

**HOW CAN I KNOW GOD'S WILL?
Issues For Christ Followers -- Part 4
August 11, 2013**

Ephesians 5:15-17 (NIV) *“Be very careful, then, how you live--not as unwise but as wise, ¹⁶making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. ¹⁷Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is.”*

WHAT IS GOD'S WILL?

1. It's not a FEELING.

Jeremiah 17:9 (NLT) *“The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it?”*

2. It's not a FORMULA.

Problems With This Approach...

- It doesn't WORK!
- Formulas often CONTRADICT each other.
- There is no room for MISTAKES.

Romans 12:2 (NIV) *“Do 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.”*

God's will is not a closed system. It's DYNAMIC with many options available to you.

3. It is a FRIENDSHIP.

1 Corinthians 1:8-9 (TLB) *“And He (God) guarantees right up to the end that you will be counted free from all sin and guilt on that day when He returns. ⁹ God will surely do this for you, for He always does just what He says, and He is the one who invited you into this wonderful friendship with His Son, even Christ our Lord.”*

Focus on KNOWING God, not getting guidance.

YOU CAN LIMIT GOD'S WILL IN YOUR LIFE...

1. By being FATALISTIC about God's will.

**Two Errors Result... God gets the BLAME.
You become a PUPPET.**

John 7:17 (NIV) *“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.”*

FACT: God's will involves freedom of CHOICE.

2. By being FEARFUL about God's will.

Ephesians 1:3-5 (NAB) *“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavens, ⁴as He chose us in Him, before the foundation of the world, to be holy and without blemish before Him. In love ⁵He destined us for adoption to Himself through Jesus Christ, in accord with the favor of His will.”*

FACT: God's will is an expression of His LOVE.

1 John 4:18a (NIV) *“There is no fear in love.”*

3. By being FRUSTRATED by God's will.

Romans 8:28 (NIV) *“We know that in ALL things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose.”*

**FACT: PLEASURES & PROBLEMS
are both included in God's will.**

FAITH allows God's will to be done in your life!

Hebrews 11:6 (NIV) *“Without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to Him must believe He exists and that He rewards those who earnestly seek Him.”*

2 Peter 3:9 (NLT) *“The Lord isn't really being slow about His promise, as some people think. No, He is being patient for your sake. He does not want anyone to be destroyed, but wants everyone to repent.”*