

FINDING GOD'S WILL FOR MY LIFE

Youth Bible Study

Questions About This Topic

- **How should you go about finding the answer to "What is my purpose in life?"**
 - One of the 10 most searched for questions on the internet search engines is "What is the meaning of life?"
 - What sources might you use to determine your purpose?
 - Spiritual Disciplines (prayer, Bible reading, church attendance, meditation)
 - People (pastor, parents, spiritual leaders)
 - Materials (Sunday school lessons, books, Gospel Trumpeters)
- **Does this question have only one answer?**
 - This is not just something that a young person does early in life
 - Education
 - Employment
 - Career Choice
 - Spouse
 - Where to live
 - Position in the "body" of Christ (church congregation)
 - it is a lifelong pursuit in order to stay in the exact center of His plan
 - A daily seeking – "What is Your will for my life today?"
- **Finding God's will includes asking ...**
 - What am I here for?
 - What was I created to do?
 - What is the meaning of life?
 - "250 of the best known philosophers, scientists, writers, and intellectuals in the world were written to, asking this question. Some gave their best guess, others made up an answer, and others honestly said they were clueless. Several famous intellectuals wrote back, saying if you find out the answer, let me know" (The Purpose Driven Life).
- **The Starting Point** – "Without God, life makes no sense."
 - Start at the beginning
 - Genesis 1:1 – "In the beginning God"
 - ask yourself, "What is God's will for my life?"
 - Key word – "God"
 - in contrast to:
 - the will of parents, friends, teachers
 - my will
 - "What do YOU want to be when you grow up?"
 - "What career best fits YOUR personality?"
 - "Where do YOU plan to go to college?"
 - "Who do YOU want to marry?"
 - emphasis on the word YOU

- Rich man (Luke 12:18-19)
 - "This will I do: I will pull down my barns, and build greater; and there will I bestow all my fruits and my goods. And I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry."
- God is doing the creating
 - Psalm 139:13 AMP God "did knit me together in my mother's womb"
 - In the beginning when knitting, final design not obvious
 - in the mind of the one doing the knitting
 - if you were to ask others what it is – just a guess
 - as it takes shape, it becomes more obvious
 - Compare with Creation
 - God spoke things into existence
 - God "formed" man (time & effort)
- **Why Did God Make Us?**
 - Colossians 1:16 – "all things [people included] were created by him, and for him"
 - Revelation 4:11 – "thou has created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created"
 - "it's not about you"
 - "The purpose of your life is far greater than your own personal fulfillment, your peace of mind, or even your own happiness" (The Purpose Driven Life).
 - **Popular Opinions**
 - "It's time for me to be happy"
 - "Whatever you decide to do, make sure it makes you happy"
 - "And now I'll do what's best for me"
 - "If it makes you happy, do it"
 - Are these statements true happiness?
- **God's Will = True Happiness**
 - Psalm 37:4 – "Delight thyself also in the Lord: and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart."
 - The key is wanting God's will more than our own.
 - "delight thyself also in the Lord" – what does that mean? How to? (Context)
 - verse 3 – "trust in the Lord" (trusting)
 - verse 5 – "commit thy way unto the Lord" (submitting)
 - verse 7 – "rest in the Lord, and wait patiently for him" (waiting)
 - too many begin with the end of the verse
 - God will give me the desires of my heart
 - wrong starting point
 - "The search for the purpose of life has puzzled people . . . because we typically . . . ask self-centered questions like What do I want to be? What should I do with my life? What are my goals? . . . Focusing on ourselves will never reveal our life's purpose" (The Purpose Drive Life).
 - starting point must be "the Lord"
 - Matthew 6:33 – "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness;

and all these things shall be added unto you."

- **God Is Detail-Oriented**
 - Does it matter (career choice, church family, home purchase, girlfriend/boyfriend)?
 - Consider Creation
 - complexities of the eye, the solar system
 - the earth (solar system) did not just happen (accident)
 - You are not an accident – God has plans for you
 - Ephesians 1:4 – God was thinking of us before the foundations of the world were laid
 - Jeremiah 1:5 – God had a definite purpose for Jeremiah
 - "Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee, and I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations."
 - Jeremiah 29:11 – God has "thoughts" (plans) for you
 - "to give you an expected end"
 - in other words, a future filled with hope
 - Galatians 1:15 – God chose and set me (Paul) apart before I was born (AMP)
 - John 15:16 – "Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you"
- **Finding God's Will Requires Focus**
 - Without a clear purpose, you will keep changing directions (jobs, relationships, churches)
 - The power of focus
 - sunlight
 - what happens if you use a magnifying glass on grass or paper?
 - light focused as a laser beam – can cut through steel
 - the power of a life lived with focus or purpose – "a life lived on purpose"
 - focus = do less of some things & more of others
 - reduce clutter (spiritual, emotional)
 - purpose produces passion – goal driven
 - what does a day lived with purpose look like? (A week, a year, a life?)
- **Focus: Living in the Light of Eternity**
 - What are you focusing on?
 - Many non-Christians are focused (driven)
 - Earthly goals?
 - Living with eternity in mind
 - will influence your decisions, your relationships, your goals
 - values change
 - desires change
 - seeing things through God's eyes
 - realizing life (on earth) is temporary & a small part of eternity
 - What is your "life motto"?
 - (def motto: a short phrase describing the beliefs and goals guiding a person)

