

Champions/Women of Destiny

LESSON 7

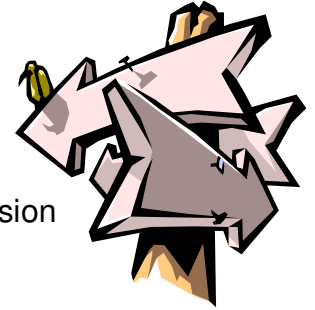


How Do I Find God's Will For My Life?

Read Ephesians 1:1-14; Psalm 37:3-7

With a new year now well upon us, we should investigate a subject that many young people, and adults as well, struggle with--that is, knowing and understanding God's direction for your life.

The next several lessons will explore this topic at length, and by the conclusion of our time together, it is our hope that you will be **crystal clear** on understanding God's purposes for you. It is not a mystery!



THE STARTING POINT

The Bible is clear that God has a plan and purpose for how you live your life. Jesus is more concerned about your life and the details of it than you could ever be. He told His disciples in Matthew 10:30 "...the hairs on your head are all numbered." Now that is concern!

In the Bible, God has given us specific commands to obey. He's also given us principles to follow for making life decisions, such as choosing a career or the type of person to have as a mate, and how we should use money. However, the **primary emphasis of God's will is that Christians are called to follow Christ and to become more like Him.**

The starting point for knowing God's will is being His child by faith in Jesus Christ. Before writing about God's will, the apostle Paul began his letter to the Ephesian Christians with greetings to his readers. He addressed them as *saints and the faithful in Christ Jesus* (Eph. 1:1). In other words, Paul described them as believers who had put their faith in Christ for salvation from their sin. **Knowing God's will begins with a personal relationship with Him.**



Some of you have parents or guardians who tell you details about their plans that they don't announce to the whole world. Similarly, **God reveals His will to His children, but not to the unsaved.** For the unsaved, God's will is for them to believe the gospel and to accept His gift of eternal life. Because of His love, God sent His Son to die on the cross and pay the penalty for your sin.

Will God's Will Hurt?

Too often young Christians believe that God's will is something unpleasant--like going to a dentist or getting a shot from a doctor. As David pointed out in Psalm 37:4 – when you "take delight in the Lord, He will give you your heart's desire."

When you resolve to live for God completely and follow His will, your desires become closer and closer to what His will is for you. You will be happy doing what He wants you to do, although your life won't be free of problems. Our loving God allows trials and hard times so you will grow in your faith, and He helps you through them. **Then God's will becomes a celebration, not a duty.**

In the first chapter of Ephesians, Paul shares some tremendous truths about God's will that we can enjoy **RIGHT NOW**. Here is a list of some of them:

1. Adoption into God's family (v.3-5)

As God's children, He makes us members of His family with all the privileges and responsibilities of adult sons and daughters. We have access to everything God provides for us to grow in our Christian life. For example, we can experience the fruit of the Spirit in our lives – love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control (Galatians 5:22-23). We can enjoy fellowship with God in His Word and talking to Him in prayer, knowing that He listens to us. We can also get to know God in a personal way because we belong to Him.



2. Redemption (v. 7)

*Christ's death sets us free from sin's power to rule our lives; we no longer need to be **slaves** to sin. His death on your behalf allows you to be **free** from giving into selfish desires.*

3. Forgiveness of sins (v.7)

We don't have to bear the guilt of our sins or the eternal punishment for them. Why? Because Christ died in our place on the cross and took our punishment. Now that's love!

4. Wisdom and Insight (v.8)

You can live by God's will because God, by His Holy Spirit, gives us wisdom (understanding) and insights into His Word for making decisions that please Him. He also sends people in our lives to help us understand the will of God and His Word. Our parents, Pastors, Christian friends can each have a part in helping us grow in our Christian life [providing that they are growing Christians as well].

God's Will and Your Future

In addition to describing God's will for you right now, the Apostle Paul also mentions some exciting things in His will for your future. (See the first chapter of Ephesians).



