

HOW CAN I KNOW GOD'S WILL?

Hard Questions – Message 1

“Be very careful, then, how you live – not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord’s will is.”

Eph. 5:15-17 (NIV)

I. WHAT IS GOD’S WILL?

- IT’S NOT A _____
- IT’S NOT A _____
- GOD’S WILL IS A _____

“... God [has] invited you into this wonderful friendship with His Son, Jesus Christ.”

1 Cor. 1:9 (LB)

II. HOW TO KNOW GOD’S WILL

1. _____ **THAT I NEED GUIDANCE**

“He guides the humble in what is right and teaches them His way.”

Ps. 25:9

2. _____ **IN FAITH FOR DIRECTION.**

“If you want to know that God really wants you to do, ask Him, and He will gladly tell you, for He is always ready to give a bountiful supply of wisdom to all who ask Him; but ... be sure that you really expect Him to tell you ... If you don’t ask in faith, don’t expect the Lord to give you any solid answer.”

James 1:5-6 (LB)

3. _____ **FOR GOD’S RESPONSE.**

“God does speak – sometimes one way and sometimes another – even though people may not understand it.”

Job 33:14 (NCV)

4. _____ **GOD WHEN I DON'T UNDERSTAND.**

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight.”

Pr. 3:5-6 (NIV)

“Your road led by a pathway through the sea – a pathway no one knew was there!”

Ps. 77:19 (LB)

• **Don't be** _____

• **Don't be** _____

• **Don't be** _____

“The steps of a man are established by the Lord... When he falls, he shall not be hurled headlong because the Lord is the one who holds his hand.”

Ps. 37:23-24 (NAS)

6. _____ **ON WHAT I ALREADY KNOW TO DO.**

“Anyone who knows the right thing to do, but does not do it, is sinning.”

James 4:17 (NCV)

“Don't boast about tomorrow, for you do not know what a day may bring forth.”

Pr. 27:1 (NIV)

“When you make a promise to God, don't delay in following through, for God takes no pleasure in fools.”

Eccl. 5:4 (NLT)

WHY DO I DO WHAT I DON'T WANT TO DO?

Hard Questions – Message 2

What do you have a hard time controlling?

Temper
Spending
Eating
Moods

Sexual desires
Drinking
Procrastinating
Bad habits

I. THE PROGRAM: _____

“I don’t understand myself at all, for I really want to do what is right, but I don’t do it. Instead, I do the very thing I hate. But I can’t help myself, because it is sin inside me that makes me do these evil things... I know I am rotten so far as my old sinful nature is concerned. No matter which way I turn, I can’t make myself do right. I want to, but I can’t.”

Rom. 7:15, 17-18 (NLT)

“I have the desire to do good, but not the power.”

Rom. 7:17 (Ph)

RESULT:

- _____
- _____
- _____

“I’ve tried everything and nothing helps. I’m at the end of my rope. Is there no one who can do anything for me?”

Rom. 7:24 (Mes)

II. GOD’S PROMISE: _____

Jesus: “When you know the Truth, the Truth will set you free.”

John 8:32 (NIV)

• BEHIND EVERY SELF-DEFEATING ACT IS:

III. THE PRESCRIPTION: _____

ACKNOWLEDGE _____

“If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.”

1 John 1:8 (NIV)

TO STOP DEFEATING MYSELF,

I MUST STOP _____

Jesus: “I tell you the truth, everyone who sins is a slave to sin.”

John 8:34 (NIV)

BELIEVE _____

“Who will free me from this life that is dominated by sin? Thank God! The answer is in Jesus Christ our Lord.”

Rom. 7:24-25 (NLT)

“For the new spiritual principle of life in Jesus Christ lifts me out of the old vicious cycle of sin.”

Rom. 8:2 (Ph)

CONFESS _____

“Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so God can heal you. When a believing person prays, great things happen.”

James 5:16 (NCV)

DEDICATE _____

“Do not let sin control the way you live; do not give in to its lustful desires... Instead, give yourselves completely to God since you have been given new life.”

Rom. 6:12-13 (NLT)

“God keeps His promise. He will not allow you to be tempted beyond your power to resist; at the time you are tempted He will give you the strength to endure it and so provide you with a way out.”

1 Cor. 10:13 (GN)

STOP TRYING! START _____

HOW LONG SHOULD I KEEP PRAYING?

Hard Questions – Message 3

“Then Jesus told His disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up.”

