs (or stills) our hearts. And one of His most underrated tools is the **peace of God**.

So when Colossians 3:15 says, *“Let the peace of God rule in your hearts,”* it’s saying: **Don’t ignore that quiet indicator** the Spirit gives. Let it preside. Let it guide. Let it decide.

III. Peace as the Referee of the Heart

The Greek word for *“rule”* in Colossians 3:15 is **brabeuó**, which literally means “to act as an umpire” or “to arbitrate.” Think of a referee in a game: they determine whether a play is in bounds or out of bounds. They settle disputes on the field.

Similarly, the peace of God settles disputes within the heart. When you're wrestling with whether a decision is right or wrong, good or best, wise or foolish, **peace becomes your referee**—by the Spirit.

Here's the principle:

If a decision steals your peace, it's either not from God, or not from God yet.

God doesn't lead through anxiety. He doesn't guide by guilt. The devil condemns, the flesh pressures, but God leads with clarity and peace.

IV. Peace Is Not Always Easy – But It's Always Clear

This peace is not always about choosing the *easy* road. Sometimes, the peace of God will lead you to take a difficult path—like forgiving someone who hurt you, walking away from a lucrative job, or stepping out in faith into something unknown.

But in those moments, you'll find something surprising: **you'll have peace in the hard thing**, and unease in what seems easier.

Peace is not found in the path of least resistance—it's found in the path of divine obedience.

Jonah had no peace sleeping on a boat going the wrong way. But Paul, beaten and imprisoned, sang with full confidence because he was right where God wanted him. It wasn't comfort—it was *confirmation*.

V. Identifying the Spirit's Prompting, Warning, and Confirming Work

So how does this peace work practically? Let's look at **three ways the Holy Spirit uses peace**:

1. Prompting

Sometimes, you'll feel stirred to take action—a phone call, an act of kindness, a word of witness—and along with it, a divine boldness and calm that surpasses your natural inclination.

That's the Spirit prompting you with peace. He nudges your heart and removes fear. When Peter preached at Pentecost, that wasn't natural boldness—it was Spirit-led peace in action.

2. Warning

There are moments when everything looks good on the outside, but inside you feel a tightness, a restraint, an unease you can't explain.

That's often the Holy Spirit putting up a red flag. Sometimes it comes with Scripture. Other times, it's just that *nagging lack of peace* that won't go away.

Paul experienced this in Acts 16:6–7 when the Spirit *forbade* him from going into Asia. He didn't hear a voice or see a vision—he just sensed it was wrong. And so he waited. Peace was absent. That was enough.

3. Confirmation

This is when everything aligns. The Word supports it. Godly counsel affirms it. Your heart rests in it. And peace seals it.

That doesn't mean there won't be obstacles. But it means your soul isn't fighting it. You're “ruled” by peace. That's when you move forward.

VI. Peace Isn't Passive – It's Protective

In Philippians 4:6–7, Paul tells believers not to be anxious but to pray with thanksgiving. Then what happens?

“And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.”

The word “keep” means to *guard like a fortress*. Peace is not passive—it's military. It *defends* your heart and mind against lies, pressure, and confusion.

Peace is a soldier that refuses to let fear in the door.

When you're walking in the Spirit, peace becomes a wall between you and chaos. You don't need to figure everything out. You just need to follow the peace of God and obey what He's already shown you.

VII. Why People Ignore the Peace

If peace is this powerful, why do so many believers walk past it? A few reasons:

- **They override it with logic.** “This seems like the smart choice.” But peace says otherwise.

- **They're pressured by others.** "Everyone expects this of me." But peace is absent.
- **They're rushing.** "I need to decide now." But God's peace works in patience.
- **They're carnal.** If you're not walking in the Spirit, you won't hear Him clearly.
- **They confuse peace with comfort.** "I'm scared, so it must not be God." But sometimes peace comes *after* obedience, not before.

To ignore the Spirit's peace is to ask for spiritual confusion. But to honor it is to walk in divine alignment.

VIII. The Holy Spirit and God's Will – A Relationship of Daily Yielding

We are not called to live off occasional signs or random impulses. The Spirit is not a GPS that gives one direction a week. He's a daily companion.

Galatians 5:25 says, *"If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit."*

That means daily listening. Daily yielding. Daily following peace.

This is why many believers don't sense God's will—they don't stay close enough to hear it.

