

“When You Want to Know God’s Will”

1 Corinthians 2:10b-16

Fractured: How God Restores A Broken Church

Pastor Paul Bartelme

New Vintage Church, West Allis

*Should I stay or should I go now? Should I stay or should I go now?
If I go there will be trouble - and if I stay it will be double
So come on and let me know*

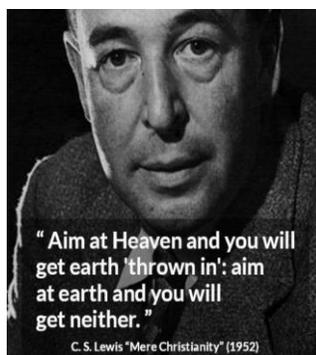
“Should I Stay or Should I Go?” by the Clash

Some of you are living in those lyrics. Take the job or don’t. Move or stay put. Accept the offer or not.

This leads me to the question: *When I have a _____ decision to make, how can I know God’s will?*

- There are some decisions the Bible answers clearly. But what about decisions that are not in the Bible?

Circle the example you can relate to the most. The laid-off machinist, the nurse who was offered a promotion, the young Latino entrepreneur, the retired union worker, the single mom, the empty-nest couple, the recovering addict...



Aiming at heaven → knowing God’s will (Mt 6:33)

If you do NOT seek to know God’s will by receiving His character, priorities, and values...

- You justify bending the rules rather than operating in godly character
- You make rushed decisions based on fear, not faith
- You rely more on Google than God and His gospel-centric priorities/values
- You mistake your own passionate desires for God’s will

“Yeah, but how? How can I seek to know God’s will?” I’ll explain more as we read our main passage.

1 Corinthians 2:10b-16... Takeaways:

- V 11...** “The Spirit knows the deep things of God (Isa 55:8-9).”
 - God, the Holy Spirit knows God the Father’s thoughts, wisdom, plan, and especially His _____.
- V 12...** “We have received the Spirit (Rom 8:9).”
 - When we were saved, the Holy Spirit came to live _____ us.
- VV 12-13...** “Received, not achieved.” That word _____ is everything.
 - In the same way we received the Spirit, so also we receive what He desires to teach us (Jn 16:13).

b. Which is what? His character, priorities, and values → knowing His _____!

“Okay, Pastor, but how?” In response, we “walk with Jesus.”

You don't muscle your way into learning God's will and ways. You walk with Jesus long enough that your instincts begin to change.

Walking with Jesus looks like this: you _____, read your _____, go to _____, and be a _____.

- Yet not to earn acceptance through performance! *Rather, through a love relationship.*

The following calls-to-action will provide practical insight into learning what God's will is in any given situation.

- Pray for wisdom.** “Lord, shape my thinking to reflect Your character in this decision (Jas 1:5).”
- Invite mature counsel.** Seek believers who have been walking obediently for decades. Share your situation and ask them, “What do you see that I'm missing (Prov 11:14)?”
- Pay attention to your circumstances, which God engineers.** Closed doors may mean protection. Open ones may be opportunity (Ac 16:6-9).
- Look at your situation through the lens of the Bible.** It reveals God's character, priorities, and values (Psa 119:105).
- Check your motives.** Are you operating out of fear? Selfishness? Greed? Comfort? Ego? OR love? Faith? Obedience? A desire to glorify God (Psa 139:23-24)?
- Do you have God's peace – not pressure?** A settled peace after prayer and counsel (Col 3:15).
- Consider eternal impact.** How will this decision affect my witness, my family, and eternal priorities (Mt 6:33)?
- Trust in God's grace.** If you make a poor decision, God will redeem and redirect. It's better to decide and execute than to live in paralyzed fear of missing His will (Rom 8:28).

GOING DEEPER FOR “WHEN YOU WANT TO KNOW GOD'S WILL” – 03.01.26

Go through this note sheet with your Growth Group and/or your family at the dinner table. Seek opportunities to also share this with your *oikos* network. Bring this note sheet to your work or school and discuss it with your workmate or schoolmate over lunch. Read the main passage and look up all of the supporting verses. Pray with one another.

INTRO – What hard decision are you facing right now that requires knowing God's will?

TAKEAWAY #1 – How comforting is it to know that the Holy Spirit is fully God? All-knowing, all-powerful, and all-present?

TAKEAWAY #2 – What difference does it make to know that the Holy Spirit lives inside you?

TAKEAWAY #3 – On a scale of 1-5, how much do I try to earn clarity from God rather than just “walking with Jesus”?

CALLS-TO-ACTION – Which call-to-action is the most interesting and attractive to you and why?