- "life's just a party; and then you die"
- "go for it; no matter how it ends, it was an experience"
- "life isn't about finding yourself, it is about creating yourself"
- "my motto is: more good times"
- "think positive and positive things will happen"
- "life is short; enjoy it"
 - consider the source of these life mottos – **SELF**
- What is your life motto?
 - better yet, the Bible gives many "life mottos"
 - You will reap what you sow (sow accordingly)
 - God is the owner; we are the manager (stewardship)
 - Nothing just happens (there is a reason for every situation, every test)
 - Life is short (a mist, a vapor); eternity is permanent
 - when finding God's will for your life . . .
 - must take into account what God's Word says
- **What Should I Be Doing?**
 - What does a day lived with purpose look like?
 - life motto – "nothing just happens"
 - life motto – "kindness matters"
 - smiling when someone does you wrong
 - A day lived with purpose soon becomes a lifestyle of purposeful living!

How does having
"Life Mottos"
create focus?

Mission Stmt
Vision Stmt
Values
Creded to Live By

#1 – Cultivate Your Relationship With God

- 1 Timothy 2:4 – "Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth."
 - God's will for everyone – Be saved & grow in knowledge
- Take advantage of every opportunity to learn more about God
- Spiritual disciplines
 - (define – study youth lesson on "Spiritual Disciplines")
- Proverbs 3:5-6 – "Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths."
 - "direct thy paths"
 - we are looking for direction
 - what is God's will for my life?
 - "all thy ways" – in everything you do
 - "acknowledge"
 - what does that mean?
 - definition: "admit the existence of"
 - Strong's Concordance: know, perceive, find out, consider
 - in other words, make the effort to find out what He thinks
 - more than a verbal statement; requires studying, praying, meditation
 - **Acknowledge** = Get to know God
 - obedience to one's father: "My dad wouldn't want me to do that."

- how does the toddler know what his dad requires?
- he didn't have to go ask his father – he knew (experience)
- learn what makes God smile
 - Numbers 6:25 – "The Lord make his face shine upon thee"
 - your focus will change from "What makes me happy" to "What makes God happy"
- become best friends with God
 - constant conversations with God
 - include Him in every decision, your thoughts, your conversations w/others
 - "Pray without ceasing" (1 Thessalonians 5:17)
 - meditation: "When you read your Bible or hear a sermon or listen to a message, don't just forget about it. Develop the practice of reviewing it in your mind, thinking about it over and over." (The Purpose Driven Life)
 - example: "nothing just happens" and "kindness matters"
 - as our walk with the Lord deepens
 - some situations we will know what God's will is
 - lying, stealing, cheating, and murder
 - as you get the "mind of Christ," other things will become definite to you
- **Get the Mind of Christ**
 - 1 Corinthians 2:16 – "For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? but we have the mind of Christ."
 - How to have the mind of Christ?
 - verse 10 – "But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God."
 - must be saved – have His Spirit
 - verse 12 – "Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God."
 - promise: we can know what God thinks (God's will)
 - we are able to know because of God's Spirit
 - do we make decisions or live in a way that muffles the voice of God's Spirit?
 - does "our will" drown out that still, small voice?
 - verse 13 – "Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual."
 - God's will is often in opposition to "man's wisdom"
 - examples:
 - "You must go to college"
 - "It's a waste to not go to college"
 - verse 14 – "But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned."
 - the natural man will often be in opposition to God's will

