

"So the LORD must wait for you to come to him so he can show you his love and compassion. For the LORD is a faithful God. Blessed are those who wait for his help. 19 O people of Zion, who live in Jerusalem, you will weep no more. He will be gracious if you ask for help. He will surely respond to the sound of your cries. 20 Though the Lord gave you adversity for food and suffering for drink, he will still be with you to teach you. You will see your teacher with your own eyes.

Isaiah 30:18-21 (NLT)

21 Your own ears will hear him. Right behind you a voice will say, 'This is the way you should go,' whether to the right or to the left."

Isaiah 30:18-21 (NLT)



God WANTS You to Know His Will



You <u>CAN</u> Know God's Will for You



God Speaks in Ways You'll Know It's Him





1. Walk in Obedience to the Light You Have

Luke 24:49 (NLT) — "And now I will send the Holy Spirit, just as my Father promised. But stay here in the city until the Holy Spirit comes and fills you with power from heaven."

Acts 1:4 (NLT) — "Once when he was eating with them, he commanded them, "Do not leave Jerusalem until the Father sends you the gift he promised, as I told you before."

**Acts 1:12 (NLT)** — "Then the apostles returned to Jerusalem from the Mount of Olives, a distance of half a mile."

"Wait for the Promise of the Father."





## Right Heart Attitude:

- Submissive
- Obedient to God's Will
- Desires to Know God's Will
- Follows Wherever He Leads

1 Corinthians 15:4-6 (NLT) — "He was buried, and he was raised from the dead on the third day, just as the Scriptures said. 5 He was seen by Peter and then by the Twelve. 6 After that, he was seen by more than 500 of his followers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died."



# What Happened to the Rest?

- Gave Up
- Fell Back

**2 Timothy 4:10 (NLT)** — "Demas has deserted me because he loves the things of this life and has gone to Thessalonica..."



## What Happened to the Rest?

- Gave Up
- Fell Back
- Ran Ahead



2. Be in Fellowship with Other Believers

"When they arrived, they went to the upstairs room of the house where they were staying. Here are the names of those who were present: Peter, John, James, Andrew, Philip, Thomas, Bartholomew, Matthew, James (son of Alphaeus), Simon (the zealot), and Judas (son of James). 14 They all met together and were constantly united in prayer, along with Mary the mother of Jesus, several other women, and the

#### Acts 1:13-15 (NLT)

brothers of Jesus. 15 During this time, when about 120 believers were together in one place, Peter stood up and addressed them."

Acts 1:13-15 (NLT)



Being **Committed in** Fellowship is VITAL to the **Spiritual Life** of Every Believer

Ephesians 4:11–12 (NLT) — "Now these are the gifts Christ gave to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers. 12 Their responsibility is to equip God's people to do his work and build up the church, the body of Christ."

**Proverbs 11:14 (NLT)** — "Without wise leadership, a nation falls; there is safety in having many advisers."

**Hebrews 10:25 (NLT)** — "And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near."



3. Pray to Know God and His Will

Acts 1:14 (NLT) — "They all met together and were constantly united in prayer, along with Mary the mother of Jesus, several other women, and the brothers of Jesus."

Acts 1:24 (NLT) — "Then they all prayed, 'O Lord, you know every heart. Show us which of these men you have chosen.'"



## Prayer is the Place Where We:

- Daily surrender our will, plans and desires to follow His
- Confess our sins and receive His cleansing
- Develop intimacy with the Father
- Sit quietly, listen and meditate on Him

"Keep on asking, and you will receive what you ask for. Keep on seeking, and you will find. Keep on knocking, and the door will be opened to you. 8 For everyone who asks, receives. Everyone who seeks, finds. And to everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. 9 "You parents — if your children ask for a loaf of bread, do you give them a stone instead? 10 Or if they ask for a fish, do you give them a snake? Of course not! 11 So if