You won't hear the voice of peace over the noise of compromise. You won't sense the Spirit's nudge if your heart is cluttered with self-will.

But if you stay close—through the Word, prayer, and surrender—the peace of God becomes a clear compass.

IX. Learning to Let Peace Rule – Not Your Emotions

Sometimes, believers confuse emotion with peace. But emotion is unstable.

You can cry and still be at peace. You can laugh and still be out of God's will.

Peace is not a fleeting feeling—it is a spiritual anchor.

God's peace stabilizes you when your emotions are all over the place. It steadies the course.

This is especially important in times of grief, decision, or major change. Don't ask: "What do I feel like doing?" Ask: "Where is the peace of God leading me?"

X. The Ministry of the Spirit in Major Decisions

When it comes to big life decisions—marriage, ministry, moves, money—the Spirit’s peace is a lighthouse. But lighthouses only help if you *look* at them.

Here’s a simple test:

1. **Is there clear Scripture to guide the decision?**
2. **Does godly counsel confirm it?**
3. **Is the Spirit's peace present or absent when you think about moving forward?**
4. **Does delaying the decision increase your peace or stir confusion?**

Peace doesn't mean every question is answered. It means you're not striving internally. You're settled—even in uncertainty—because God is in control.

XI. Examples in Scripture

Let’s see a few examples where the Spirit’s peace played a key role:

- **Acts 13:2–3** – The Holy Ghost led the church to send Paul and Barnabas. They fasted, prayed, and *peacefully* obeyed.
- **Acts 15** – The church faced conflict over Gentile salvation. After prayer and counsel, they said, “*it seemed good to the Holy Ghost, and to us...*” (v. 28). That’s the unity of peace.
- **Luke 2:25–28** – Simeon, led by the Spirit, found baby Jesus in the temple. He was “*just and devout... and the Holy Ghost was upon him.*” He was ruled by peace.

XII. What Peace Looks Like in Practice

Peace might look like:

- Sleeping soundly after surrendering a stressful decision to God.
- Having clarity to say *no* to something that looks exciting but feels wrong.
- Feeling joy about something others question—but you know God’s confirmed it.
- Being calm in a storm, not because the wind stopped, but because Jesus is in the boat.

XIII. Walking with the Spirit – A Habit of Peace

Peace doesn't always shout. It's often a whisper. But it's always present when the Spirit is leading.

To be led by peace:

- **Stay in the Word** – The Spirit always agrees with Scripture.
- **Stay in Prayer** – Prayer clears the fog and aligns your heart.
- **Stay in Fellowship** – Godly counsel often confirms or cautions.
- **Stay in Surrender** – A yielded will hears clearly.
- **Stay in Thankfulness** – Colossians 3:15 ends: “...and be ye thankful.” Gratitude keeps your heart soft and your ears open.

Conclusion: Peace Is the Proof of His Presence

When you don't know the full path, peace lights the next step.

The Spirit doesn't rush, confuse, or coerce. He confirms. He brings peace. And when He doesn't, you wait.

Let the peace of God **rule**. Let the Spirit **lead**. Let the Word **guide**. And when all three align—you'll know you are walking in the will of God.

The quietest voice in the room may just be the most trustworthy one.

Let it rule.

9 of 10: Counsel and Confirmation

Series: Bread of the Word – Understanding God's Will

Key Text: Proverbs 11:14 – *“Where no counsel is, the people fall: but in the multitude of counsellors there is safety.”*

The Double Witness of God's Will

In a world full of uncertainty, the pursuit of God's will can often feel like walking through a thick fog—faithful, but unclear. Sometimes the fog lifts in an instant. Other times, it fades gradually. But in either case, God never intended His people to walk alone in that process.

Yes, God speaks through His Word. Yes, He leads through His Spirit. Yes, He confirms through peace. But there's another layer He often uses—**godly counsel and repeated affirmation**. He not only speaks to us **directly**, but also confirms His will **indirectly**—through others, through repetition, and through holy echoes that resound in more than one place.

In this essay, we explore the safety of godly counsel, the power of wise voices, and the biblical pattern of confirmation as we learn to walk in God's will with confidence and discernment.

I. The Principle of Plural Counsel

Proverbs 11:14 offers a clear and timeless truth:

“Where no counsel is, the people fall: but in the multitude of counsellors there is safety.”