- what is "the natural man"?
 - "foolishness unto him"
 - God's will must be spiritually discerned
- **Promise:** He will give direction (Proverbs 3:6)
 - "he shall direct thy paths"
 - we have a part in this
 - accept Christ
 - trust
 - lean not
 - acknowledge (find out – search)
 - learn the mind of Christ
 - beware of man's wisdom & the natural man
- **#2 – Surrender Your Will to God's**
 - Surrender – often a bad word
 - no one wants to be the one who surrenders in a war
 - negative concept
 - barriers to surrendering = pride, control, fear, confusion
 - #1 helps with these (studying the causes of why you don't want to surrender)
 - "Surrendering is best demonstrated in obedience"
 - "yes, Lord, I'll read and pray"
 - "yes, Lord, I'll attend church services"
 - "The greatness of a man's power is in the measure of his surrender" (William Booth, founder of The Salvation Army)
 - The greatest hindrance to finding out God's will for your life is yourself
 - must surrender:
 - your will
 - your ideas
 - your lack of spiritual discipline
 - your pride
 - 1 Corinthians 15:31 – "I die daily" (to self)
 - surrender is not a one-time event
 - surrender is daily
 - "What is Your will for my life today, Lord?"
 - Don't ask God to rubberstamp your plans
 - Will God reveal His plans to you when you clearly have your mind made up?
 - There are two kinds of people: those who say to God, "Thy will be done," and those to whom God says, "All right then, have it your way" (C. S. Lewis).
 - "Are you going your own way and pretending it is God's way?" (Ravi).
- **What Is Your Purpose?**
 - **#1 – Be Part of God's Family**
 - born into God's family (salvation)
 - a member of the body of Christ
 - be part of a church family
 - where does God want you?

- 1 Corinthians 12:18 – "But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased him."
- **#2 – To Serve God**
 - Serve God by serving others
 - it's not about you; we are here to serve (example of life motto)
 - "the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister" (Mark 10:44)
 - "Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others" (Philippians 2:4)
 - people more interested in "serve us" than "service"
 - instead of:
 - "I didn't get anything out of that church service"
 - "What did I put into that church service?"
 - instead of
 - "Who is going to meet my needs?"
 - "Whose needs could I meet today?"
 - be committed to your church family
 - attending worship services
 - preparing for worship services
 - participating in worship services
 - fellowship
 - giving
 - service
 - 1 Corinthians 12:26 – "And whether one member suffer, all the members suffer with it; or one member be honoured, all the members rejoice with it."
 - protect the unity of the church
 - endeavoring to keep the unity (Ephesians 4:3)
 - What's your excuse for not serving?
 - "Abraham was old, Jacob was insecure, Leah was unattractive, Joseph was abused, Moses stuttered, Gideon was poor, Samson was dependent, Rahab was immoral, David had an affair and family problems, Elijah was suicidal, Jeremiah was depressed, Jonah was reluctant, Naomi was a widow, John the Baptist was eccentric to say the least, Peter was impulsive and hot-tempered, Martha worried too much, the Samaritan woman had several failed marriages, Zacchaeus was unpopular, Thomas was doubtful, Paul had poor health, and Timothy was timid" (The Purpose Driven Life).
 - **#3 – Finding Your Individual Purpose**
 - SHAPE
 - Job 10:8 – "Thine hands have made me and fashioned me together round about"
 - other versions "hands have shaped and formed me"
 - physically – very different "shapes"
 - personalities – very different "shapes"
 - purpose in life – very different "shapes"

- We are shaped by:
 - abilities
 - life experiences
 - interests
 - personalities
 - talents
 - gifts
 - this is God's Aptitude Test
- All together shaping us for our purpose(s) in God's plan
- What spiritual gifts has God given you?
 - how to discover?
 - how to develop?
 - gifts are given to benefit others (not ourselves)
- What are you passionate about?
 - we're not all passionate about the same things
 - some LOVE to clean
 - some LOVE to cook
 - how might the things you are passionate about be used in your purpose?
 - how can you develop this to benefit the work of God?
- Develop your personality
 - there is a need for quiet & talkative
 - there is a need for outgoing & reserved
 - (1 Corinthians 12:4-6)
 - "the same God which worketh all in all"
- Use what God has given you
 - don't try to force a square peg in a round hole
 - don't judge yourself by what others are doing
 - accept your "shape"
 - develop your shape
 - work to improve
- **Secondary Purposes**
 - what about education, job, marriage, career, how many kids to have, where to live?
 - Focus on God's purpose for your life – He'll give direction about the rest (direct thy paths)
 - Acts 13:36 – "David . . . served his own generation by the will of God"
 - "David . . . served the purpose of God in his own generation" (AMP)
 - Acts 13:22 – "I have found David . . . a man after mine own heart, which shall fulfil all my will."
 - What is your purpose?
 - To Hear: "Well done, thou good and faithful servant" (Matthew 25:21)
 - What is your "life motto"?
 - To follow God's purpose?
 - God reveals His will one step at a time (not all at once)
 - each step often requires a step of faith – trust that He is working for our good

Sources

- <https://www.gotquestions.org/know-God-will.html>
- The Purpose Driven Life by Rick Warren