#### **Matthew 7:7-11 (NLT)**

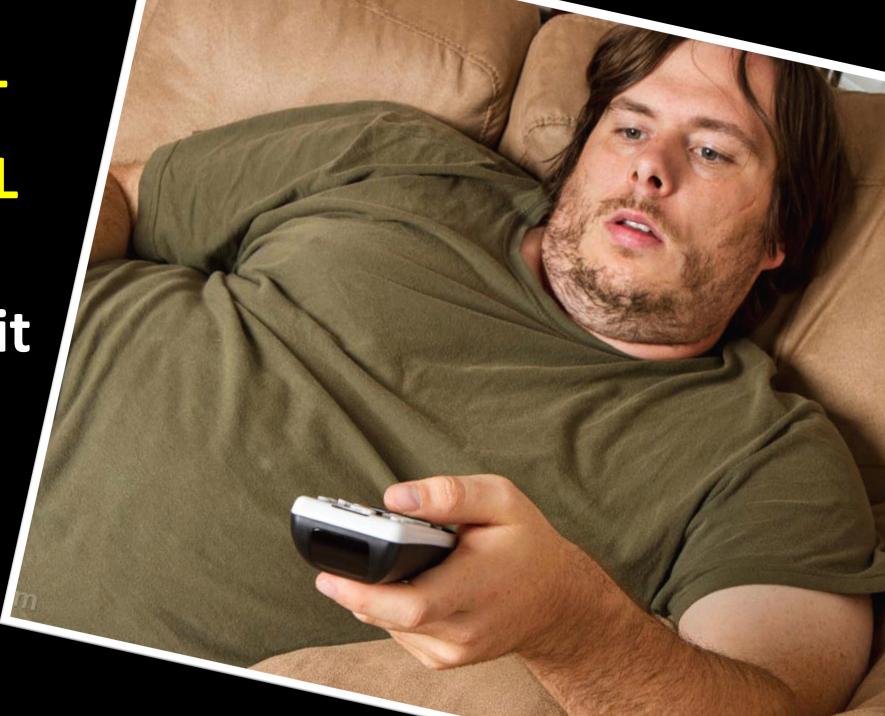
you sinful people know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give good gifts to those who ask him."

#### **Matthew 7:7-11 (NLT)**



If you ASK you can count on the fact that He will **REVEAL** it to you.

If you DON'T ASK you WILL NOT know, find, or have it opened for you.



Matthew 10:37 (NLT) — "If you love your father or mother more than you love me, you are not worthy of being mine; or if you love your son or daughter more than me, you are not worthy of being mine."



So, you've met the man of your dreams?

James 4:1-3 (NLT) — "What is causing the quarrels and fights among you? Don't they come from the evil desires at war within you? 2 You want what you don't have, so you scheme and kill to get it. You are jealous of what others have, but you can't get it, so you fight and wage war to take it away from them. Yet you don't have what you want because you don't ask God for it. 3 And even when you ask, you don't get it because your motives are all wrong—you want only what will give you pleasure."



### Not Just About ASKING:

- Ask, "Lord, is this YOUR will?"
- Make sure your MOTIVES are right
- Be OPEN to hear whatever He has to say to you



4. Search God's Word to Know His Will

"During this time, when about 120 believers were together in one place, Peter stood up and addressed them. 16 'Brothers,' he said, 'the Scriptures had to be fulfilled concerning Judas, who guided those who arrested Jesus. This was predicted long ago by the Holy Spirit, speaking through King David. 17 Judas was one of us and shared in the ministry with us.' 18 (Judas had bought a field with the money he received for his

Acts 1:15-20 (NLT)

