

Watch Your Step Walk in God's Will

We can – and should – understand what the will of God is for our lives (Ephesians 5:15-17). His will always leads to what is best. The *providential* will of God refers to the things that He has determined to do no matter what. The *moral* will of God refers to the commands in His Word that we can freely choose to obey or disobey. And the *personal* will of God are the unique things the Father wants to do in our individual lives. The more we surrender to the providential will of God, and the more obedient we are to His moral will, the easier it is to hear the personal will of God for our lives. Our understanding and alignment with His will is directly proportional to how much we reject the patterns of this world, are transformed by the renewing of our minds (which comes through His Word) and foster a deeper relationship with Him.

GET THINGS STARTED

What is one major decision you have made (apart from choosing to follow Jesus) that you are confident was God's will? How did you know it was God's will, and what has been the outcome of that decision? What is possibly one major decision you have made that was not God's will, and how did that choice play out?

GO DEEPER

1. What is the radical promise made to followers of Jesus in Ephesians 5:17? What role does Biblical community play in living out this promise?
2. What are the three categories for understanding God's will, and what does each category mean? What are examples from Scripture that illustrate each of these categories?
3. According to Romans 12:2, what empowers us to be able to test and approve what God's will is? What steps can we take to fully embrace and embody this verse?

MAKE IT PERSONAL

1. How much would you say you know and understand God's will? What do you think makes understanding His will difficult to grasp and accept? Do you personally believe that God's will is best? Why or why not?
2. What is one thing you know God desires of you in this season that you are resisting on some level? What is causing that resistance or hesitancy in you?
3. To what degree have you sought God's personal will for your life but neglected His providential and moral will? What steps do you need to take to surrender more fully to God – to be transformed by the renewing of your mind – rather than approaching Him merely as an advisor?

PRACTICE IT NOW

As a group, take time in an atmosphere of prayer to submit to God and to verbalize your desire to walk in His ways. Declare out loud the goodness of His will, that His ways are best. Express to God your surrender to His providential will and your desire to live in obedience to His moral will. Ask Him for greater revelation in His Word of these two facets of His will. And ask Him to speak directly and clearly to you on a personal level about His specific desires for you. Take time to possibly even listen quietly to what He may want to say in the moment, and then share what you hear with your group.