

Codes for the Will:

Why I Can't Find God's Will

Message By Ken Baugh

Opening Question:

Has there been a time in your life when you have sought the will of God for your life?

Why I can't find God's Will

1. Because I am Asking the Wrong Question

What is the difference between these two questions?

What is God's will for my life?

What is God's will?

Why do you want to know the will of God?

"The right question is, "Once I know God's will, will I align my life with it?"

How does asking this question, change your perspective on God's plan and your responsibility?

2. Because I am Using the Wrong Approach

What approaches have you used to find the will of God?

Discerning God's Will in the Old Testament

¹In the past God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets at many times and in various ways, ²but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom he made the universe.

Hebrews 1:1-2

³⁰ Also put the Urim and the Thummim in the breastpiece, so they may be over Aaron's heart whenever he enters the presence of the LORD. Thus Aaron will always bear the means of making decisions for the Israelites over his heart before the LORD.

Exodus 28:30

⁶ After you have written descriptions of the seven parts of the land, bring them here to me and I will cast lots for you in the presence of the LORD our God. **Joshua 18:6**

Through the Prophets (Hebrews 1:1)

"The canonical prophets, whose books make up over a quarter of the Old Testament, were called by God to be channels of revelation. They were men of God who stood in His counsel, knew His mind, and were enabled to declare it. God the Holy Spirit spoke in and through them."

Finding the Will of God, Dr. Bruce K Waltke, 42-43

Through Urim and Thummim (Ex. 28:30)

"Apparently the Urim and Thummim were two stones. How they were used in determining God's will is unknown, but some suggest the Urim represented a negative answer and the Thummim a positive answer. Perhaps this view is indicated by the fact that Urim begins with the first letter of the Hebrew alphabet, and Thummim with the last letter. Others suggest that the objects simply symbolized the high priest's authority to inquire of God, or the assurance that the priest would receive enlightenment and perfect knowledge from God."

The Bible Knowledge Commentary, Old Testament,

John F. Walvoord and Roy B. Zuck, 152.

The Sacred Lot (Joshua 18:6)

"It appears that a lot was usually resorted to when other forms of wisdom had failed, but the casting of lots ended with the church. The last time it was mentioned in Scripture was in Acts 1:26, when the 11 remaining disciples drew lots to select a replacement for Judas Iscariot. The lot fell to Mattias, who is never heard from again, leading me to believe the lot was no longer useful for the church. Indeed, there is never another recorded use of anyone in Christ's church (the New Testament) going before the Lord to cast lots."

Finding The Will Of God, Dr. Bruce K. Waltke, 48.

³⁶ Gideon said to God, "If you will save Israel by my hand as you have promised - ³⁷ look, I will place a wool fleece on the threshing floor. If there is dew only on the fleece and all the ground is dry, then I will know that you will save Israel by my hand, as you said." ³⁸ And that is what happened. Gideon rose early the next day; he squeezed the fleece and wrung out the dew - a bowlful of water. ³⁹ Then Gideon said to God, "Do not be angry with me. Let me make just one more request. Allow me one more test with the fleece. This time make the fleece dry and the ground covered with dew." ⁴⁰ That night God did so. Only the fleece was dry; all the ground was covered with dew. **Judges 6:36-40**

³⁹He answered, "A wicked and adulterous generation asks for a miraculous sign!
Matthew 12:39

¹When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. ²Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. ³They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. ⁴All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them. **Acts 2:1-4**

⁶Because you are sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, **Galatians 4:6a**

¹Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God--this is your spiritual act of worship. ²Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is--his good, pleasing and perfect will. **Romans 12:1-2**

For personal reflection:

Am I trusting God's Spirit in my life to reveal the will of God?

If I knew the will of God, would I align my life with it?

By Dreams (Genesis 37, Judges 7, Daniel 7)

"God can still use dreams; I just do not believe that they are the primary source of discerning His will and should be checked against other more concrete ways." Ken Baugh

By Miraculous Signs (Exodus 13:21-22, Judges 6:36-40, Matthew 12:39)

"The Apostles never put out the equivalent of a fleece. Moreover, they never even hinted that Christians should look for 'signs' as a means of determining God's will. One of the lessons from the life of Jesus is that people will not turn to God simply because they see a miracle. Instead, they will simply ask for another miracle. So God leaves the miraculous for those few great moments when a miracle is the best way to alter the course of history....God has a different program for guidance."

Finding The Will Of God, Dr. Bruce K. Waltke, 51.

Through Spoken Words

"God does not administer His church in the same way He administered old Israel. He administered old Israel by the Mosaic law, but he are no longer administered by the law....There is a radical change between the Old Testament and the New Testament practice (of determining the will of God)....So the practice of using the Urim and Thummim, or going to a prophet, or casting a sacred lot is no longer valid for New Testament Christians. I don't find any verse recommending the Old Testament practices or making them the norm for New Testament believers. The various leadings in the New Testament by prophets, visions, and angelic visitations never occur in response to attempts to 'find God's will'".

Finding The Will Of God, Dr. Bruce K. Waltke, 55

How are each of these methods used by believers today to find God's will?

How God Reveals His Will to Me Today

*The primary means by which God reveals his will to me today is through the **Holy Spirit**.*

How did Pentecost change the way God reveals himself to us today? (Acts 2:1-4)

When compared to the Old Testament, how does the spirit "relate" differently to believers today? Romans 8:9, 1 Corinthians 3:16, 1 Corinthians 6:19, Galatians 4:6

How does the Holy Spirit work to reveal God's will in our lives? (Romans 12:1-2)