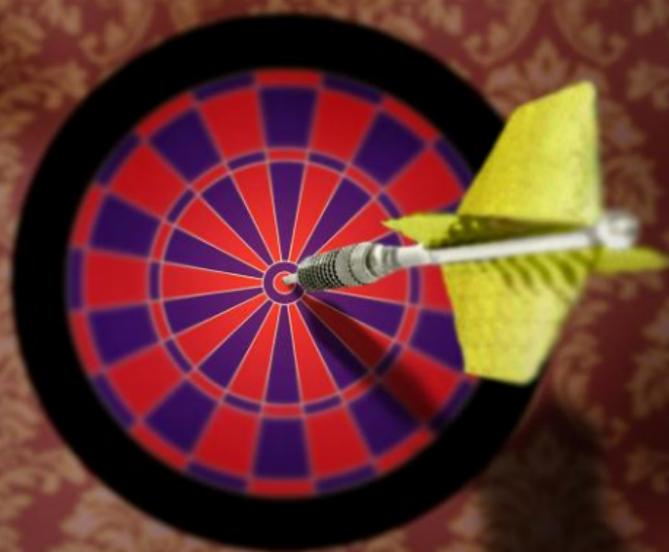


Hitting the Bull's Eye



Knowing and Doing the Will of God

PASTOR JEFF SCHREVE

HITTING THE BULL'S-EYE

How to Know and Do the Will of God

Judges 6:36-40

Jeff Schreve

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From His Heart Ministries

*Unless otherwise specified, all Scripture quotations are from the
New American Standard Version of the Bible.*



Our Mission: To Reach the World

From His Heart Ministries is the broadcast ministry of Pastor Jeff Schreve. We began in 2005 with the mission to share hope from the loving heart of God to lost and hurting people. We believe that no matter how badly you may have messed up in life, God still loves you and has a wonderful plan for you. Our goal is to proclaim the Good News of Jesus with biblical preaching, practical teaching and encouragement for everyday living. Our prayer is that we will help people come to know Christ in a personal way and grow in a deeper relationship with Him. *From His Heart* is a viewer and listener supported ministry. We greatly appreciate your prayers and financial support.

FROM THE AUTHOR:

Did you know that God has a wonderful plan for your life? Did you know that He has a will for you that is “good and acceptable and perfect?” Did you know that you can get in on all that He has planned for you and really hit the bull’s-eye with life, experiencing peace, joy and purpose to the full?

While that may sound too good to be true, it is not! God is a good God. He loves you with all His heart. He wants you to experience His best and live your life hitting the bull’s-eye, doing what He created you to do.

As a Pastor, I have counseled untold numbers of people who want to discover God’s will for their lives. This booklet that you have in your hands provides biblical insight into discovering that will. I pray that the Lord speaks to your heart through these pages so that you can know and do the will of God. Without a doubt, life is sweet when you are “Hitting the Bull’s-Eye.” So let’s get started!

Love,



Jeff Schreve

Pastor

First Baptist, Texarkana, TX

From His Heart Ministries

HITTING THE BULL'S-EYE

Knowing and Doing the Will of God

Wouldn't it be great to always know what God wants you to do in a given situation and be 100% sure you are doing the right thing? Wouldn't you like to always make the best choices for your life? Well, I've got good news for you. You can KNOW and DO the will of God!

Someone has well said, *"Life's greatest discovery is to know the will of God ... and life's greatest satisfaction is to do the will of God."* When you know His will for your life and do His will, your life is filled with a purpose that brings joy, peace and satisfaction beyond belief.

Rest assured, this booklet is not a "how-to guide" in becoming God's puppet on a string. God takes no pleasure in having "robot disciples."

YOU HAVE A CHOICE. You can say "no" to the will of God and go your own way.

But that choice has certain consequences. If you reject God's will, you will miss the best God had planned for you. You will miss the bull's-eye for your life.

Knowing but not doing God's will is like living life with your left shoe on your right foot; it's just not a good fit and will surely cause you to stumble. At most, your life will be a second best shadow of what it was meant to be. It won't be the wonderful life God had planned for you.

Do you really want a life outside the will of God? Because you are reading this booklet, you're likely searching to discover God's best for you. You've come to the right place because He DOES want you to know His best.

