

Skegness Community Church - Weekly Bible Study 2025
52 passages of Scripture that every believer should know

Week 27 - FINDING THE WILL OF GOD

Luke 22:42

“Father if you are willing to take this cup from Me; yet not My will, but Yours, be done.”

As the shadows fall upon Gethsemane, we find our Lord so anguished in prayer that He began to literally sweat drops of blood. His passion was to accomplish the Father's will for His life. Earlier, He had pointedly addressed this with His disciples by saying, “I have come down from heaven, not to do My will, but to do the will of Him who sent me” (John 6:38). Now, on the evening before He would hang on a cross bearing the weight of the sins of the world - it was this desire that consumed Him. That is, “not My will, but Yours, be done.” God has a purpose and a plan for each of His children. The Lord Jesus is more interested in us finding His will for our lives than we ourselves are. On certain issues God's will is quite straightforward. For example, Jesus said, “For My Father's will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in Him shall have eternal life” (John 6:40). But what about other issues of life, other crossroads that come our way, demanding our attention and an eventual decision? How do we go about the business of finding out what is really God's will for us instead of what may simply be a selfish, personal desire? There are some important steps we can take along the way toward finding God's will.

BE SURE YOU KNOW THE SAVIOUR

It stands to reason that if we are on a pursuit to find God's will in a certain area, first of all we have to come to know Him as our very own personal Saviour. Without a saving knowledge of Christ and His abiding life within, a person cannot discern the things of God. These things are, as Scripture says, “spiritually discerned” (1 Corinthians 2:1).

BE SURE YOU KNOW THE SPIRIT

Once we place our trust in Christ, the Holy Spirit comes to take up residency within us, empowering us for service, helping us “bear witness” with the Spirit of God. When we know Christ as Saviour and are being controlled by His Spirit, He becomes our Teacher and will “guide (us) into all truth” (John 16:13). Being sensitive to the Spirit's leading in our lives is a key factor in discerning God's will for us.

BE SURE YOU KNOW THE SCRIPTURE

When we want to know God's will, it is essential that we have knowledge of biblical truth. God will never lead one of His followers to do anything that is contrary to the Scriptures. Paul's challenge to us was therefore to “let the word of Christ dwell in you richly” (Colossians 3:16). When we know Christ, when we are being controlled by His Spirit, and when we are abiding in His Word, He will make known to us the path of life (see Psalm 16:11). There are three practical ways to find God's will. The first key word is *desire*. God will not call you to a certain endeavour without first planting a desire within your heart to do that very thing. For the person who is abiding in the Spirit and in the Scripture, the desires of the heart are implanted by God Himself. The second operative word is *opportunity*. Just because we have a desire does not necessarily mean it is God's will for us. If it is God's will, the desire will be accompanied by an opportunity. Third, we are to keep walking and trust that, if this path or our destination is not God's will, He will shut the door. God does not want to veil His will from you. He is more desirous of your finding it and walking in it than you are yourself. Yes, He has a wonderful plan for your life, and He longs to make His will known to you

As you memorise this verse, meditate on what knowing Christ means to you personally. Recall the day when you first placed your trust in Him and were born again. Meditate on what knowing the Spirit means as you yield to Him. And make time to meditate on the Scripture for here we find His will so often written for us in black and white. Finally, join Jesus in praying. “Not my will ... but Yours be done.”