God's Word doesn't merely suggest counsel—it declares it vital for survival. “Fall” is not theoretical here. It's the reality of making decisions in isolation. It is the wreckage that comes from trusting only your own instincts.

Why? Because even the most spiritually mature believer has blind spots. The prophet Nathan had to rebuke King David. Paul had to confront Peter. Even Moses needed Jethro to tell him his system of leadership was unsustainable.

Wise counsel is not a sign of weakness—it's a sign of wisdom.

The truly spiritual person is not the one who “hears from God” in private and runs ahead, but the one who is willing to slow down and let **others speak into their direction**—while still weighing everything against the Word and Spirit.

II. God Uses People to Confirm What He's Saying

Let's be clear—**only God's voice is infallible**. But God often **chooses** to speak through people, particularly those who walk closely with Him.

“Without counsel purposes are disappointed: but in the multitude of counsellors they are established.” (Proverbs 15:22)

When God is truly leading you in a direction, you'll often see the same truth show up in different places:

- A verse in your personal study
- A word from a sermon
- A burden in prayer
- A comment from a friend
- A door that opens
- A divine "coincidence"

That's confirmation. Not mystical. Not manipulative. Just the steady, repeated, aligned witness that God uses to strengthen your confidence and protect your path.

III. Who You Ask Matters

Not all counsel is created equal. And not everyone who offers advice is qualified to give it.

Proverbs 13:20 warns:

"He that walketh with wise men shall be wise: but a companion of fools shall be destroyed."

There are **three types of counselors**:

1. The Carnal Counselor

This is the person who offers advice based on the world's logic. Their words sound good but lack spiritual depth. They may be successful, smart, or experienced, but they don't submit to God's Word. Their guidance will always lean toward self-preservation, comfort, or popularity.

2. The Well-Meaning Enabler

This person cares deeply for you—but lacks spiritual discernment. They want you happy, not holy. Their advice is emotionally driven and often says, "Do what feels right," rather than, "What does God say?"

3. The God-Fearing Mentor

This is who you want. Someone with spiritual maturity, Bible knowledge, prayerful sensitivity, and personal humility. They don't just give opinions—they seek the Lord. They

speak truth, even when it's uncomfortable. And they care more about your soul than your comfort.

Wise counsel doesn't always say what you want—but it always aims at what you *need*.

IV. The Difference Between Seeking Counsel and Delegating Decisions

Let's make something clear: **You don't seek counsel to avoid responsibility.**

Too many believers want others to tell them what to do so they won't have to take ownership if it goes wrong.

But wise counsel doesn't replace the will of God—it confirms it. You're still responsible to test it, weigh it, and ultimately obey the Lord.

Seeking counsel is about insight—not outsourcing obedience.

This is why Paul said in Galatians 1:16–17 that when God called him, he “*conferred not with flesh and blood*”—at least not initially. Paul wasn't proud. But he also wasn't going to let human opinion override divine calling.

There's a fine balance between humility and responsibility. Wise believers learn to walk in both.

V. Biblical Examples of Counsel and Confirmation

Let's walk through several examples where God used wise counsel and repeated affirmations to clarify His will:

1. Moses and Jethro (Exodus 18)

Moses was overwhelmed. Jethro, his father-in-law, offered strategic counsel to delegate responsibilities. Moses listened—and the result was increased health for both the leader and the people.

Lesson: Good counsel sees what burnout blinds.

2. David and Nathan (2 Samuel 7)

David had a dream—to build a house for God. At first, Nathan agreed. But later, God corrected him. Nathan returned and gave David the *real* word of the Lord.

Lesson: Even prophets can get ahead of God. True counsel adjusts when God speaks.

3. Paul and the Church at Antioch (Acts 13)

Paul and Barnabas were commissioned to go out by the confirmation of the Holy Ghost and the affirmation of the church.

Lesson: When it's God's will, others who walk with God will often see it too.

4. Paul and the Macedonian Call (Acts 16)

Paul had plans—but the Spirit blocked them. Then came the vision. Then the confirmation. Then the open door.

Lesson: Counsel and confirmation sometimes come after redirection.

VI. What Confirmation Often Looks Like

So what does “confirmation” feel or look like in practice? It's not always supernatural. But it is *super-intentional*.