Luke 18:1 (NIV)

The Persistent Widow

(Lk. 18:1-8)

“... Stay alert and be persistent in your prayers.”

Eph. 6:18 (NLT)

1. WHY KEEP ON PRAYING UNTIL I GET AN ANSWER?

1. PERSISTENT PRAYING

“Here’s what I want you to do: Find a quiet, secluded place so you won’t be tempted to role-play before God. Just be there as simply and honestly as you can manage. The focus will shift from you to God, and you will begin to sense His grace.”

Matt. 6:6 (Mes)

“Focusing on the self is the opposite of focusing on God. Anyone completely absorbed in self ignores God, ends up thinking more about self than God. That person ignores who God is and what He is doing.”

Rom. 8:7 (Mes)

2. PERSISTENT PRAYING

“The Holy Spirit helps us in our distress. For we don’t even know what we should pray for, nor how we should pray. So the Holy Spirit prays for us with groanings that can’t be expressed in words.”

Rom. 8:26 (NLT)

3. PERSISTENT PRAYING

“Fire tests the purity of silver and gold, but the Lord tests the heart.”

Pr. 17:3 (NLT)

“When your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow. So let it grow, for when your endurance is fully developed you will be strong in character and ready for anything.”

James 1:3-4 (NLT)

4. PERSISTENT PRAYING _____

“... God can do much, much more than anything we can ask or imagine.”

Eph. 3:20 (NCV)

II. HOW LONG SHOULD I KEEP ON PRAYING?

“Pray all the time...”

Eph. 6:18 (LB)

“Pray continually...”

Rom. 12:12 (GWT)

“Never stop praying...”

1 Th. 5:17 (ICB)

I CAN STOP PRAYING WHEN...

GOD _____

GOD _____

III. WHAT DO I DO WHILE I'M PRAYING?

• WAIT _____

“Be still in the presence of the Lord, and wait patiently for Him to act.”

Ps. 37:7 (NLT)

• WAIT _____

“I wait expectantly, trusting God to help, for He has promised.”

Ps. 105:5 (LB)

“The Lord says, ‘No one who waits for My help will be disappointed.’”

Isa. 49:23 (GN)

“Pile your troubles on God’s shoulders – He’ll carry your load, He’ll help you out.”

Ps. 55:22 (Mes)

HOW CAN I STOP WORRYING?

Hard Questions – Message 4

Worry: trying to _____

WHAT JESUS SAID ABOUT WORRY

(Matthew 6:25-34)

1. WORRY IS _____

“Do not worry about your life, what you’ll eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more important than food, and the body more important than clothes?”

Matt. 6:25 (NIV)

2. WORRY IS _____

“Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they?”

Matt. 6:26 (NIV)

“And why worry about your clothes? Look at the field lilies! They don’t worry about theirs. Yet King Solomon in all his glory was not clothed as beautifully as they.”

Matt. 6:28-29 (LB)

3. WORRY IS _____

“Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life?”

Matt. 6:27 (NIV)

“Worry weighs us down.”

Pr. 12:25 (Mes)

4. WORRY IS _____

“And if God cares so wonderfully for flowers that are here today and gone tomorrow, won’t he more surely care for you, O you of little faith?”

v. 30 (LB)

THE ANTIDOTE TO WORRY

1. _____ GOD!

“People who don’t know God and the way He works worry over these things...”

Matt. 6:32a (Mes)

Jesus said, Don’t be worried and upset. Believe in God and believe also in me.”

John 14:1 (GN)

2. _____ IN EVERY AREA OF MY LIFE.

“Don’t worry at all ... your Heavenly Father already knows perfectly well what you need, and He will give it to you if you give Him first place in your life and live as He wants you to.”

Matt. 6:31-33 (LB)

3. LIVE _____

“So don’t worry about tomorrow, because tomorrow will have its own worries. Each day has enough trouble of its own.”

Matt. 6:34 (NCV)

“Give your entire attention to what God is doing right now, and don’t get worked up about what may or may not happen tomorrow. God will help you deal with whatever hard things come up when the time comes.”

Matt. 6:34 (Mes)

4. TRUST GOD TO _____

“Give all your worries and cares to God, for He cares about what happens to you.”

1 Peter 5:7 (NLT)

“Don’t worry about anything; instead, pray about everything; tell God your needs ... If you do this, you will experience God’s peace, which is far more wonderful than the human mind can understand.”

Phil 4:6-7 (LB)