

Knowing How to Know God's Will

Faith begins where the will of God is known. Without knowing God's will, it's impossible to have true faith. Many Christians live in uncertainty, constantly saying "if it be His will" without ever seeking to understand what God's will actually is.

Why Do We Need to Know God's Will?

Ephesians 5:17 tells us, "Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is." God doesn't want us to live in confusion or uncertainty. He wants us to understand His will for our lives.

When we don't understand God's will, we're being unwise. God doesn't want us to be "dummies" about His plans and purposes. He wants us to have clarity and confidence.

What Can We Learn from Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane?

Many people quote Jesus' prayer in Gethsemane—"if it be Your will"—to justify their uncertainty about God's will. But they miss something crucial: Jesus didn't stay in that place of uncertainty.

Jesus was facing immense pressure and temptation in the garden. He was so stressed that He was sweating droplets of blood. In this moment of extreme pressure, He prayed, "If there is any other way, nevertheless, not My will but Your will be done."

But Jesus didn't leave the garden still wondering about God's will. He prayed until He knew exactly what God's will was. When He finished praying, He stood up with complete confidence and faced what was coming with unwavering resolve.

How Can We Discover God's Will?

- **Through the Word of God:** The Bible contains promises and principles that reveal God's will for every situation we face.
- **Through Prayer:** Like Jesus, we need to pray until we have clarity. Don't just throw prayers out there—pray through until you get your answer.

- **Through the Holy Spirit:** Ephesians 5:18 tells us to "be filled with the Spirit." The Holy Spirit guides us into all truth.

What Happens When We Know God's Will?

First John 5:14-15 says, "Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him."

When we know God's will:

- **We pray with confidence:** We know God hears us when we pray according to His will.
- **We know we have what we ask for:** Even before we see the answer, we can be confident that we have received it.
- **We face challenges with courage:** Like Jesus before Pilate, we can stand unshakable in the face of opposition.
- **We don't need to defend ourselves:** When you know you're in God's will, you don't have to worry about what others think or say.

What About When We Fail?

Even when we mess up, we can know God's will concerning forgiveness and mercy. First John 1:9 tells us, "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

Hebrews 4:16 encourages us to "come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need." We don't come sheepishly or shamefully—we come boldly because we know God's will is to show us mercy.

Life Application

This week, I challenge you to stop living in uncertainty about God's will. Instead of saying "if it be Your will," commit to discovering what His will actually is.

Take time to:

- **Read your Bible daily:** Download God's Word into your heart so the Holy Spirit can bring it to your remembrance when you need it.
- **Pray with purpose:** Don't just pray religious prayers—seek to understand God's will and pray according to it.
- **Stay filled with the Holy Spirit:** Ask God to fill you afresh with His Spirit every day.

Ask yourself:

- In what areas of my life am I uncertain about God's will?
- Am I praying with confidence or with doubt?
- Do I truly believe that God wants to reveal His will to me?

Remember, you can't have faith in an unfaithful God, but our God is faithful. You can know His will, and when you do, you'll walk through life with unshakable confidence, regardless of what challenges come your way.

Quotes

1. *"Faith begins where the will of God is known. You can't have faith for something if you don't know it's God's will. But thank God—we can know His will."*
2. *"Don't be unwise—understand what the will of the Lord is. People say, 'Well, if it be His will...' That's just another way of saying, 'I don't know.' But Scripture says it's unwise not to know."*
3. *"Yes, Jesus prayed, 'If it be Your will.' But He didn't leave the garden confused. He stayed in prayer until He knew exactly what the will of God was. He didn't live in perpetual uncertainty."*
4. *"Jesus had to get it settled. Every doubt had to go. Once He knew the will of God in His soul, He had peace and strength to face everything ahead."*
5. *"We don't live with an 'if it be Thy will' mindset. That's unwise and ignorant. God wants us to know His will clearly—no excuses."*

6. *"You need to face that dark thing—fearlessly, courageously. Look it in the eye. Even look death in the eye, without fear—because you know you're standing in the center of God's will."*
7. *"The more you know God's will, the less you have to defend yourself. Confidence enables you to stand in quietness."*
8. *"Confidence comes from knowing you're praying in line with His will."*
9. *"Therefore, we come boldly to the throne of grace—to receive mercy and find grace in our time of need. Hallelujah!"*
10. *"We have this confidence: if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if He hears us, we know we already have what we've asked for."*
11. *"We know we have it—not when we see it, but when we believe it. Anyone can believe after they see it."*
12. *"Jesus had the resurrection in His spirit before He ever faced the cross. He got the victory in prayer—right there in the garden."*
13. *"When you know you're in God's will, fear disappears. You go through the trial with confidence, knowing it's all working for your good and God's glory."*
14. *"Prayer is the most exciting place—it's where God hears you, answers you, and gives you more than you even asked for."*
15. *"Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law. He went to the cross with your curse so you could walk in the blessing. The blessing is always God's will. The curse never is."*

Verses

1. Ephesians 5:17

2. 1 John 5:14

3. Hebrews 4:16

4. 1 John 1:9

Summary

Faith begins where God's will is known, and living in uncertainty prevents true faith. Ephesians 5:17 urges us to understand God's will rather than remain confused. Jesus in Gethsemane didn't stay uncertain but prayed until He had clarity about God's plan. We can discover God's will through Scripture, persistent prayer, and the Holy Spirit's guidance. When we know God's will, we pray with confidence, face challenges courageously, and receive what we ask for according to His purposes.