

# Decision Making and the Will of God

## Session 3

### I. Review

### II. God's Individual Will for Your Life

A. It is God's will that you \_\_\_\_\_.

B. It is God's will that you \_\_\_\_\_.

C. It is God's will that you \_\_\_\_\_.

D. It is God's will that you \_\_\_\_\_.

E. It is God's will that you \_\_\_\_\_.

F. It is God's will that you \_\_\_\_\_.

G. It is God's will that you \_\_\_\_\_.

**Ephesians 5:15-18**

**1. Wisdom personified... (Prov 1:20-25; 8:14-17)**

**2. Insight from Pastor Ron (Proverbs 4:7)**

From *The Message*<sup>1</sup>:

"Take this to heart. Do what I tell you—live!  
Sell everything and buy Wisdom! Forage for Understanding!  
Don't forget one word! Don't deviate an inch!  
Never walk away from Wisdom—she guards your life;  
love her—she keeps her eye on you.  
Above all and before all, do this: Get Wisdom!  
Write this at the top of your list: Get Understanding!  
Throw your arms around her—believe me, you won't regret it;  
never let her go—she'll make your life glorious.

**3. J.I. Packer connects wisdom and guidance ...**

Wisdom in Scripture always means knowledge of the course of action that will please God and secure life, so that the promise of James 1:5—"If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives to all men generously and without reproaching, and it will be given him" (RSV)—**is in effect a promise of guidance.** "Let your minds be remade and your whole nature thus transformed," counsels Paul. "Then you will be able to discern the will of God, and to know what is good, acceptable, and perfect" (Rom 12:2 NEB).<sup>2</sup>

H. Dr. Walke's closes our discussion of God's will

[God] never calls us in the New Testament to "seek His will," but rather to seek His kingdom and do His will. *We ought to stamp out of our vocabulary the nonbiblical and misleading expression "finding God's will."*<sup>3</sup> [emphasis in the original]

---

**The Wisdom Model** —*simple but not easy*

I've seen several presentations of the wisdom model, but none seemed to present it in its basic form:

**Do the \_\_\_\_\_ thing. ← your new model!**

---

<sup>1</sup> Peterson, Eugene H., *The Message*, NavPress, 1993.

<sup>2</sup> Packer, J.I., *Knowing God*, InterVarsity Press, 1993 ed. p. 232.

<sup>3</sup> Walke, Bruce K., *Finding the Will of God a pagan notion?* Eerdmans, 1995, p. 15.

I. F \_\_\_\_\_

The reliance on special signs from God is the mark of an immature person—someone who cannot simply believe the truth as presented, but must have a special, miraculous sign as the symbol of authority from God.<sup>4</sup>

\_\_\_\_\_ <sup>ESV</sup> **2 Corinthians 5:7** for we walk by faith, not by sight.

**Pop Quiz**

1. Again we come to a verse that people might use to repudiate the wisdom model. Which do you think it is teaching:
  - a. “don’t walk by wisdom, but by blind presumption in unclear guidance”
  - b. “walk [not sit and wait] as God told you to [by wisdom], taking more than just your immediate visible circumstances into consideration”
2. When you think about it, which method constantly seeks for a sign in order to walk by sight?

II. F \_\_\_\_\_

There are many factors that play into the wisdom model. Some are weightier, more authoritative than others. (not an exhaustive list!)

- 
- 
- 
- 
- 
- 

III. F \_\_\_\_\_!

There is a tremendous amount of freedom (and responsibility) in the biblical model.

Augustine/MacArthur—

Psalm 37:4 —

Freedoms:

- 
- 
- 

Discern the wisest course → make a decision → **go for it**

<sup>4</sup> Walke, p. 12.

#### IV. Role Models

#### V. Application

#### VI. Wrap-up/Feedback

Ideas how to improve the course or my methods:

[Tim@objectivegospel.org](mailto:Tim@objectivegospel.org)

General feedback/concerns you aren't comfortable bringing to me, Ron is my pastoral oversight:

[Ron@desertspringschurch.org](mailto:Ron@desertspringschurch.org) --Ron will be out of town for a few weeks (Guatamala) and won't be able to get back to you right away. If it is urgent you may approach any of the elders.