The fact is, God made you. He fashioned you, loves you and knows what is best for you. He *wants* your life to be filled with the BEST life has to offer. I'm not talking about material wealth. I am talking about fulfilling God's real purpose for your life. In eternity, that is what will matter. That is why it simply makes good

sense to align your life with God and do His will.

The Big Question

Now the big question is this: How can you know what He wants you to do? There are so many decisions to make in life. How can you really know His plan for you? Have you ever asked God:

- ✓ What college should I attend?
- ✓ What job should I pursue?
- ✓ Where do you want me to live?
- ✓ Do you want me to marry this person?
- ✓ Is it OK for me to do _____?

Wouldn't it be great if God would just write the answer in the sky when we needed to know His will? Wouldn't it be helpful if He would send the answer to our mailbox (overnight express—first class, of course)? That would make life so much easier. You'd go to the mailbox, open the letter, and read,

“Take the job in Dallas,” or *“Don’t go in business with that person,”* or *“She/he is the person you should marry.”* That would be so wonderful, wouldn’t it!?

But, God doesn’t do that, does He? I’m pretty sure you’ve never received a text message from Him saying, *“Thus saith the Lord, this is what you’re supposed to do.”*

So how can you and I know God’s will? How can we know we’re aiming at the right target? And when we know where the target is, how can we hit the bull’s-eye with life’s decisions?

In the book of Judges, we read about a man named Gideon who did something to find the will of God that many people try to copy. Frankly, I would not recommend it, but we CAN learn a lot about the Lord in this story from the life of Gideon. Let’s take a close look and discover key principles regarding how to know the will of God.

A Man with a Plan

In Judges chapter 6, God visits Gideon through an angel and commissions him to fight the Midianites, who were arch enemies of Israel. God even performed a miracle before Gideon's eyes to confirm for Gideon that it was truly God Himself speaking to Him. Empowered by the Spirit of God, the Bible says Gideon *"blew a trumpet, and [the Israelites] were called together to follow him"* (Judges 6:34).

Gideon is beginning to assume the God-assigned role of military commander. He is gathering the tribes of Israel together to fight Midian and carry out God's will. The Scripture goes on to say, *"He sent messengers throughout Manasseh, and they also were called together to follow him; and he sent messengers to Asher, Zebulun, and Naphtali, and they came up to meet them"* (Judges 6:35).

So here is the situation. The troops are gathered and ready to charge. God has poured

out His Spirit on Gideon to give him guidance and strength. And then Gideon, the man with God's plan and God's call on His life, lays out some conditions for God to follow.

Gideon says to God: “*‘If You will deliver Israel through me, as you have spoken, behold, I will put a fleece of wool on the threshing floor. If there is dew on the fleece only, and it is dry on all the ground, then I will know that You will deliver Israel through me, as You have spoken.’ And it was so. When he arose early the next morning and squeezed the fleece, he drained the dew from the fleece, a bowl full of water. Then Gideon said to God, ‘Do not let Your anger burn against me that I may speak once more; please let me make a test once more with the fleece, let it now be dry only on the fleece, and let there be dew on all the ground.’ God did so that night; for it was dry only on the fleece, and dew was on all the ground” (Judges 6:36-40).*

Gideon did something very strange and very faithless. Although God had called him to

defeat the Midianites and promised him victory, Gideon wasn't completely confident in that word of promise. He wasn't 100% sure that was God's will for his life. (Note: the Midianite army was a formidable enemy, greatly outnumbering the army of Israel.) So, Gideon put a fleece of lamb's wool on the ground and then asked the Lord to go through some usual tricks to prove this command was truly God's will. Again, God doesn't want you to follow Gideon's example ... and here is why.

THE PROBLEMS WITH FLEECE-SETTING

Some well-meaning people might say, *“Well, if you're struggling with a decision, just do what Gideon did. Put out a fleece and ask God to show you a sign. Make a test for Him, and make Him jump through hoops to reveal His answer.”* But is that what God wants us to do? Absolutely not!

This account of Gideon in the Bible is not *prescriptive*, meaning it is what you are supposed to do to find the will of God. Instead, it is *descriptive*. It tells us what Gideon did. God answered Gideon in spite of the “fleece-test,” not because of it.

PROBLEM NUMBER ONE:
FLEECE-SETTING DOUBTS GOD.

