



Thessalonians: Model Behavior—Part 4
God's Will for Your Life
From Sermon 2.20.22

Read *Ephesians 5:17-18* & *1 Thessalonians 4:3*

Review from Sunday's sermon: We take another quick break from the verse-by-verse to examine the very practical subject of God's will for our lives. The Bible literally addresses a handful of scriptural directives on the topic. Then, leaves the believer to the discernment and wisdom of both the Word of God and the guidance of the Holy Spirit. 1 Thessalonians gave us one of those directives in chapter 4 and will reveal another in chapter 5.

1. What are some possible subjects over which a believer may genuinely want to know God's will? [As a faithful believer, hopefully, all subjects of life] Various possible answers. Who I should or should not marry. What career path or job to take. Where to live and if I should move. How to deal with a relationship. Which way to go on a problem. Making a big purchase or investment.....

1a. Which ones have you personally sought God's will over? Various personal answers.

2. What are the worst (or even forbidden) methods of determining God's will? Anything the Scriptures clearly forbid = psychics, mediums, horoscopes. Just taking the easy or quick path. The sinful "I think God would want me to be happy". Ignoring godly counsel. Entertaining earthly/secular counsel. The "I know it may not be right. But, I'll fix it later." Randomly opening my Bible, putting finger on a passage, reading and copying whatever it says.

3. What were the four clear "wills" of God taught on Sunday?

- *2 Peter 3:9*—Your Salvation: The indwelling of the Holy Spirit
- *1 Thessalonians 5:16-18*—An attitude of gratitude, joy in all circumstances, and a already devoted prayer life.
- [Read earlier *1 Thessalonians 4:3*]—Sexual morality
- *1 Peter 2:13-15*—Submission to God-Ordained Authority: The Word of God, parents (if still at home), church (elders), civic leaders and laws.

4. Read *Psalms 37:4*, *Proverbs 3:5-6*, & *Matthew 6:33* and discuss the precept that, once you've genuinely met the four clear "wills" of God, you can do whatever you want. Various thoughts and insights.

4a. What great fear forms in us from that truth? It's just so hard to believe. We've made so many poor choices, on our own, in the past. 2nd reality = It is sometimes God's will that we fail occasionally. Makes us humble, sympathetic, learn, grow, and relate to others. We think God's will = easy, prosperous, worldly view of success, with no loss or trial.

5. What is harsh truth for the non-Christian concerning God's will? God's not hearing their prayers. He's not going to reveal any more truth/plan until first condition is met = trusting in Jesus Christ, repentance, and surrendering to God's Lordship. See also *Proverbs 15:29*