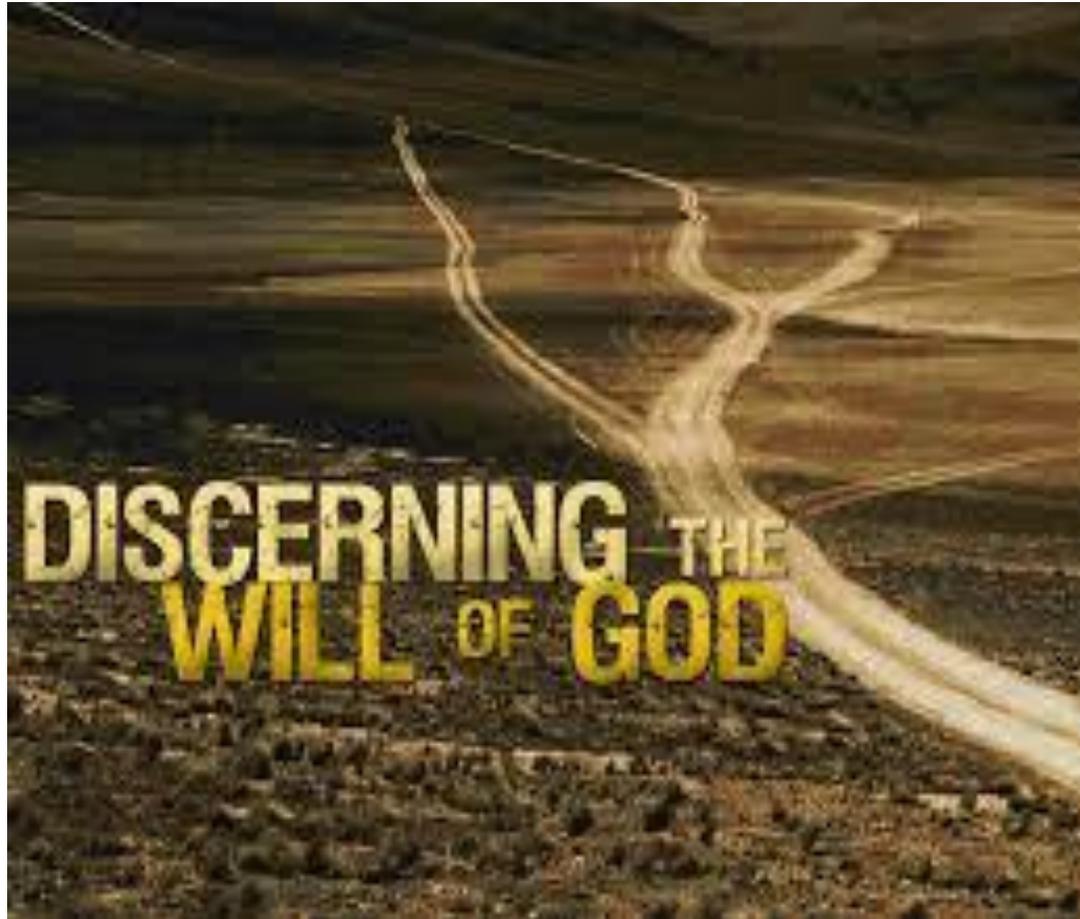


# *What every Christian Ought To Know.*

## **#7 Discerning the Will of God!**



GOD'S WILL IS  
FOR YOU TO BE  
*SAVED!*

GOD'S WILL IS  
FOR YOU TO BE  
*SPIRIT-FILLED!*

GOD'S WILL IS  
FOR YOU TO BE  
*SANCTIFIED!*

GOD'S WILL IS  
FOR YOU TO BE  
*SUBMISSIVE!*

GOD'S WILL IS  
FOR YOU TO  
*SUFFER!*

## THREE PRINCIPLES FOR KNOWING GOD'S WILL

### #1 God Will Guide You--He Promised! #2 Guidance Is Provisional !

#### 1. YOU MUST BE WILLING.

- You must be willing to search and know God's will. Notice what Paul said after meeting Christ on the road to Damascus: (Acts. 9:6) *"Lord what do you want me to do?"*
- Notice what **MARRY** said in response to the angel's message. (Lk. 1:38) *"And Mary said, Behold, the bond slave of the Lord; may it be done to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her."*
- Notice what **Jesus** said in the garden of Gethsemane: *"He went away again a second time and prayed, saying, My Father, if this cannot pass away unless I drink it, Your will be done."*
- "You will never **KNOW** the will of God unless you are willing to **DO** the will of God."
- We must stop asking God to "conform" to our will, but we must learn to **ACCEPT** and **CONFORM** to His will, **WILLINGLY!**

## 2. YOU MUST BE MEEK.

- Notice: (Acts. 9:8) *“Saul got up from the ground, and though his eyes were open, he could see nothing; and leading him by the hand, they brought him into Damascus.”* How humbling it must have been for this **“Proud Pharisee”** to be blinded and led by the hand.
- Notice: (Psa. 25:9) *“He leads the humble (Meek) in justice, And He teaches the humble (Meek) His way.”*
- The word **“MEEK”** means teachable and broken spirit. The ideal is to be under control of your Master. Do you have a broken teachable spirit? Can God gently lead you, or do you come kicking and screaming?