Here are some patterns to look for:

- **Repetition of the same message** from unrelated sources
- **Alignment with Scripture** (never contradiction)
- **Peace from the Holy Spirit** (not pressure or fear)
- **Godly people affirming the direction** without prompting
- **Doors opening in timing that makes sense**
- **Your own heart being drawn back to the same thing in prayer**

God is not the author of confusion (1 Corinthians 14:33). He doesn't play guessing games with His children. When He is truly leading, the threads start to weave together. He confirms His word to you like a builder tapping a nail until it's flush with the board—one stroke at a time.

VII. The Danger of Only Listening to One Voice (Even Your Own)

Jeremiah 10:23 is humbling:

“O Lord, I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps.”

We were never designed to figure everything out on our own. When you isolate, you invite deception. When you surround yourself with only agreeable voices, you're not seeking counsel—you're seeking echo chambers.

Even the best men in Scripture failed when they stopped listening to godly voices.

- **Saul** wouldn't listen to Samuel—he fell.
- **Solomon** listened to foreign wives—he compromised.
- **Rehoboam** rejected wise elders—he split the kingdom.
- **Peter** tried to rebuke Jesus—he got rebuked in return.

You need people who are strong enough to challenge you and spiritual enough to point you back to the Word.

VIII. Counsel Doesn't Override Conviction

God's confirmation through others **never overrides what He's shown you personally**—but it often *aligns* with it and strengthens it.

If someone offers counsel that *directly contradicts* what you know God has clearly shown in His Word or through prayer, **you don't follow it**, no matter how much you respect them.

Even Job's friends offered tons of advice—and God rebuked them in the end.

Confirmation from others should *confirm* what the Spirit and the Scriptures have already stirred. When it all aligns, that's when you move forward.

IX. Practical Steps for Seeking Counsel and Confirmation

So how do you walk this out practically?

1. Pray First

Ask God to prepare your heart to *receive* truth, not just approval.

2. Choose God-Fearing Voices

Seek out 2–3 people who walk with God, know the Word, and know you well enough to speak honestly.

3. Present the Situation Without Bias

Don't try to sway them. Don't ask for agreement—ask for insight.

4. Weigh Everything Against Scripture

Does the advice line up with God's Word? If not, toss it.

5. Look for Unity

If the godliest people in your life are *all* unsettled by your decision—pause. That's not random. That's God waving a red flag.

6. Give It Time

Confirmation is often revealed in the waiting. Time proves things. Don't rush.

7. Keep Listening

Stay prayerful, surrendered, and open—even after you make the decision. God may affirm it further, or gently redirect if needed.

X. Red Flags in Counsel and “Confirmation”

Not every “confirmation” is from God. Here are some red flags:

- **“God told me to tell you...”** – Be careful. This is often spiritual manipulation.
- **Pressure to act immediately** – God leads with peace, not panic.
- **Advice rooted in fear or self-preservation** – Godly counsel is faith-filled.
- **Flattery or excessive agreement** – Godly counsel challenges, not coddles.
- **Isolation from accountability** – True guidance brings you into light, not secrecy.

XI. When You're Not Getting Confirmation

There are seasons when you feel like you're not getting clear confirmation. What then?

- **Wait.** If you're not sure, don't move.
- **Re-examine motives.** Sometimes the reason is not the decision, but the heart behind it.
- **Reaffirm your surrender.** Tell the Lord, “Even if You say no, I'm okay with it.”

- **Keep obeying what's clear.** Often confirmation about the *next step* doesn't come until you're faithful in the *current one*.

XII. Summary: How God Confirms His Will

Let's tie it all together. God confirms His will:

- **Through His Word** – the foundation
- **By His Spirit** – the internal witness
- **With His Peace** – the ruling referee
- **In Godly Counsel** – the external affirmation
- **By Repetition** – the principle of double witness

Deuteronomy 19:15 says:

“At the mouth of two witnesses, or at the mouth of three witnesses, shall the matter be established.”

That principle didn't die in the Old Testament. God still confirms what He initiates.

XIII. Jesus and Confirmation: The Pattern of the Perfect Man

Even Jesus, though fully God, lived in submission to the will of the Father. Before beginning His public ministry, He:

- Waited for the timing of the Father (Luke 3:23).
- Was confirmed by the Spirit descending like a dove (Luke 3:22).
- Was affirmed audibly by the Father: “This is my beloved Son...”
- Withdrew often for prayer (Mark 1:35).

