

Knowing God's Will

God has a plan for your life

"I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you and watch over you". Psalm 32:8

Does God still speak? Yes!

...His voice is everywhere

"Whether you turn to the right or to the left, your ears will hear a voice behind you, saying, 'This is the way; walk in it.'" Isaiah 30:21

...listening for God's voice

"Then the word of the LORD came to Samuel." (1 Samuel 15:10)

...He is the voice of truth

"You are a king, then!" said Pilate. Jesus answered, "You are right in saying I am a king. In fact, for this reason I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me." John 18:37

...His people recognize His voice

"My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me." John 10:27

How to Hear God speak

...meditate on God's Word

"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path." Psalm 119:105

...ask for detailed directions

"Bezalel made the ark of acacia wood—two and a half cubits long, a cubit and a half wide, and a cubit and a half high. He overlaid it with pure gold, both inside and out, and made a gold molding around it. He cast four gold rings for it and fastened them to its four feet, with two rings on one side and two rings on the other. Then he made poles of acacia wood and overlaid them with gold. And he inserted the poles into the rings on the sides of the ark to carry it." Exodus 37:1-5

...listen for a small still voice

“After the earthquake came a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire. And after the fire came a gentle whisper.” (1 Kings 19:12)

...He can speak through anything

“Then the LORD opened the donkey's mouth, and she said to Balaam, “What have I done to you to make you beat me these three times?” Numbers 22:28

...ask Him for pictures of the future

“And afterward, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions.” (Joel 2:28)

...look and listen for Him all around

“The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands.” (Psalm 19:1)

How Should We Respond to Him?

...with sensitivity and quick obedience

“At the LORD's command the Israelites set out, and at his command they encamped. As long as the cloud stayed over the tabernacle, they remained in camp.” Numbers 9:18

...with trust and patience

“And that you may love the LORD your God, listen to his voice, and hold fast to him. For the LORD is your life, and he will give you many years in the land he swore to give to your fathers, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.” Deuteronomy 30:20

...with expectant faith

“Then he prayed, “O LORD, God of my master Abraham, give me success today, and show kindness to my master Abraham.” Genesis 24:12

...with a Spirit led lifestyle

“This is what the LORD says—your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel: “I am the LORD your God, who teaches you what is best for you, who directs you in the way you should go.” Isaiah 48:17

Ways to Discern God's Will

...don't assume we know it

"So David inquired of the LORD, "Shall I go and attack the Philistines? Will you hand them over to me?" The LORD answered him, "Go, for I will surely hand the Philistines over to you." 2 Samuel 5:19

...don't presume to know God's plan

"So David inquired of God again, and God answered him, "Do not go straight up, but circle around them and attack them in front of the balsam trees." 1 Chronicles 14:14

...submit to His timing

"Therefore Jesus told them, "The right time for me has not yet come; for you any time is right. The world cannot hate you, but it hates me because I testify that what it does is evil. You go to the Feast. I am not yet going up to this Feast, because for me the right time has not yet come." Having said this, he stayed in Galilee." (John 7:6-9)

...be sure we have been obedient

"As one of them was cutting down a tree, the iron axhead fell into the water. "Oh, my lord," he cried out, "it was borrowed!" The man of God asked, "Where did it fall?" When he showed him the place, Elisha cut a stick and threw it there, and made the iron float." (2 Kings 6:5-6)

...seek a confirming sign

"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." (Judges 6:37)

...don't resist His purposes

"Paul and his companions traveled throughout the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been kept by the Holy Spirit from preaching the word in the province of Asia." Acts 16:6

...fasting for guidance

"Then the Israelites, all the people, went up to Bethel, and there they sat weeping before the LORD. They fasted that day until evening and presented burnt offerings and fellowship offerings to the LORD. And the Israelites inquired of the LORD. (In those days the ark of the covenant of God was there, with Phinehas son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron,

ministering before it.) They asked, "Shall we go up again to battle with Benjamin our brother, or not?" The LORD responded, "Go, for tomorrow I will give them into your hands." Judges 20:26-28

...be sure we have His peace

"The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you; the LORD turn his face toward you and give you peace." Numbers 6:24-26

Some Reasons We Miss God's Will

...wrong assumptions

"The men of Israel sampled their provisions but did not inquire of the LORD." Joshua 9:14

...wrong priorities

"Someone in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me." Jesus replied, "Man, who appointed me a judge or an arbiter between you?" Luke 12:13-14

...not listening to Godly counsel

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

... getting our eyes off of the Lord

"For the LORD your God is a consuming fire, a jealous God." Deuteronomy 4:24

Finding Our Destiny

...start seeing ourselves as God sees us

"When the angel of the LORD appeared to Gideon, he said, "The LORD is with you, mighty warrior." Judges 6:12

...all ministry roles are important

"Then food was set before him, but he said, "I will not eat until I have told you what I have to say." "Then tell us," Laban said." Genesis 24:33

...God places us for His purposes

"You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled by men. "You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden." (Matthew 5:13-14)

...be faithful with our gifts and calling

"For God's gifts and his call are irrevocable." Romans 11:29

...even the smallest role is important

"The Fish Gate was rebuilt by the sons of Hassenaah. They laid its beams and put its doors and bolts and bars in place." Nehemiah 3:3

Benefits of Following God's Will

...a life in tune with God

"Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18