

WHAT'S NEXT FOR MY LIFE?

Ryland Walter | September 2-3, 2023

Week 4: Choosing The Right Guide For Your Life

- The _____ will of God
What God is doing on the earth — God's _____
- The _____ will of God
What God has already said in His Word — God's _____
- The _____ will of God
What God desires for my life — God's _____

*The more I get to know what God is doing,
and what God has said, the better I will discern
what God desires for my life.*

What am I doing that I should _____ doing?
What am I not doing that I should _____ doing?

THREE STOPS

1. Stop copying a _____ that doesn't follow God
Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect. Romans 12:2 (NLT)
2. Stop looking to other _____ besides God
"Do not let your people practice fortune-telling, or use sorcery, or interpret omens, or engage in witchcraft, ¹¹ or cast spells, or function as mediums or psychics, or call forth the spirits of the dead. ¹² Anyone who does these things is detestable to the Lord." Deuteronomy 18:10-12 (NLT)
3. Stop following _____ that are temporary
Trust in the Lord with all your heart;
do not depend on your own understanding.
Seek his will in all you do,
and he will show you which path to take. Proverbs 3:5-6 (NLT)

THREE STARTS

1. Start being _____ to be led

Anyone who chooses to do the will of God will find out whether my teaching comes from God or whether I speak on my own.
John 7:17 (NIV)

God guides the humble in what is right and teaches them his way.
Psalm 25:9 (NIV)

"I take joy in doing your will, my God,
for your instructions are written on my heart." Psalm 40:8 (NLT)

2. Start looking to God's _____

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

Guide my steps by your word,
so I will not be overcome by evil. Psalm 119:133 (NLT)

3. Start asking the _____ to guide you

Do not stop the work of the Holy Spirit. ²⁰ Do not treat prophecy as if it were not important. ²¹ But test everything. Keep what is good. ²² And stay away from everything that is evil. ²³ We pray that God himself, the God of peace, will make you pure, belonging only to him. We pray that your whole self—spirit, soul, and body—will be kept safe and be without wrong when our Lord Jesus Christ comes.
1 Thessalonians 5:19-23 (ICB)

"You know, we live in a day when we are more afraid of holiness than we are of sinfulness." ~ Leonard Ravenhill

"Dozens of people go to God to be cured of some one particular sin which they are ashamed of (like cowardice) or which is obviously spoiling daily life (like bad temper). Well, He will cure it all right: but He will not stop there. That may be all you asked; but if once you call Him in, He will give you the full treatment. Imagine yourself as a living house. God comes in to rebuild that house. At first, perhaps, you can understand what He is doing. He is getting the drains right and stopping the leaks in the roof and so on: you knew that those jobs needed doing and so you are not surprised. But presently he starts knocking the house about in a way that hurts dreadfully and does not seem to make sense. What on earth is He up to? The explanation is that He is building quite a different house from the one you thought of—You thought you were going to be made into a decent little cottage: but He is building a palace. He intends to come and live in it Himself." ~ C.S. Lewis

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- The sovereign will of God
What God is doing on the earth — God's works
- The moral will of God
What God has already said in His Word — God's ways
- The personal will of God
What God desires for my life — God's will

*The more I get to know what God is doing,
and what God has said, the better I will discern
what God desires for my life.*

What am I doing that I should STOP doing?

What am I not doing that I should START doing?

THREE STOPS

1. Stop copying a culture that doesn't follow God

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CHOOSING THE RIGHT GUIDE FOR YOUR LIFE

Talk-it-Over Notes | September 2-3, 2023

REVIEW IT

Plenty of people would love to guide you through life. But, you want to be guided by God. Maybe you find yourself in a decision dilemma wondering if God's will is just broad or more specific. God's will has a zone. It's framed in by his ways and his works. His sovereign will and his moral will. The more I get to know what god is doing, and what God has said, the better I will discern what God desires for my life.

Two questions to ask to get you into the zone are, "What am I doing that I should stop doing?" and "What am I not doing that I should start doing?" Three things to stop to be led by God: Stop copying a culture that doesn't follow God. Stop looking to other sources besides God. Stop following feelings that are temporary. There things to start to be led by God: Start being willing to be led. Start looking to God's Word. Start asking the Holy Spirit to guide you.

God guides the humble in what is right and teaches them his way.
Psalm 25:9

Spend some time in the word: Read Psalm chapter 119

TALK ABOUT IT

1. Did the illustration of a fairway and teaching on God's sovereign and moral will make sense to you? Why or why not?
2. How can asking the two questions, "*What should I stop doing and what should I start doing*" help in getting into God's will?
3. Which of the three *stops* stood out to you most?
4. Which of the three *starts* stood out to you most?

ACT ON IT

Ask God, those two questions. What am I doing that I need to stop, and what am I not doing that I need to start? Write down something that comes to mind and then act on it.

PRAY ABOUT IT

Ask how you can pray for a support one another this week and then close in prayer. Consider praying the Lord's prayer (Matthew 6:9-15) "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one."