## 3. YOU MUST BE OPEN.

- If we are to discern God’s will then we must be **“OPEN”** to His commands through not only **“TALKING”** in prayer, but **“LISTENING”** in prayer.
- Notice: (Acts. 9:6) again Paul was open: *“Lord what do you want me to do?”*
- God will and does speak generally it is *“with a still small voice.”* Notice: (1 Kings. 19:11-12) *“So He said, “Go forth and stand on the mountain before the LORD.” And behold, the LORD was passing by! And a great and strong wind was rending the mountains and breaking in pieces the rocks before the LORD; but the LORD was not in the wind. And after the wind an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake. 12 After the earthquake a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire; and after the fire a sound of a gentle blowing.”*

- I'm reminded of (Isa. 6:8) ***"Then I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for Us?" Then I said, "Here am I. Send me!""***
- That's why it's important to rise up early **BEFORE** you are distracted by the world, the flesh, and certainly the devil. Do you have a **"MORNING"** quiet time? **Notice: (Psa. 5:3) ***"In the morning, O LORD, You will hear my voice; In the morning I will order my prayer to You and eagerly watch."*****
- Instead of ***"Listen Lord your servant speaks,"*** we should say **"SPEAK LORD YOUR SERVANT LISTENS."**

#### 4. YOU MUST BE **YIELDED.**

- Whatever, and however God says, you must be ready to accept, and obey His will. God might send the most unlikely circumstance, or person to show you His will, and you must be willing to yield to His leading. The great **PAUL** was now under the tutelage of an insignificant disciple of Christ named, **ANANIAS.**
- **Notice: (Acts. 9:17) ***"So Ananias departed and entered the house, and after laying his hands on him said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on the road by which you were coming, has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit."*****

**#1 GOD WILL GUIDE YOU--HE PROMISED!**

**#2 GUIDANCE IS PROVISIONAL –HE MADE AWAY!**

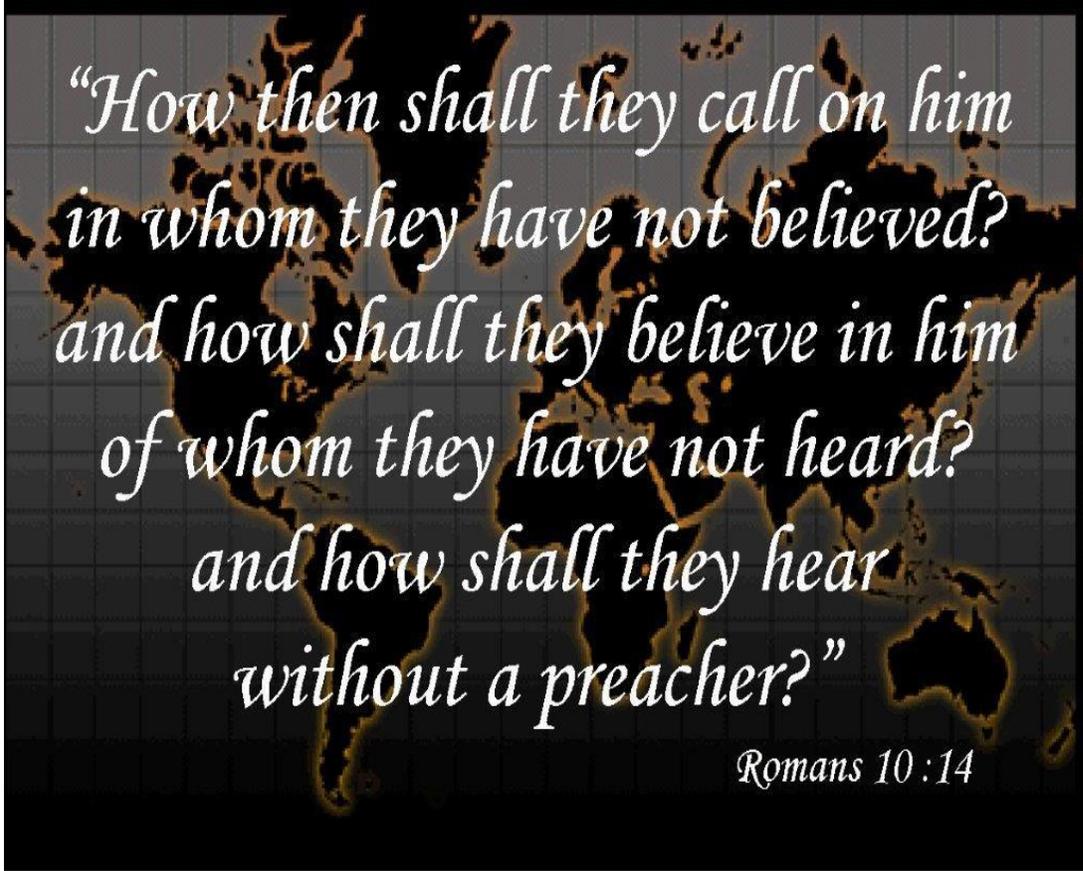
**#3 GUIDANCE IS PRACTICAL—HE MADE IT EASY!**

