

STEP 11 - Sought Through Prayer and Meditation to Improve Our Conscious Contact with God, Praying Only for Knowledge of His Will for Us and the Power to Carry That Out.

Question: What is the best (most effective) way to pray to find out God's will for my life?

Answer: God's will for us is REVEALED in His WORD. The more you READ, STUDY and MEDITATE on His WORD, the more you will know what He wants you to do (His will for your life). The MOST EFFECTIVE way to PRAY, then, would be to:

1. YIELD & SUBMIT YOURSELF to His revealed WILL in the Bible, and BE WILLING to DO whatever He says in His word. This is VITALLY IMPORTANT, because God will NOT reveal any more of His will for you PERSONALLY, until you are DOING what is written in His word. Humble yourself and TELL HIM that you will DO whatever you SEE written in His word, as if it were a PERSONAL MESSAGE just to you.

- **John 8:31** "Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed in Him, "If you abide (continue) in My WORD, then you are truly My disciples."
- **1 Peter 1:4** "Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and PRECIOUS PROMISES (in His word); that BY THESE you might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust."
- **1 Timothy 3:16** "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for INSTRUCTION in righteousness, that the man of God may be COMPLETE, thoroughly equipped for every good work."
- **John 15:7** "If you abide in Me, and MY WORDS ABIDE IN YOU, you shall ask whatever you wish, and IT SHALL BE DONE FOR YOU."
- **1 Peter 5:5-7** "...for God resists the proud, but gives grace to the HUMBLE. HUMBLE YOURSELVES, therefore, under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you (FULFILL HIS PLAN for YOU) at the proper time, casting ALL YOUR ANXIETY UPON HIM, because He cares for you."
- **James 1:22-25** "But be DOERS of the WORD, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and NOT a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was. But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a DOER of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does."
- **Romans 12:1-2** "I beseech you (beg you) therefore brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present (yield, submit) your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the RENEWING of your MIND (with the WORD of God) that you may PROVE what is that good and acceptable and PERFECT WILL of GOD." Also read Matt. 7:24-27; Joshua 1:7-8; Luke 10:40-42; Psalm 119:1-21, 97-105, 165-169; Psalm 1:1-3.

2. COMMIT & TRUST YOUR WAY to Him ONE DAY AT A TIME. God does NOT reveal His personal plan for any of us by UNFOLDING to us a long-range view. Psalm 37:23 says the STEPS of a righteous man are ORDERED by the Lord, so we must follow Him one STEP at a time. He does NOT reveal a long-range plan to any of us, because if He did, our NATURAL INCLINATION would be to examine and analyze it to SEE IF WE APPROVED of His will and plan

or not! Also, He knows what TRIALS and TESTINGS we must go through, but if they were revealed to us ahead of time or ALL AT ONCE, we would not have the faith to go through them. He only gives us the FAITH and STRENGTH (POWER) to handle each day's problems as they happen.

- Matthew 6:34** "Therefore do NOT worry about TOMORROW, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. **SUFFICIENT for the DAY** is its own trouble."
- II Corinthians 12:9** "And He said to me, 'My **GRACE is SUFFICIENT** (enough) for you, for My **STRENGTH** is made perfect in [your] weakness.' Therefore most gladly will I rather boast in my infirmities (weakness), that the **POWER of Christ** may rest upon me."
- Luke 9:23** "Then He said to them all, 'If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross **DAILY**, and follow Me.'"
- Psalms 37:4-5 & 23-24** "Delight yourself also in the Lord, and He shall GIVE YOU the DESIRES of YOUR HEART. **COMMIT your way to the Lord, TRUST** also in Him, and He shall BRING IT TO PASS. **The STEPS of a righteous man are ORDERED BY THE LORD**, and He delights in his way. Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down; for the Lord upholds him with His hand."
- Proverbs 3:5-6** "**TRUST** in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your OWN UNDERSTANDING. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall DIRECT YOUR PATHS."

3. BE FLEXIBLE to the LEADING of the HOLY SPIRIT. Make plans for the future, schedules for your day, and make choices based on your understanding of what God's word says to do in general situations, but be flexible to CHANGE YOUR PLANS if you feel the Holy Spirit is warning you against something, or leading you in a different way.

- Ephesians 5:18** ".....be filled with (controlled by) the Spirit."
- Galatians 5:16** "I say then: **Walk in the Spirit**, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh."
- Psalms 46:10** "**Be still**; and KNOW that I am God...."
- Romans 8:14** "For as many as are **LED by the Spirit of God**, these are sons of God."

4. BE PATIENT & WAIT on GOD'S TIMING. Remain steadfast, do NOT waver back and forth (being double-minded), if things don't go according to YOUR time table. Some things take time, because God is working all things together, and waiting for certain things to happen. **Continue to PRAISE GOD and PRAY with THANKSGIVING.**

- Romans 8:28** "And we know that **ALL things WORK together for GOOD** to those who **LOVE GOD**, to those who are the **CALLED according to His PURPOSE.**"
- Read Romans 4:16-21** (Verses 20-21) "He (Abraham) did not **WAVER** at the promise of God through unbelief, but was strengthened in FAITH, **giving glory (PRAISE) to God**, and being fully convinced that what He had promised He was also able to perform."
- James 1:6-8** "But let him **ASK IN FAITH**, nothing wavering (doubting). For he that wavers is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. **FOR LET NOT THAT MAN THINK THAT HE SHALL RECEIVE ANYTHING of the Lord. A DOUBLE-MINDED man is unstable in all his ways.**"
- Philippians 4:6-9** (Verses 6-7) "Be **ANXIOUS** for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication **WITH THANKSGIVING**, let your REQUESTS BE MADE KNOWN TO GOD. And the **PEACE OF GOD**, which surpasses all comprehension, shall guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

