

# God's will

## introduction

Ask several students to respond to this question: How can I know God's will for my life? Lead a brief discussion of this tough question.

## message

The Bible says, "Many are the plans in a man's heart, but it is the Lord's purpose that prevails" (Proverbs 19:21). It is true. From the beginning to the end of time, God's purposes will be fulfilled. The key for us is to know what God desires for our lives. There are at least four ways God shows us His will.

1. **Good counsel** from mature people you trust and respect. Listen to Proverbs 11:14: "For lack of guidance a nation falls, but many advisers make victory sure." Many times, in your quest to do what is right, a logical conclusion will come by talking it out. Poor choice of counselors could lead to your own destruction. Many friends are great people, but they are not always the ones who should help you make major decisions.
2. **Direction from God's Word.** By reading, meditating and memorizing the Bible, we fill our minds with good things. We grow spiritually and gain a deeper understanding of how God thinks, which is important when we are trying to determine God's will (Psalm 119:9-16; 2 Timothy 3:16).
3. **Past experiences.** It has been said that failure sits on the doorstep of success and victory. In other words, before you can succeed, you often must fail first. You see, experience is a great teacher. The apostle Paul was continually learning (Philippians 4:11). Are there experiences in your past that are similar to the present situation you are in? What did you do then? Are you about to make the same mistake? In the past, what did wise counselors recommend you do? Think about these things before you act.
4. **God's still small voice.** Jesus said that sheep will know the voice of their shepherd (John 10:4). Psalm 46:10 says, "Be still, and know that I am God." Yes, God speaks to his people today, but we must learn to listen to His voice. Get alone with God and wait on his direction. He will help you make the right decisions.

## salvation appeal

Knowing God's will is not a game you play with God. He truly loves you and desires to direct your life. His love for you is what sent Jesus to the cross. Have you ever responded to this overwhelming love? Choose Him today. If you have questions about how to do this, ask me after the meeting. I'd be glad to help.

## challenge

You can know God's will for you life, but not if you don't take time to learn to hear His voice. For the next 30 days, apply the principles given in this devotion. The result? You will experience the peace of God and begin to sense His direction for your life. Of course, having a relationship with Jesus Christ is the first step in discovering God's will. Today if you are out of relationship with Christ make a commitment to Him.