Gideon had a clear word from God about what he was supposed to do. In Judges 6:12, God refers to Gideon as a “*valiant warrior.*” And God says to him, “*Go in this your strength and deliver Israel from the hand of Midian. Have I not sent you?*” (Judges 6:14)

The key command from God is “**GO!**” The Lord spoke to him clearly, directly, straightforwardly. And then, to give Gideon even more assurance of his mission, God says in verse 16, “*Surely I will be with you, and you shall defeat Midian as one man.*”

Two times He reassures Gideon by saying, in essence, “*If you go, I will go with*

you. You're going to win because I'm going to fight through you." Obviously, we know Gideon remembered what God had promised because in verse 36 he says, ***"If you will deliver Israel through me, as You have spoken ..."*** From his own lips, Gideon **affirms** what God has **already said** He would do!

You see, the problem with fleece-setting is that it doubts God and His Word. It's like saying, *"Lord, I know you've said it, but I don't really believe it. So if you'll just prove it to me and give me a sign to validate your Word, then I'll believe."* Whoa!! That's a real problem when you do that with God—when you doubt His Word and the trustworthiness of His promises.

Perhaps it's possible that you have silently asked yourself these questions:

- ✓ Does God tell the truth?
- ✓ Is He reliable?
- ✓ Can I base my life on the Bible?
- ✓ Do I really believe His Word is true?

- ✓ Does God over promise and under deliver?
- ✓ **Can I really trust God?**

While these are important questions, that last question is THE bottom line question: “Can I really trust God?” How you honestly answer that question speaks volumes about you and determines everything with regard to enjoying the will of God.

God’s Word is True

Let me show you something about the Word of God. Proverbs 30:5 says that *“every word of God is tested.”* Every Word of God had undergone a “quality assurance test.” Hebrews 6:18 tells us, *“It is impossible for God to lie.”* Did you catch that? The Bible does NOT say, “It is HARD for God to lie” or “IMPROBABLE that God will lie.” The Bible says, *“It is IMPOSSIBLE for God to lie”!*

You see, God is holy. Therefore, He cannot speak anything that is not true, just and

right. In plain English, “You can take that to the bank!” When God says anything, it’s going to come to pass because not one word of His good promise ever fails (1 Kings 8:56). Don’t “fleece” God by doubting Him. His Word is 100% true.

PROBLEM NUMBER TWO: FLEECE-SETTING TESTS GOD.

Setting up hoops for God to jump through is similar to what some people do when training a dog. The dog jumps through the hoop and gets a treat. Similarly, we say to God, “*Jump through this hoop I’ve set up for you and then I’ll believe you.*”

Fleece-setting is a subtle way of telling God what to do. And that’s scary because it makes you the “boss” and the one giving the orders. God is the King of kings and Lord of lords. He is the One who spoke the worlds into existence. Telling God what to do in order for you to believe Him is NEVER a smart strategy.

God is Master

Do you often get confused when it comes to the Master/servant relationship? Do you have the idea that God is some kind of heavenly bellhop? Maybe you see God as a genie in a bottle, and when you pray to Him, it is just like rubbing His lamp so he'll come out and grant your wishes (i.e. prayers). I think if that describes you, a reality check is in order. Here it is. God doesn't work that way! **God is the Master, we are His servants, and we are not to test God.**

When Jesus walked on the earth, the devil tempted and tested Him. During that 40 day period when Christ was in the wilderness, the devil took Jesus to the pinnacle of the temple. He quoted Scripture to Jesus and said: *“If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down; for it is written, ‘He will command His Angels concerning You,’ and ‘on their hands they will bear You up, so that You will not strike Your foot against a stone’”* (Matthew 4:6).

But Jesus replied with another Scripture, *“On the other hand, it is written, ‘You shall not put the LORD your God to the test’”* (Matthew 4:7).

If it was not OK for the fallen angel, Satan, to test God, then it is definitely not acceptable for you and me. Don't put God to the test; don't set up hoops for Him to jump through to garner your approval. He is the Master. We exist to serve Him, not vice-versa.

PROBLEM NUMBER THREE: **FLEECE-SETTING IS UNRELIABLE.**

In human terms, Gideon's plan sounded pretty good. *“Hey, Lord, here's my fleece (my conditions I'm placing on you). I'm putting it on the threshing floor. If I come back in the morning and the fleece is wet with dew but the ground around it is bone dry, then I'll know it's a miracle and that You want me to go up against the Midianites.”*

So, Gideon comes out the next morning, and the ground is bone dry, but the fleece is

soaking wet. He wrings out a bowl full of dew from the fleece. But a little voice pops up in his head and says, *“That could just be a coincidence. Better make absolutely sure! Better try another test before venturing off to fight Midian.”* Aren’t we just like that? When God in His mercy does answer our test, we still are slow to believe Him. This is tragic, but so true to life.

