

God, Just Tell Me— When God’s Will Isn’t Clear

- **God’s Sovereign Will**
- **God’s Moral Will**
- **God’s Permissive Will**
- **God’s Personal Will**

God’s will is more about a “who” than a “do.”

4 Ways God Directs Us

- **Open Doors**
- **Closed Doors**
- **Frustrated Plans**
- **Everyday Choices**

Open Doors

But I will stay on at Ephesus until Pentecost,⁹ because a great door for effective work has opened to me, and there are many who oppose me. 1 Corinthians 16:8-9 NIV

An open door doesn’t guarantee a smooth path.

Closed Doors

Next Paul and Silas traveled through the area of Phrygia and Galatia, because the Holy Spirit had prevented them from preaching the word in the province of Asia at that time. ⁷Then coming to the borders of Mysia, they headed north for the province of Bithynia, but again the Spirit of Jesus did not allow them to go there.

Acts 16:6-7 NLT

God's "no" is still direction.

God can close the wrong doors to get you to the right place.

Frustrated Plans

2 Common Traits as Paul Seeks God's Will

- **Paul is not certain.**
- **Paul is not nervous.**

After I go through Macedonia, I will come to you—for I will be going through Macedonia. ⁶Perhaps I will stay with you for a while, or even spend the winter, so that you can help me on my journey, wherever I go. ⁷For I do not want to see you now and make only a passing visit; I hope to spend some time with you, if the Lord permits. 1 Corinthians 16:5-7 NIV

For we walk by faith, not by sight. 2 Corinthians 5:7 NKJV

Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path.

Psalm 119:105 NIV

Everyday Choices

... I have decided to stay there for the winter. Titus 3:12 NLT

... when we could stand it no longer, we decided to stay ...

1 Thessalonians 3:1 NLT

... Paul said ... "Let us go back ... and see how they are doing."

Acts 15:36 NIV

... we have received an inheritance from God ... and he makes everything work out according to his plan. Ephesians 1:11 NLT

I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with my loving eye on you. Psalm 32:8 NIV

TALK IT OVER

Read **2 Corinthians 5:7**. How does this perspective impact the way you trust God?

Talk about a time when God opened or closed a door as you were seeking His will. How did that bring clarity to your situation?

Is there an area of your life where you're seeking God's will, but it feels unclear? Talk about the ways God might be directing you toward your next step.