

Codes for the Will:

# God's Internal Compass

Message By Ken Baugh

And I will give you a new heart—I will give you new and right desires—and put a new spirit within you. I will take out your stony hearts of sin and give you new hearts of love. And I will put my Spirit within you so that you will obey my laws and do whatever I command.”  
**Ezekiel 36:26-27 (LB)**

“Those who let themselves be controlled by their lower natures live only to please themselves, but those who follow after the Holy Spirit find themselves doing those things that please God. Following after the Holy Spirit leads to life and peace, but following after the old nature leads to death because the old sinful nature within us is against God. It never did obey God's laws and it never will. That's why those who are still under the control of their old sinful selves, bent on following their old evil desires, can never please God.  
**Romans 8:5-8 (LB)**

“So I say, live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature. For the sinful nature desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the sinful nature. They are in conflict with each other, so that you do not do what you want. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under law. The acts of the sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.”  
**Galatians 5:16-20**

Opening Question:

When you make decisions which do you most rely upon: your heart, your head or your gut and why

## THE NATURE OF OUR HEART (Ezekiel 26:26-27)

Why do we need a heart transplant?

When do followers of Christ receive their new heart?

How do “new hearts” differ from “stony hearts?” (Romans 8:5-8, Galatians 5:16-20)

“The new heart acts as an internal compass that guides us in the will of God. And as this new heart grows and matures inside of you, you are able to make decisions more and more in keeping with God's will.”

## HOW MY NEW HEART AND DESIRES DETERMINES GOD'S WILL

Can God use our desires you lead us towards his will?

“So often it seems that Christians are not sure what they should do in a particular situation, or they become flustered waiting for God to ‘give them a sign,’ when all they really need to consider is the desire of their heart. You see, if you are walking close to the Lord, and He shapes your character and influences your life, then He is also shaping your desires....This does not mean that God is a genie, granting you magic wishes whenever you come before Him, but that He shapes your heart after He has cleansed it of all sin, so that your desires correspond to His. When God is in control of your life, He is also in control of your desires. The things you long for in your heart are put there by the Holy Spirit....As you develop a heart for God, you find that your desires change and become consonant with the heart of God.” Finding The Will Of God: Dr. Bruce K. Waltke, 86-87.

How can we trust our desires as a leading from God?

“Does God give us anything we desire? No. But he will give us our desires when they first are shaped by a delight in the Lord. To receive this promise, we must first meet the conditions attached to it: By loving God above all else, our desires will become what he desires for us. Then our greatest longing will be to conform our lives to his will.”

The Quest Study Bible, 759.

With this new heart,  
come "new and right desires."  
**Ezekiel 36:26**

What does it mean to "delight" in the Lord? (Psalm 37:4)

"Delight yourself in the Lord,  
and He will give you the desires  
of your heart." **Psalm 37:4**

How can a proper understanding of the following equation help us to live God's will?

DELIGHT = LOVE = OBEDIENCE

"Love the Lord your God with all  
your heart, soul, and mind.' This  
is the first and greatest  
commandment." **Matthew  
22:37-38 (LB)**

How does this view of discerning God's will differ or resonate with your current view of discerning God's will??

"For from the very beginning  
God decided that those who  
came to him...should become  
like his Son." **Romans 8:29 (LB)**

## HOW TO MAKE EVERYDAY DECISIONS WITHIN THE WILL OF GOD

Which decisions would fall under this everyday decision making process?

"It is God himself who has made  
us what we are and given us  
new lives from Christ Jesus; and  
long ages ago he planned that  
we should spend these lives in  
helping others."  
**Ephesians 2:10 (LB)**

**FIVE QUESTIONS TO ASK:** (And I would say that these are in order of importance)

### 1. Is there a biblical command or principle to follow?

"God guides us through the scriptures, we talked about that at length last week. However, He doesn't guide us in the nuances of every decision. For that, we need to go to the second question."

"How, then, can they call on  
the one they have not believed  
in? And how can they believe in  
the one of whom they have not  
heard? And how can they hear  
without someone preaching to  
them? And how can they  
preach unless they are sent? As  
it is written, 'How beautiful are  
the feet of those who bring  
good news!' **Romans 10:14-15**

### 2. Will this decision lend itself to God's primary purposes for my life?

Purpose #1: TO KNOW AND LOVE GOD (Matthew 22:37-38)

Purpose #2: TO BECOME LIKE JESUS CHRIST (Romans 8:29)

Purpose #3: TO USE MY S.H.A.P.E. TO HELP OTHERS (Ephesians 2:10)

Purpose #4: TO TELL OTHERS ABOUT JESUS CHRIST (Romans 10:14-15)

"Plans fail for lack of counsel,  
but with many advisers they  
succeed."  
**Proverbs 15:22**

### 3. Does this decision make sense?

"God's greater purpose is revealed in Scripture. Its main ideas are clear. We should use reason to help us understand and interpret the Bible. It does not take a mystic, in other words, to discover what is truly important to God. He did not deceive us by creating us with a brain, and he wants us to use it when we make decision." Discovering God's Will: How to Make Every Decision with Peace and Confidence, Jerry Sittser, 221.

### 4. What do other godly people I respect say?

"Never make big decisions alone...God gave us other people older and wiser than us...seek their counsel."

### 5. What are my motives?

Are you facing a decision right now where these questions are essential for you to ask? If so, can we help you run your decision through this grid?