I want you to notice something very interesting in our story of Gideon. He says to God in Judges 6:37, ***“Lord, if you will do this one thing*** (the first test), ***THEN I will know that You’ll deliver Israel through me as You have spoken.***”

In this verse, the word, “know,” is the Hebrew word *yada*. It means “to know with certainty, to know assuredly.” Gideon was saying in this verse that he would know God’s will, beyond a shadow of a doubt, if God would complete this first test. But Gideon obviously didn’t “know” even after God met the requirements of the first test because he put

God to a second test, asking Him to jump through yet another hoop.

Get Honest With God

The truth is fleece-setting just doesn't work, because, like Gideon, it will not give you the assurance that you want. It would have been better for Gideon to say, *"Lord, I don't know how this is going to work and how You will use little ol' me to deliver Israel. The enemy is 135,000 strong, and there are only 32,000 of us. Lord, I'm scared to death, and I just can't see how this can possibly be successful."*

Pay attention here. This is really important ... so don't miss this truth. Gideon's problem wasn't that He did not know *what* God wanted him to do. He just didn't know *how* God was going to get it done. Gideon was scared. It would have been much better for him to come to the Lord and be honest with his fears and doubts.

In the same way, it would be so much better if, instead of fleece-setting, your conversation with the Lord sounded something like this: *“God, I don’t know how this is going to work. You’ve called me, and I’m scared out of my mind. I’m not going to set up hoops for You to jump through, but I need some confirmation in my heart. I need Your assurance. I’m trusting You. Can you come and comfort me, Lord, and give me Your hope and strength?”*

If Gideon had been honest with God, it would have been so much better. His honesty would have pleased God and created a deeper intimacy with the Lord. How great it would be if you and I would learn from his mistake.

Although Gideon ran God through two tests, the Lord, in His great love, mercy, grace, and patience, still met Gideon’s need and proved the veracity of His Word. Now before you think that God will do the same for you, it is important to remember the words of Jesus, ***“Blessed are they who did not see, and yet believed” (John 20:29).***

FIVE PRINCIPLES FOR KNOWING GOD'S WILL

If we're not supposed to find God's will by throwing down a piece of fleece on the back patio like Gideon did, then how does God want us to discover His will? In Scripture, there are 5 solid principles for knowing God's will for your life.

PRINCIPLE NUMBER ONE: GUIDANCE COMES FROM THE GUIDE.

The key to finding God's will is not focusing on the guidance that is given, but rather focusing on the Guide. The Guide is so much more valuable than the guidance. Let me explain.

Suppose you were traveling in downtown Tokyo, a city that you had never visited before. You needed to find a particular restaurant to meet a prospective client for an important

luncheon. Since you are very unfamiliar with the city, which would you rather have, a map of downtown Tokyo or a guide who knew the city like the back of his hand? Would you rather have someone give you directions or would you prefer them to get into the car with you and take you where you need to go?

A guide is so much better than guidance. When it comes to knowing and doing God's will, we don't need a map, we need a Master. We don't need guidance; we need the Guide.

God says in Psalm 32:8, *"I will instruct you and teach you in the way which you should go; I will counsel you with My eye upon you."* God wants to guide you. He promises to guide you through life if you will let Him and choose to focus, not on the map, but on the Guide, Jesus Christ.

More Walking, Less Talking

Some people have the idea that the will of God is discovered by praying some kind of formulistic prayer. We easily can think, *"If I*

pray the right thing in the right way, then God will tell me what I'm supposed to do." But God doesn't work that way. There are no "magic bullet prayers" that unlock the will of God. The Lord does want us to pray, but even more, He wants us to walk with Him every day, seeking to be more like Christ.

The Prophet Micah said, "***And what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with Your God?***" (Micah 6:8). You and I are to walk humbly with Him. Humility means different things to different people, but to God, true humility is our keen awareness of who the Master is and how much we are dependent upon Him for EVERYTHING in our lives.