Jesus didn't move on impulse. He moved in confirmation. And if the perfect Son of God waited for the voice and witness of the Father, **how much more should we?**

Conclusion: Walk in Counsel, Move in Confidence

The will of God is not a riddle to be solved—but a relationship to be walked.

God has given you His Word, His Spirit, and His peace. But He's also placed godly voices around you to **confirm** what He's doing, **guard** you from deception, and **strengthen** your resolve.

Don't fear seeking counsel—but don't make others your crutch.

Don't idolize affirmation—but don't ignore it either.

Don't move until God confirms—but don't stall once He does.

When God confirms, you can move forward—not in fear, but in *faith*. Not in doubt, but in *confidence*. Because when God speaks once, it's truth. When He speaks twice, it's *settled*.

Let counsel be your compass and confirmation your confidence. There's safety in the multitude of voices—when they're speaking from the mouth of God.

10 of 10: Walking Boldly Once You Know

Series: Bread of the Word – Understanding God's Will

Key Text: Joshua 1:9 – *“Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the Lord thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest.”*

Introduction: The Final Step Is the First Step

So far in this series, we've explored the many layers of understanding God's will—through His Word, His Spirit, peace, godly counsel, and divine confirmation. But one truth remains: **the will of God is not just to be discovered—it is to be done.**

Too many believers spend their entire lives in a holding pattern of prayer and pondering, while the runway of obedience sits empty. At some point, after the counsel, confirmation, and peace... **you must move.**

This final essay calls the believer to rise from reflection and step into obedience. Because **once you know, it's time to go.**

Joshua 1:9 wasn't spoken at a prayer retreat. It was spoken on the edge of action. Moses was dead. The wilderness journey was over. The Promised Land lay ahead. And God was saying: *Enough waiting—now walk.*

I. From Knowing to Going

Knowing God's will is not the end of the journey—it's the beginning of obedience. Far too many treat God's will like a puzzle to be solved instead of a **path to be walked**.

Imagine God parts the sea and then we stand there analyzing the water walls instead of walking through. That's what happens when we **stop at revelation instead of moving into implementation**.

The Red Sea doesn't part for reflection—it parts for **movement**.

The Bible doesn't celebrate those who *knew* what God said. It celebrates those who **obeyed** it—Abraham, Moses, Esther, Peter, Paul. Faith isn't just believing that God can—it's stepping forward even if you're the only one who does.

II. Joshua's Moment of Clarity

When God spoke to Joshua in chapter 1, He did so with bold finality. This wasn't a brainstorming session—it was a *commissioning*. Joshua had already been confirmed through Moses (Numbers 27:18). He'd seen the Promised Land before (Numbers 14). He'd waited for forty years for this very moment.

But now the question was: **Would he walk forward boldly—or flinch under pressure?**

God speaks in Joshua 1:9 as a father to a son, giving him three commands:

1. **Be strong.**
2. **Be courageous.**
3. **Don't be afraid or dismayed.**

And then God anchors it all with a promise:

"For the Lord thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest."

Once you know God is with you—there is no reason to fear stepping out.

III. What Bold Obedience Looks Like

Biblical boldness is not recklessness. It's not bravado. It's **trust with feet**. It's walking forward in God's will **even when you don't have all the details**.

Let's break down what bold obedience looks like:

1. Moving Even When You're Nervous

Joshua still had to cross the Jordan. Giants still lived in the land. The walls of Jericho weren't made of paper. But he moved forward anyway.

Boldness isn't the absence of fear—it's the refusal to let fear decide.

2. Walking Without Everyone's Approval

Not everyone will understand what God told *you*. The ten spies disagreed with Joshua decades earlier. People may question your timing, your vision, your steps—but you don't follow *them*. You follow God.

3. Following God's Voice Over Popular Opinion

Joshua didn't take a vote on whether to march around Jericho. He heard from God—and obeyed. When God's will is clear, you don't ask for consensus. You ask for courage.

4. Continuing Even When It Gets Tough

Joshua's battles weren't one and done. He faced setbacks. He made mistakes (like with Ai). But boldness meant continuing. **Obedience isn't proven by enthusiasm—it's proven by endurance.**

IV. Delayed Obedience Is Disobedience

Once God makes His will clear, **you are accountable to obey**. Sitting on a clear word from the Lord is not spiritual maturity—it's spiritual rebellion.