1. An inheritance (vs.11-12). God is preparing a wonderful inheritance for us to enjoy with Him throughout all eternity. We can't even begin to imagine what it will be like! But we do know that He has given us eternal life and that we will be in God's presence forever. He will give us rewards for our **faithful service** to Him (*some of you better get to serving*). And besides all that, He will give

us a new body that is **perfect** (forget the weaves, fake eyes, and other stuff not needed). But we don't have to wait until we get to heaven to begin enjoying our inheritance (you heard!) God has already given us peace, power to overcome sin, guidance to know what to do, fellowship with Himself, and the assurance of our salvation.

Jesus Christ loves us so much that He also has an inheritance **IN** all of us who are saved (v. 18). Just as we have an inheritance in Jesus Christ, Christ has an inheritance in us. **We are special to Him, and He will enjoy us for all eternity.**

2. **Security (vs. 13-14).** The seal of the Holy Spirit is God's guarantee that we belong to Him. It signifies His ownership of us. It's an earnest (**pledge, deposit, or down payment**) that we will inherit eternal life. The Holy Spirit is like an engagement ring (*you know, when a man asks a woman to marry him and then waits to be joined to her*). He is (the Holy Spirit) Christ's promise to come again and claim us as His bride for eternity.



Memory Verse:

Psalm 37:4- Take delight in the Lord, and He will give you the desires of your heart.

In Psalm 37:3-7, David gives us five specific actions that are important for us to obey in knowing God's will:

1. **Trust in the Lord.** Rely on Him. Place your confidence in His ability to show you what to do and how to make good decisions.
2. **Delight in the Lord.** Center your pleasure in Him. Make Him the source of your joy. Praise Him because He is God, and He knows what He's doing in your life.
3. **Commit your way to the Lord.** Tell Him all about your life – your joys, sorrows, concerns, difficulties, frustrations. Yes, He knows them but He wants to hear your heart. Trust Him each day to guide you.
4. **Rest in the Lord.** Rest securely in the fact that the Lord loves you and wants intimate relationship with you.
5. **Wait patiently for the Lord.** Give Him an opportunity to speak to you. Stop microwaving your prayers. Don't be in a hurry! Give Him time to show you His will.

Obeying these commands does not guarantee you will have an easy life, but obeying God is essential to knowing God's will and enjoying life at its **MAXIMUM.**

Living It Out!

Make a list of 5 areas in your life where you are looking for God's will right now. For instance, one area might be about college, a summer job, attending Higher Ground, etc... Choose one area and go through the 5 steps from Psalm 37 chart. Use the chart below.

Step 1 Trust:
Step 2 Delight:
Step 3 Commit:
Step 4 Rest:
Step 5 Wait:

Remember: God is not playing Hide and Go Seek with His will. He wants you to know His will and do it.

Now watch this Supplemental Video about your lesson:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tMr0Hy4J29M>

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LESSON 7 Review Quiz



Click here if you are taking your quiz online, then send the email you receive to your mentor to grade and discuss: <https://forms.gle/bSdPn2eY5HANAnpB9>

Student name _____

1. In your own words, define God's Will.
2. Why does knowing God's will start with becoming a Christian?
3. Which is an untrue but popular view that many people have of God's will?
4. Why do you think so many people hold wrong views about God's will?
5. If you were trying to convince a friend that God's will is enjoyable, what might you compare God's will to (according to the example in the lesson)?
6. Fill in the blanks. "Take _____ in the Lord, and He will give you the _____" Psalm 37:4
7. True/False. God's will applies only to the future.
8. Multiple Choice. What does God's will involve? (circle all that apply)
 - A. Obeying His commands
 - B. Doing the opposite of what I want to do
 - C. Becoming more like Christ
 - D. Using biblical principles to make good decisions
9. List four aspects of God's will from Ephesians 1 that you can enjoy right now.
 - 1.
 - 2.
 - 3.
 - 4.
10. What does it mean that we are sealed with the Holy Spirit?
11. What is the seal of the Holy Spirit compared to in the lesson?