**WE ARE GUIDED BY:**

- 1. THE MIRACLES OF GOD.**
- 2. THE WORD OF GOD.**
- 3. THE PEOPLE OF GOD.**
- 4. THE SPIRIT OF GOD.**
- 5. THE WISDOM OF GOD.**
- 6. THE PROVIDENCE OF GOD.**

What every Christian Ought To Know.  
**#8 ABOUT FAITH AND HOW TO HAVE IT!**

- (Matt. 9:29) ***“...It shall be done to you according to your faith.”***
- *“Pray, believe; and you’ll receive.*
- *Pray, and doubt; you’ll do without.”*



*“How then shall they call on him  
in whom they have not believed?  
and how shall they believe in him  
of whom they have not heard?  
and how shall they hear  
without a preacher?”*

*Romans 10:14*

## Finding Out What **FAITH** is **NOT!**

- **FAITH IS HEAVEN'S MEDIUM OF EXCHANGE**, it's the greatest asset we have. **UNBELIEF**, however, is not only the greatest stumbling block, but it is the chief **"WICKEDNESS."**
- The sin of **ALL** sin is **UNBELIEF**. It caused Eve to sin in the Garden of Eden when she failed to trust God's Word.
- **UNBELIEF** locked the doors to the "Promised land" for the children of Israel. (**Heb. 3:19**) ***"because of their unbelief."***
- **UNBELIEF** tied the hands of Jesus while visiting His hometown. Notice: (**Matt. 13:58**) ***"And He did not do many miracles there because of their unbelief."***
- Jesus paid for every sin that is generated by the world, the flesh, and the devil. Things such as murder, lying, homosexuality etc. These sins are **NOT** what sends people to a Christ less hell. **"UNBELIEF"** is what sends people to hell. Notice: (**Jn. 3:18**) ***"He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God."***

## What is FAITH, and Where Does it Come From?

- **FAITH**: A belief and trust in and loyalty to God. **Notice: (Heb. 11:1) “*Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.*”** True faith is not based on empirical (observation, or experience) evidence, but on **divine assurance**.
- **HOW DOES ONE OBTAIN FAITH?** Can faith be acquired (through effort, or experience), purchased, stolen, wisdom, or inheritance? **NO**, faith is received as a **“GIFT”** from God through His Word. **Notice: (Rom. 10:17) “*So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ.*”** “You don’t *name it* and *claim it*. God speaks, and you *believe it* and *receive it.*” (Adrian Rodgers).
- **Notice: (Phil.1:29) “*For to you it has been granted for Christ’s sake, not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake,*”**

- Notice: (Phil. 2:13) *“for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure.”*
- Notice: (Jn. 3:27) *“John answered and said, “A man can receive nothing unless it has been given him from heaven.”*
- Notice: (2 Tim.2:25-26) *“with gentleness correcting those who are in opposition, if perhaps God may grant them repentance leading to the knowledge of the truth, 26 and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, having been held captive by him to do his will.”*

## “FAITH IS A GIFT FROM GOD”

- Notice: (Eph. 2:8-9) *“For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, 9 not of works, lest anyone should boast.”*
- Our response in salvation is “FAITH,” but even that is “NOT OF OURSELVES” [but is] “THE GIFT OF GOD.” FAITH is nothing that we do in our own power or resources. Bedside's, God wouldn't want us to rely on them even if we had them. Otherwise, salvation would be in part by our own works, and we would have some ground to boast in ourselves. PAUL intends to emphasize that even faith is not from us apart from GOD'S GIVING IT.
- If salvation is of grace, it has to be an “UNDESERVED GIFT OF GOD.” Faith is presented as a gift from God in (Phil.1:29), (Phil.2:13), (2 Tim. 2:25-26)
- Notice; (2 Pet. 1:1) *“Simon Peter, a bond-servant and apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who have received a faith of the same kind as ours, by the righteousness of our God and Savior, Jesus Christ”*