James 4:17 puts it bluntly:

“Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin.”

Many believers mask fear in the language of “waiting on God.” But in truth, **God is waiting on you**. You already know the answer. Now you need to walk it out.

Delayed obedience is a subtle form of unbelief. It says:

- “God, I'm not sure You'll show up if I move.”
- “God, I need more signs before I obey.”
- “God, I'm not ready yet.”

But bold faith says: **“I trust You enough to go when You say go—even if everything's not perfect yet.”**

V. Facing Fear When Others Don't Understand

One of the greatest tests of obedience is when others question the path you know God has called you to walk.

Jesus faced this:

- His family said He was “beside Himself” (Mark 3:21).
- Peter tried to stop Him from going to the cross (Matthew 16:22).
- Even John the Baptist doubted while in prison (Matthew 11:3).

If Jesus was misunderstood in His calling, **don't be surprised when you are too.**

You're not called to *explain* every decision to everyone—you're called to walk in obedience to the One who called you. If He has made it clear, **their confusion doesn't cancel your commission.**

Don't trade clarity from God for comfort with people.

VI. God Prepares You Before He Pushes You

Joshua didn't walk into the Promised Land unprepared. He had decades of training, mentorship under Moses, and firsthand experience in battle.

Likewise, when God calls you to walk boldly, it's usually **after** a season of refining. The wilderness teaches what the Promised Land requires.

The boldness to obey comes from the memory of God's faithfulness in the past:

- David ran toward Goliath because he remembered the lion and the bear.
- Paul preached with boldness because he remembered the road to Damascus.
- Joshua led into Canaan because he remembered God parting the Red Sea.

If you want courage for tomorrow—**remember how God carried you yesterday.**

VII. Obedience Releases God's Power

Bold obedience doesn't just honor God—it invites **His miraculous power.**

The Jordan River didn't part **until** the priests stepped in (Joshua 3:13). Jericho's walls didn't fall until the people **shouted** (Joshua 6:20). Peter didn't walk on water **until** he stepped out of the boat (Matthew 14:29).

God responds to faith **in motion**. He doesn't empower hesitation—He empowers obedience.

Some believers never see miracles because they never take the risk of trusting God beyond logic. **But faith sees beyond what eyes can see.**

VIII. What Happens When You Walk Boldly

Let's talk about the results. What happens when you step out once you know God's will?

1. Your Faith Grows Exponentially

Every step in obedience becomes a stone of remembrance. You start trusting Him more, hearing Him more, and relying on Him more deeply.

2. Your Influence Expands

When Joshua stepped out, people followed. Obedience is contagious. When others see you walk boldly, it strengthens their own faith.

3. You Step Into Greater Purpose

The will of God always leads to fruitfulness. It may not be immediate, but it will be eternal. You were created **not just to believe God's will, but to fulfill it.**

4. You Find Joy and Fulfillment

There's no joy like walking in what you were created for. Even in trials, the joy of obedience anchors the soul. As Jesus said, *"My meat is to do the will of him that sent me"* (John 4:34).

IX. Things That Will Try to Stop You

Whenever you try to obey boldly, resistance will come. Be ready for:

- **Doubt** – "Did God really say...?"
- **Distraction** – busyness that steals focus
- **Discouragement** – things don't go smoothly right away

- **Detours** – good opportunities that aren't God's plan
- **Delay** – you want immediate results, but God's pace is slower

That's why God told Joshua *“Be strong... be not afraid... be not dismayed.”* It's not that those things wouldn't come—it's that **they shouldn't stop him.**

X. Walking Boldly Doesn't Mean Walking Alone

You may feel isolated when you walk out God's will—but **you are never alone.**

“For the Lord thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest.”

God walks with those who walk in His will. He provides strength, direction, correction, and comfort. When you obey, His presence goes before you, surrounds you, and backs you.