As you and I walk with the Lord, we will have fellowship with Him and begin to really know our Guide intimately. As we do, we will be attuned to His voice: "***The Lord will Himself be your teacher, and He will whisper behind you, 'This is the way; walk in it.'***" (Isaiah 30:12)

It is obvious that getting out of fellowship with God and abandoning Him as our Guide is the formula for disaster. Without Him guiding us, we lose our way very quickly and end up in the ditch. We need to do more walking and less talking.

PRINCIPLE NUMBER TWO:
GUIDANCE COMES FROM
GOD'S WORD.

This may be the most important truth to remember from this booklet. The Bible is the Word of God. It's God's Word to His people, and His will is *inseparably linked to His Word*. If you want to know what God wants you to do, start reading the Bible. The *will* of God is found in the *Word* of God.

Of course, the Bible is full of truth that will allow you to walk with God in His will, but there is one truth that is primary. Without a doubt, God desires that you be saved—that you come to know Him. The Bible says in 2 Peter 3:9, “[God is] not wishing for any to

perish but for all to come to repentance.”

God's love is so vast that He doesn't want anyone to spend eternity apart from Him. Instead, He desires that you turn from your sin and self-centeredness and choose to live life with Him.

What God Desires Most

God desires that you be saved. The most familiar verse in the Bible, John 3:16, tells us: *“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life.”*

For you to be saved, you must humbly and repentantly receive Christ as your Savior and Lord ... and allow the Holy Spirit to come into your life and take control. God wants you and me to be filled and controlled by His Spirit. Look what the Scripture says in Ephesians 5:17: *“So then do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is.*

And do not get drunk on wine ... but be filled with the Spirit.”

What does it mean to be “*filled with the Spirit*”? It simply means that the Holy Spirit of God becomes your master and boss. It means that the Guide inside you, who is Jesus by His Spirit, sits in the driver’s seat of your life. He doesn’t sit in the back seat to just enjoy the ride while you drive. He sits in the driver’s seat and calls all the shots. That’s what God wants for you—to be saved by being emptied of self and filled with the Holy Spirit.

What else does God say? From Genesis to Revelation, He is very clear on some basic commands for your life:

- ✓ “... *have no other gods before Me*” (Exodus 20:3). (Other gods can be anyone or anything else that you give more attention and affection to than you do God.)
- ✓ “*But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you*” (Matthew 6:33). (Put God first above ALL things.)

- ✓ ***“Do not be bound together with unbelievers; for what partnership have righteousness and lawlessness, or what fellowship has light with darkness?” (2 Corinthians 6:14)*** (Christians should not marry those who do not know the Lord and walk with Christ.)
- ✓ ***“For this is the will of God, your sanctification; that is, that you abstain from sexual immorality” (1 Thessalonians 4:3-5).*** (Sex was made to be enjoyed by a man and a woman under the holy confines of marriage.)

So many people say, *“Lord, show me Your will.”* And then they get frustrated because Scripture doesn't say anything about marrying Susie or Joe or Jane. It doesn't even say if you should move to Dallas or New York. How can we possibly know the will of God in specifics if the Bible does not speak to our specific issue?

If you would like to know God's *specific* will about particular issues in your life, you

need to start doing God's *general* will. This is really important. You'll be amazed at how much you discover from the Lord when you obey His *general* will. The *specific* answers will follow.

God is not unlike us though in this regard: If He tells you to do something and your response is, *"No, I'm not going to do that. And I really don't want to do that other thing you want me to do either. But Lord, please show me what Your will is for my life in this decision before me."* Hmmm. Do you know what God's response will be in that instance? In answer to your prayer, God will say, *"Why should I show you my will in this particular decision? You're not doing the things I'm telling you to do now. Why would I tell you something else to do that you can refuse?"*

Listen, my friend ... **to know the will of God in all things, start doing the will of God in the small things.** As you do His will in the small stuff, His will in the big things will unfold before your eyes. He will guide you and

direct you because guidance comes from His Word.

PRINCIPLE NUMBER THREE:
GUIDANCE COMES FROM YOUR
DESIRES.

Many people do not believe that guidance comes from your desires. But if you're walking with God, you're doing exactly what the Scripture says God wants – *“He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?”* (Micah 6:8). If you're walking with God, don't ever think that what you want and what God wants must be polar opposites. That kind of thinking is from the devil who wants you to believe the will of God is something bad for you ... like taking bad tasting medicine so you can get well.