WARNING: Failure to humbly accept what God's word says to do, or procrastination or failure to DO what we see written there, is to be guilty of the worst **DISOBEDIENCE, REBELLIOUSNESS, STUBBORNNESS & PRIDE**, because basically, that is saying WE know BETTER than God. **PRIDE SAYS**, "But you don't understand.....that doesn't apply to ME.....MY situation is DIFFERENT." **REBELLIOUSNESS SAYS**, "That's NOT the answer I WANTED to hear." **STUBBORNNESS SAYS**, "I KNOW that's God's will for my life, but I'm just NOT READY to do that yet." All three of these ATTITUDES result in the same outcome: **DISOBEDIENCE to God's word.**

• **I Samuel 15:22-23** "Does the Lord have as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in **OBEYING the VOICE of the Lord**? Behold, to OBEY is better than sacrifice, and to hearken (pay attention) than the fat of rams. For **REBELLION** is as the sin of witchcraft, and **STUBBORNNESS** is as iniquity and idolatry. Because **you have REJECTED the WORD of the Lord**, He has also rejected you from being king."

A perfect example of the consequences of rejecting God's word is the children of Israel **wandering in the wilderness for forty years**. I Corinthians 10:1-12 tells us that what happened to Israel is an example to us of what NOT to do. **Many Christians DO NOT live out God's plan** for their lives because of ignorance or disobedience to His revealed WILL in His WORD. They "wander in the wilderness" of their OWN ideas and ways for most or all of their Christian lives. They never "enter the Promised Land" of the life of BLESSING and BEING IN GOD'S WILL.

• **Psalm 106:24-26** "Then they despised the pleasant land; they **DID NOT BELIEVE in His WORD**, but grumbled in their tents; they **did not LISTEN to the VOICE of the Lord**. Therefore He swore to them, that He would cast them down in the wilderness."

• **Deuteronomy 1:35-43** (Verse 43) "So I spoke to you, but you would not listen. Instead you **REBELLED against the COMMAND of the Lord**, and acted presumptuously....."

• **Psalm 107:10-12** "There were those who dwelt in darkness and in the shadow of death, prisoners in misery and chains, because they had **REBELLED against the WORDS of God**, and **spurned the counsel of the Most High**. Therefore He humbled their heart with labor; they stumbled and there was none to help."

• **Numbers 20:12** "But the Lord said to Moses and Aaron, 'Because **you have not believed Me**, to treat Me as holy in the sight of the sons of Israel, therefore you shall not bring this assembly into the land which I have given to them.'" Also read Proverbs 1:22-33 & Deuteronomy 28:1-15.

If you find you are guilty of this kind of pride or rebellion, or even of procrastination, **REPENT and CONFESS IT to God**. God will forgive you, but remember, **REPENTANCE** means being WILLING to make a complete TURN-AROUND, and go the opposite direction. If you are in SIN and RUNNING AWAY from obedience to God, you must TURN AROUND and begin to obey Him.

• **I John 1:9** "If we **confess our sins**, He is faithful and just to **forgive us our sins**, and to cleanse us from ALL unrighteousness."

CONCLUSION

Ephesians 5:17 "Therefore do not be **UNWISE**, but **understand what the will of the Lord is**."

According to this verse in Ephesians 5:17, you are un-WISE if you do NOT understand what is God's will for your life. Therefore, **to be WISE or have WISDOM** is the way to UNDERSTAND God's will. How do you get wisdom? The Bible tells us that The FEAR of the Lord is the BEGINNING of WISDOM. An attitude of REVERENCE (fear) for God, a WILLINGNESS to STUDY His WORD to get to KNOW Him better, and a COMMITMENT to DO what you see in His word will RESULT in your GAINING WISDOM and a practical, working knowledge of God's will for your life.

• **Psalm 111:10** "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of WISDOM; a good understanding have **all those who DO His commandments**."

• **Proverbs 9:10** "The **fear of the Lord is the beginning of WISDOM**, and the KNOWLEDGE of the Holy One is UNDERSTANDING."

• **Read Proverbs 2:1-22** (Verses 1-2) "My son, if you receive **My WORDS**, and treasure My **COMMANDS** within you, so that you incline your ear to

WISDOM, and apply your heart to understanding." (Verses 5-6) "Then you will understand the fear of the Lord, and find the knowledge of God. For **the Lord gives WISDOM; from His mouth** (God's word, the Bible) come knowledge and understanding."

Definition: "The Fear of the Lord" — Reverential AWE and RESPECT for God, and the continual AWARENESS of His presence in our lives. Because we are aware of His presence, the "fear of the Lord" is EVIDENCED by OBEDIENCE to His commands and **DOING His will**. The New Testament equivalent is HOLY LIVING and being FILLED with the SPIRIT. As we OBEY God's commands that we see in His word, even the simplest ones, He will REVEAL **more of His will** for our lives to us. Why should He give us more detailed information if we don't even obey His will that is revealed in His word? Then, as we allow the Holy Spirit to fill and control our lives, He GIVES US THE POWER to CARRY OUT His will. The Lord NEVER commands us to do something that He does not also give us the POWER to DO it. Our part is to exercise our FREE WILL and ALLOW Him to empower us.