

What is God's Will? (And do you really want to know it?)

Psalm 139:16

Sermon Discussion Participant Guide

Purpose of Discussion: To know what God's will is for our lives and to live it out.

Sermon Refresher: Keith continues the sermon series on "Eight Bad Ideas Good Christians Believe." This week, Keith speaks to the common practice of thinking God has a plan for our life and we must find the map to figure it out. Sometimes we have used God's Word as a Magic Eight Ball to find an answer to our choices. But God's Word clearly tells what His will is for us.

Icebreaker: As the saying goes, "Hindsight is 20/20." Was there a time in your life when you felt unsure and lost on 'the map' or maybe frustrated with the Magic Eight Ball Method? Now, looking back, can you see how God's sovereign will worked good in your life?

Discussion:

1. Read the following verses and discuss God's Sovereign (unseen) will for our lives:

Isiah 46:9-10

" [...] I am God, and there is no other;
I am God, and there is none like me,
¹⁰ declaring the end from the beginning
and from ancient times things not yet done,
saying, 'My counsel shall stand,
and I will accomplish all my purpose,'

Psalm 139:16

"Your eyes saw my unformed substance;
in your book were written, every one of them,
the days that were formed for me,
when as yet there was none of them."

Ephesians 1:11

"In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will."

Matthew 10:29

"Are not two sparrows sold for a penny?^[a] And not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father."

2. How are we to respond to God's Sovereign will for our lives?
3. Read the following verses and discuss God's will of Desire, his revealed will for us:

1 Thessalonians 4: 3-6a (NIV)

³It is God's will that you should be sanctified: that you should avoid sexual immorality; ⁴that each of you should learn to control your own body^[a] in a way that is holy and honorable, ⁵not in passionate lust like the pagans, who do not know God; ⁶and that in this matter no one should wrong or take advantage of a brother or sister.^[b]

1 Thessalonians 5: 16-18 (NIV)

¹⁶Rejoice always, ¹⁷pray continually, ¹⁸give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

Micah 6:8(NIV)

He has shown you, O mortal, what is good.

And what does the LORD require of you?

To act justly and to love mercy

and to walk humbly^[a] with your God.

4. How are we to respond to God's revealed desired will for us?
5. Although we may know God's revealed will for our life (mentioned above), why do you think we still seek a specific personal will for our future?

Read the Following Scripture:

James 4:13-17 (ESV)

¹³Come now, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go into such and such a town and spend a year there and trade and make a profit"— ¹⁴yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes. ¹⁵Instead you ought to say, "If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that." ¹⁶As it is, you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil. ¹⁷So whoever knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, for him it is sin"

THE **crossing** **small groups**

Romans 12:1-2 (NIV)

"Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. ² Do not conform 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."

6. We often want to know what tomorrow will bring instead of being content with simple obedience on the journey. How can you live your life obeying and submitting to God's will?

Sharing and Prayer:

Keith mentioned in his sermon there are three things to guide us in following God's will: scripture, counsel, and prayer. Small Group is the community given to us to do just this! Growing together in wisdom and encouraging one another to follow God's will for our lives.

Take this time as a group to be vulnerable. Maybe split into two small groups if your group is large. Share something that is worrying you or a choice that lies ahead and you need prayer for wisdom and discernment. As a group, pray for one another.