Others simply are afraid of really selling out to God and getting in the bull's-eye of His will for their life because they secretly think, *“If I really seek after God and devote my life*

to Him, I believe He'll send me to a jungle in the backside of nowhere. I'll be living in a mud hut, fighting poisonous snakes and five pound mosquitoes." YIKES! (Listen, if God wants you to be a missionary to a remote area of the world, He will give you a desire for that rewarding work.) His plan for you is not to wreck and ruin your life. Jesus did not come to give you a miserable life ... He came to give you an abundant life! ***"He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him over for us all, how will He not also with Him freely give us all things?"*** (Romans 8:32).

Delight Yourself in the Lord

Psalm 37:4 is an awesome passage in Scripture – ***"Delight yourself in the LORD, and He will give you the desires of your heart."***

The word "delight" in Hebrew means to "make yourself soft and pliable." It is the picture of soft clay in the potter's hands. What is God saying here? If you and I will just make

ourselves soft and pliable in the hands of the Lord, He will be faithful to give us the desires of our heart (as our heart is molded to His image and likeness). How good is our God!?

If you are walking with God and desire something that is not inconsistent with God's Word, you need to know that those desires you have are most probably from Him. He has put that in your heart. God wants that special dream for you!

My Dream

From 1984-1996, Debbie and I were active members of a wonderful church in northwest Houston, Champion Forest Baptist Church. I was working as a sales representative for Nalco Chemical Company, a Fortune 500 company in the specialty chemicals industry. Although I taught a married adult Sunday school class and was a deacon at CFBC, I was restless in my life, feeling like I wasn't really hitting the bull's-

eye. My real dream and deep desire was to be in full-time vocational ministry.

In the early 1990's, I would sit in church during the Wednesday night services at CFBC and listen to the preaching of my good friend, Mark Shook. At that time, Mark was the Associate Pastor of Preaching at the church. He and I were about the same age. While listening to Mark preach, I would say in my heart to the Lord: *“Father, if I could do anything in my life, there are two things I would love to do. Number one is play professional basketball for the Houston Rockets. (And God asked for number two because the first one wasn't going to happen.) Lord, number two would be to preach as a vocation at Champion Forest and be under the leadership of Dr. Damon Shook.”* That was the desire of my heart.

In 1996, God called me into the ministry, and in 1997 God placed me on staff at Champion Forest Baptist Church as the Associate Pastor of Preaching. My friend, Mark, had moved on as a missionary in

Mexico, and I was given his old ministry position. WOW! God gave me the desires of my heart! All I did was follow the Guide. His desire for me and my heart's desire matched. He didn't want me to become a missionary in the jungle with snakes as my roommates. His desire and my desire were the same desire.

But God does send others to the jungle. I have a friend who is a retired missionary. He spent 30 years of his life in Kenya, and it was the desire of his heart to serve and witness in that part of the world. When he was nearing the end of his ministry, he was diagnosed with cancer and had to return to the United States for treatment. He was back for about a year and said to me one day, "*Jeff, you know what my biggest fear is? My biggest fear is that I will not be able to go back to Kenya and finish what I started.*" The bush country of Kenya was his dream, his desire ... and God gave him the desires of His heart.

If God wants you to go to a place like Kenya, you will have a heart for that. God will not have to twist your arm to do His will, and

you hate every minute of it. You can trust God because He promises that as you delight in Him, He will give you the desires of your heart.

Maybe you have a desire in your heart to be a coach or a teacher, but the job does not pay very well. Who cares? Follow your passion! Guidance comes from your desires. And those desires are revealed to us when we follow God's general will clearly revealed in the Bible. Then, the specific will for us will come to light as we walk with God. Desire to be with God, and He will be faithful to give you the desires of your heart.

PRINCIPLE NUMBER FOUR:
GUIDANCE COMES FROM WISE
COUNSELORS.

Do you want to know what to do? Start hanging around wise people. King Solomon wrote in Proverbs 13:20, "*He who walks with wise men will be wise, but the companion of fools will suffer harm.*" Surrounding yourself

with people who are walking with God helps line up your steps with God's will. When you are making big decisions in your life, it's really important to not rely solely on your own ideas. *“For by wise guidance you will wage war, and in abundance of counselors there is victory” (Proverbs 24:6).*

I make it a regular habit of meeting with people I respect who have a heart for God and have put Him in the driver's seat of their lives. I spend time with them, ask them questions, and get their insight on situations and decisions that I am facing. We even pray about it together. Guidance comes from wise counselors. Be bold and put yourself in positions that will allow you to be around wise counselors.