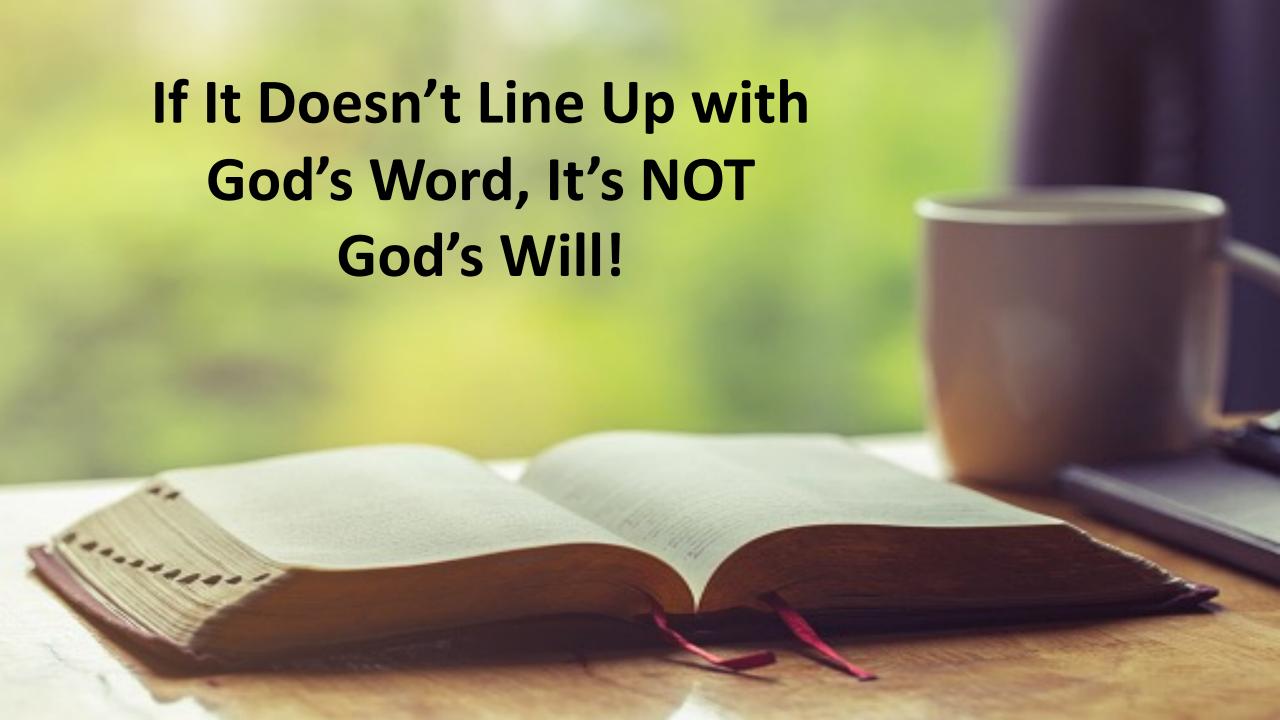
treachery. Falling headfirst there, his body split open, spilling out all his intestines. 19 The news of his death spread to all the people of Jerusalem, and they gave the place the Aramaic name Akeldama, which means "Field of Blood.") 20 Peter continued, 'This was written in the book of Psalms, where it says, 'Let his home become desolate, with no one living in it.' It also says, 'Let someone else take his position.'"

Acts 1:15-20 (NLT)

Psalm 119:6 (NLT) — "Then I will not be ashamed when I compare my life with your commands."

Psalm 119:7 (NLT) — "As I learn your righteous regulations, I will thank you by living as I should!"

Psalm 119:105 (NLT) — "Your word is a lamp to guide my feet and a light for my path."



# Be Attentive to the RHEMA WORD





#### Rhema

- (Greek) = "utterance"
- When God takes His LOGOS
   ("written Word") and makes it

   RHEMA to speak to your situation

Proverbs 18:22 (NKJV) — "He who finds a wife finds a good thing, And obtains favor from the LORD."



5. Trust God to Guide You

Acts 1:23–26 (NKJV) — "And they proposed two: Joseph called Barsabas, who was surnamed Justus, and Matthias. 24 And they prayed and said, 'You, O Lord, who know the hearts of all, show which of these two You have chosen 25 to take part in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas by transgression fell, that he might go to his own place." 26 And they cast their lots, and the lot fell on Matthias. And he was numbered with the eleven apostles."