Hebrews 13:5 – *“I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.”*

Even if others turn away, even if the road gets rocky—**you're not walking solo.**

XI. Final Checklist Before You Walk

Here's a brief checklist before you step out boldly:

1. **Is it aligned with Scripture?**
2. **Have you prayed through it deeply?**
3. **Do you have peace about it?**
4. **Has the Holy Spirit confirmed it?**
5. **Has godly counsel affirmed it?**
6. **Have circumstances aligned?**
7. **Are you ready to obey even without full details?**

If the answer is “yes” to all or most, it's time to stop analyzing—and start **activating.**

XII. Walking Boldly Looks Different for Everyone

Walking boldly once you know might look like:

- Saying yes to a ministry opportunity

- Leaving a job God told you to let go of
- Starting a project that glorifies Him
- Reconciling a broken relationship
- Preaching the gospel publicly
- Raising your children differently
- Relocating to a new city
- Turning down a good offer for a God offer

Obedience is not always flashy. Sometimes it's quiet, unseen, sacrificial. But God sees. And **He honors those who honor Him** (1 Samuel 2:30).

XIII. Final Words from Joshua's Life

At the end of Joshua's life, he gave a final declaration in Joshua 24:15:

"But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."

That wasn't just a motto. It was a life story. He had obeyed when others feared. He had believed when others doubted. And now, at the end, he stood with no regrets.

That can be your story too.

Conclusion: Know, Then Go

We've come to the final part of this series—but for you, it may be the beginning of a new walk.

God doesn't reveal His will to entertain your curiosity. He reveals it to engage your obedience. Once you know—**walk**.

Don't wait for perfect conditions. Don't expect universal approval. Don't let fear bully you into paralysis.

If God has spoken—step forward.

If He's confirmed—don't look back.

If He's called you—go boldly.

Because your courage is not in your confidence—it's in His **presence**.

“Be strong and of a good courage... for the Lord thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest.”

Now go.

Conclusion: Bread for the Journey – Living Daily in God’s Will

We’ve come to the end of this 10-part journey through **God’s will**—not as a mystery to decode, but as a daily walk to embrace. Throughout this series, we have broken open the **Bread of the Word**—bite by bite, truth by truth—and let the Scriptures nourish our understanding, correct our assumptions, and anchor our confidence in Christ.

But now, after all the lessons, passages, and insights, comes the real question:

What will you do with what you now know?

God’s will is not a theory to admire from a distance. It is a **living invitation**—a call to walk with the Lord in faith, obedience, and joyful trust. His will is not hidden in the clouds; it is made plain in His Word, in His Spirit’s witness, and in the quiet affirmation of His peace and counsel.

A Quick Recap of What We've Learned

1. **The Will of God Begins in the Word** – His voice is clearest where He has already spoken.
2. **The Will of God Desires All to Be Saved** – His heart is for salvation, and your spiritual journey begins there.
3. **Wisdom Guides Daily Choices** – Not every decision requires a sign when we walk in spiritual wisdom.
4. **Closed Doors Are Not Dead Ends** – They are redirections crafted by a loving Father.
5. **Delays Are Part of Divine Timing** – God is never late. He is preparing you while preparing the way.
6. **Suffering Can Be God’s Will** – Trials are often the forge of deeper obedience and sanctification.

7. **Trust in the Fog** – You may not see everything clearly, but God has not asked you to. He asks for trust.
8. **Peace and the Spirit Confirm** – Let peace be your compass and the Spirit your Guide.
9. **Counsel Confirms, but Doesn't Control** – Listen wisely, but obey God fully.
10. **Walk Boldly Once You Know** – Once you've heard from Him, move in faith, even if others don't understand.

Where We Go from Here

This is not the end—it is the *beginning*. You now hold in your hands the bread for the journey. You don't need to wait for lightning in the sky or a dream in the night to know what God expects. He's already revealed it through His Son, His Scripture, and His Spirit.

What's left?

Do it.

Walk in it.

Trust it.

Obey it.

And remember: *God's will is not just about location or occupation—it's about transformation*. It's not merely *where* you are or *what* you're doing, but **who you are becoming** in the process.

Final Encouragement

When the path is smooth, walk in thanksgiving.

When the path is foggy, walk in faith.

When the path is painful, walk in surrender.

And when the path is clear, walk boldly.

You are not alone.

You are not forgotten.

You are not lost.

“The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord: and he delighteth in his way.”

—Psalm 37:23

The Shepherd knows where He's leading you.

He may lead you beside still waters.

He may lead you through the valley of the shadow.

But He will always lead you in **paths of righteousness—for His name's sake.**

So take the Bread of the Word.

Let it strengthen you for the journey.

And walk in His will—step by step, day by day—until you see Him face to face.