PRINCIPLE NUMBER FIVE:
GUIDANCE IS CONFIRMED BY
GOD'S PEACE.

God uses His peace to confirm the direction that we're supposed to go. In

Colossians 3:15, Scripture says: ***“Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body; and be thankful.”***

The word “rule” in Greek means “to rule like an umpire.” Let God’s peace be the umpire in your heart. As you walk with God, if you go in a direction He doesn’t want you to pursue, you will have a lack of peace. You will know, *“Hey, I’m out of bounds here. This isn’t right, because His peace is not present.”* You will feel a peace, or a lack of peace, depending on whether you are in bounds or out of bounds with the will of God.

Know this: you can be smack dab in the will of God and still be a little scared. That is exactly what Gideon experienced. And although he was scared, he had God’s peace. God’s peace doesn’t mean there will be no fear ... it simply means there will be an underlying assurance that you are going in the right direction. Debbie and I both had some fears as we approached our wedding day, but we also

had an assurance that this was God's will for our lives.

Don't Ever Forget This

God is not trying to hide His will from you. He WANTS you to walk in His will and in His ways. He's not some heavenly trickster who plays the shell game with His will. Instead, we learn in Jeremiah 29:12-13 an amazing, life-giving promise from Almighty God: *"Then you will call upon Me and come and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. You will seek Me and find Me when you search for Me with all your heart."*

But don't forget this either ... God does not show His will to rebels. What He is looking for are those who will yield, submit, and do His will. Is that person you?

If you are willing to do His will, He is ready to guide you every step of the way. He will not force you to walk with Him. You have to make that choice.

Perhaps you are reading this booklet and have never asked Jesus Christ to come into your heart. Without a doubt, that is His most immediate will for you. For others, He may want you to follow Him in believer's baptism—the wedding ring of the Christian life. And maybe for you His will is that you get things right with the person you have such bitterness and resentment toward.

You may be so far from hitting the bull's-eye of God's will for your life that you don't even know where to begin. I've got good news for you. All that can change if you will just yield your will to His. What is your answer to the King's "good and acceptable and perfect will?"

THE SAVIOR IS WAITING

The Savior is waiting to enter your heart,
Why don't you let Him come in?
There's nothing in this world to keep
you apart,
What is your answer to Him?

Time after time He has waited before,
And now He is waiting again
To see if you're willing to open the door:
O how He wants to come in.

If you'll take one step toward the Savior,
my friend,
You'll find His arms open wide;
Receive Him, and all of your darkness
will end,
Within your heart He'll abide.

Time after time He has waited before,
And now He is waiting again;
To see if you're willing to open the door:
O how He wants to come in.

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- A20** Why On Earth Am I Here/Album Two
- A30** Guess Who's Coming for Christmas
- A40** Get Real
- A50** Wise Up!
- A60** Miracles! Then and Now
- A70*** Before You Say, "I Do"
- A80** Voices from Beyond the Grave
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- A110** Basic Training
- A120** The God of Second Chances
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- A140*** The Recovery Room
- A150** Public Enemy #1
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- A190** Behind Closed Doors
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- A220** Unleashing the Power of God
- A230** Dr. Jekyll & Mr. Christian: Part 1
- A240*** The Best is Yet to Come
- A250** Bad Boys of the Bible

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- A260* You've Got Mail- The 7 Letters of Revelation
A270* Cross Examination
A280* Heart Beat
A290* Desperate Households
A300* Braveheart
A310* The Fourth Quarter
A320 Satisfaction Guaranteed
A330* The Gift
A340* Take This Life and Love It
A350* Believing God...Expecting Miracles
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A370* Pit Falls-From the Depths to Deliverance
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A400* Breaking the Chains of Religion
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A430* Defending the Faith
A440* The Power of Giving
A450* Lets Adore Him
A460* A New Lease on Life
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A480* The Shadow of the Almighty
A490 Now That's a Tough One
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A510 The Glory
A520* Home Field Advantage
A530 God's Answers for Your Fears
A540* Strong Faith for Tough Times
A550 Rock Your World: Unleashing the Power of Prayer
A560* What is His Name?
A570* Walking with the King
A590* Making a Difference
A600* Countdown to Armageddon
A610* I Shouldn't Be Alive!
A620* How to Win at the Game of Life
A630 Welcome to the Feast
A650* Arise and Build

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