Psalm 37:3–5 (NLT) — "Trust in the LORD and do good. Then you will live safely in the land and prosper. 4 Take delight in the LORD, and he will give you your heart's desires. 5 Commit everything you do to the LORD. Trust him, and he will help you."

**Psalm 37:23 (NLT)** — "The LORD directs the steps of the godly. He delights in every detail of their lives."

Proverbs 3:5–6 (NLT) — "Trust in the LORD with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. 6 Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take."



Psalm 32:8–9 (NKJV) — "I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will guide you with My eye. 9 Do not be like the horse or like the mule, Which have no understanding, Which must be harnessed with bit and bridle, Else they will not come near you."



6. Fast to Know God's Will

"Then I proclaimed a fast there at the river of Ahava, that we might humble ourselves before our God, to seek from Him the right way for us and our little ones and all our possessions. 22 For I was ashamed to request of the king an escort of soldiers and horsemen to help us against the enemy on the road, because we had spoken to the king, saying, 'The hand of our God is upon all those for good who seek Him, but His power

#### Ezra 8:21-23 (NLT)

and His wrath are against all those who forsake Him.'
23 So we fasted and entreated our God for this, and
He answered our prayer."

Acts 10:30–32 (NKJV) — "So Cornelius said, 'Four days ago I was fasting until this hour; and at the ninth hour I prayed in my house, and behold, a man stood before me in bright clothing, 31 and said, 'Cornelius, your prayer has been heard, and your alms are remembered in the sight of God. 32 Send therefore to Joppa and call Simon here, whose surname is Peter. He is lodging in the house of Simon, a tanner, by the sea. When he comes, he will speak to you."



# fasting

- Separating yourself unto the Lord
- Denying fleshly desires
- Quieting all other voices
- GOAL = to hear God's voice



Things to Remember in Discerning God's Will



### Things to Remember

1. Be Guided by **PEACE** in Your Heart

Colossians 3:15 (NLT) — "And let the peace that comes from Christ rule in your hearts. For as members of one body you are called to live in peace. And always be thankful."

John 14:27 (NLT) — "I am leaving you with a gift—
peace of mind and heart. And the peace I give is a gift
the world cannot give. So don't be troubled or afraid."



### Things to Remember

- 1. Be Guided by PEACE in Your Heart
- 2. If Married, Walk in UNITY

Matthew 12:25 (NLT) — "Jesus knew their thoughts and replied, 'Any kingdom divided by civil war is doomed. A town or family splintered by feuding will fall apart."



### Things to Remember

- 1. Be Guided by **PEACE** in Your Heart
- 2. If Married, Walk in UNITY
- 3. God Still Speaks in DREAMS and VISIONS

Acts 2:17 (NLT) — "In the last days,' God says, 'I will pour out my Spirit upon all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy. Your young men will see visions, and your old men will dream dreams."



### Things to Remember

- 1. Be Guided by PEACE in Your Heart
- 2. If Married, Walk in UNITY
- 3. God Still Speaks in DREAMS and VISIONS
- 4. God Speaks in CIRCUMSTANCES

Revelation 3:8 (NLT) — "I know all the things you do, and I have opened a door for you that no one can close. You have little strength, yet you obeyed my word and did not deny me."



**Questions to Ask Yourself** 



#### **Ask Yourself:**

- 1. What would JESUS do?
- 2. Is this going to draw me closer to God and His people?
- 3. What effect will my choice have?
- 4. What choice would glorify Jesus the most?



#### **Ask Yourself:**

- 5. Does God's Word say anything about my situation?
- 6. Does what I am about to do build others up or tear them down?

The KEY for us is...



...complete
SUBMISSION to Him



### **Follow These Principles:**

- 1. Walk in Obedience to the Light
- 2. Be in Fellowship with Believers
- 3. Pray to Know God and His Will
- 4. God's Word is Our Guide
- 5. Trust God to Guide You
- 6. Fast to Know God's Will



## **Follow These Principles:**

- 7. God Still Speaks in Dreams and Visions
- 8. God Does Speak through Circumstances

