

X. GOD'S WILL IS HARD TO FIND.

-- DISCUSSION Q'S: --

INTRODUCTION

God does have a plan for all of us, but it involves lots of freedom, and the details He will bring about all to His Glory. Our job is not so much to find something; it's to become someone—a reflection of his image and character no matter where we find ourselves.

DISCUSSION

Looking back on your life, has God ever led you through seemingly "illogical" experiences, only to find that they made perfect sense in the end?

EXPLANATION

Read Proverbs 19:2-3

How should we navigate areas of life where God does not speak clearly, where there is freedom on our part?

What life choices/circumstances lead you to question God's will most often?

What are some spiritual "fundamentals" you are prone to forget?

APPLICATION

Do you find comfort in the fact that God's will affords us so much freedom?

What fears arise from this fact?

What's at risk when we view God's will as a specific blueprint?

MISSION

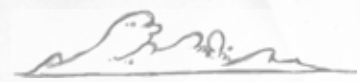
How can we help others who struggle with making decisions in their own life?

How does our perspective to live as a missionary change after reading 1 Timothy 2:3-4 & 2 Peter 3:9?

Read 1 Samuel 4

HOMEWORK:

What was the last thing you attributed something to luck, chance, or coincidence? Why?



stupid summer

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TODAY'S VERSES:

MY NOTES:

Isaiah 55:9

Genesis 2:16-17, 3:1

Hosea 1:2-4

Jeremiah 18:2

Acts 16:6-10

Romans 8:28

1 Corinthians 6:15-20

1 Thessalonians 4:3-8

Matthew 11:28-30

Proverbs 1:24-32, 28:9

Proverbs 19:2-3

Acts 17:11

1 Timothy 2:3-4

2 Peter 3:9

Ephesians 5:18, 6:5-8

1 Thessalonians 4:3-8

1 Peter 2:13-15

[OURELEMENT.ORG/STUPIDSUMMER](http://ourelement.org/stupidsummer)

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

ourelement.org/events



**FILM & THEOLOGY - STAR
TREK INTO DARKNESS**
Friday, 9/27 6pm

**FAMILY GEOCACHING
EXTRAVEGANZA**
Sunday, 9/29 - 2pm
Last Day to Signup
<http://goo.gl/HoK6Si>

ELEMENT UNIVERSITY
Four Week Course
Starts October 2nd
6:30pm

**WOMEN'S BIBLE
STUDY** 10/2, 9:30a
women@ourelement.org



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— SERMON NOTES —

Isaiah 55:9 "Or as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts."

Have you noticed that when it comes time to make a major decision, most of us experience a heightened interest in discovering God's will? We all seek prayer (when we should be doing that anyway), we seek spiritual conversations (when we should be doing that anyway), and we listen for God more intently (when we should be doing that anyway).

When making a choice about a new job opportunity, selecting a college, determining the future of a romantic relationship, or deciding where to live, we don't want to blow it; so we seek God's will with extra fervor. We pray for it, ask about it, search for it. All in the hopes that it will become clear what God wants us to do.

Most people live with the sense that God's will is both **important AND elusive**.

- It's important for obvious reasons. Any time God has a specific plan or a preference in mind, only a fool ignores it and a bigger fool defies it.
- But is God's will elusive? Most of God's will is spelled out in black and white. It's not hidden.

The problem stems from a concept many of us have been taught from birth, that is that God has a highly detailed blueprint for our life (which is true and untrue). We think God's plan includes a specific and preordained job, career, house, spouse, car—and everything in between. As a result, we spend a lot of time looking for that special person, place, or thing that we think God has set aside just for us. We have confused freedom and legalism, we have confused God's omniscience with His divine will.

We confuse "blueprint" in God's eyes with a blueprint like we use it. A blueprint contains a specific set of instructions that spell out everything in detail. It's so specific that anyone with the ability to read and follow a set of plans can build exactly what the

architect had in mind. You don't mess with blueprints. You follow them. For many of us, this is our metaphor of God's will, but in doing so we take away the freedom God intends for us to have.

The overarching theme of our lives is to glorify God.

- Westminster catechism Question 1: What is the chief and highest end of man?
- Answer: Man's chief and highest end is to glorify God, and fully to enjoy him forever.

God cares more about **HOW YOU WORK** than where you work. God cares more about **HOW YOU LIVE** more than where you live. God cares more about **HOW YOU TREAT YOUR SPOUSE** than who you marry. In the New Testament there is almost no emphasis on the kinds of decisions we seem to always stress over, instead, the primary emphasis is on godly character and daily obedience as our pattern of life.

When faced with a decision we should pray and check the Scriptures and ask God for His specific input. When God leads we do what He says even if it is difficult...but don't be surprised when the leading is more in **HOW** you conduct yourself.

BASICS OF GOD'S WILL

- 1) **Obey What You Know** - The starting place for finding God's will is obeying the commands and instructions we already know.
- 2) **Get the Facts (As Many As Possible)** - You have to use your brain. *Proverbs 19:2 Desire without knowledge is not good, and whoever makes haste with his feet misses his way.* Biblical faith is not illogical. It doesn't deny or ignore the facts.
- 3) **Think Biblically** - It's hard to follow God's plan/will if we don't know the Scriptures (what they actually say, as opposed to what we might think they say). It does us no good to try and do what Jesus would do if we have no idea what Jesus actually did.
- 4) **Master the Basics** - There are some fundamentals we have to master and they are found in the Scriptures. They tell us explicitly what God wants us to do or not do in any situation: tell the truth, be kind, repay good for evil, serve, honor, pray, and give.

God does have a plan for all of us, but it involves lots of freedom, and the details He will bring about all to His Glory. Our job is not so much to find something; it's to become someone—a reflection of his image and character no matter where we find ourselves.