

Solid Rock #9: Orders From Headquarters *or How Do I Know His Will?*

One of the most asked questions in the Christian life is "How do I know God's will?" First and foremost is the Word of God as revealed in the Bible. See Lesson 1 & 2. Your main concentration in this life should be knowing Him. The discipline of learning Christ and setting aside self to let Christ live through you, manifesting Himself in your life, will make most choices obvious. But some times there are many good options. My son is trying to choose a college. They aren't listed in the Book (Bible). When we don't have a clear-cut answer in God's Word, we can look at how others that have gone before us in the Scriptures were shown God's leading. A word of caution, don't let your personal desire cause you to ignore what is in the Word saying it doesn't apply. If you haven't studied God's Word, how do you know if the answer isn't in there? 2Tim 2:15 Go to someone impartial and ask his or her opinion, someone that knows the Word.

The still small voice of 1Kings 19:10-12, Job 4:16. The Spirit of the Lord can speak to our Spirit. What we hear should always be inline with the Word. 2Peter 1:16-18. The Lord does not speak condemnation, Romans 8:1. The Spirit reminds us of what Jesus has said, John 14:26. Sometimes He will speak a word to our heart, and we will see a scripture in a new light applying it in a way we never had before. I can recall an incidence when Phillipians 2:3 first came alive to me. Instead of jumping on the band wagon of criticism, I stood up for the person as a chosen child of God. There were times I would start to join in the criticism and this verse would come and remind me of what my stance should be. Jesus often spent all night in prayer before choosing His disciples, and spent 40 days in prayer and fasting before He began to teach. Luke tells us it was His custom to get up hours before daylight and pray. We are often impatient when we don't get an answer in 5 minutes. Sometimes as we are reading God's Word, the answer will become obvious to us as the spirit of a certain text applies to our situation.

Joseph (Mary's husband) was warned and given direction in dreams. Dreams often have little or nothing to say to us, but the ones that are clear as a bell, that we remember many details of, often give us insight or direction. The apostle Paul was also directed by a dream or night vision. Joel 2:28 Job 33:14-16 What is the warning in Ecclesiastes 5:3,7?

Circumstances can sometimes show us God's will. Acts 14:5,6 As we walk with the Lord, we should become one with Him as He is with the Father. Our nature is changed and we begin to desire His will. When we are misled unintentionally, we must be sensitive to the Spirit warning us. Acts 16:6-9. Has God led you through a circumstance? Have you misinterpreted a circumstance? Has God's Spirit warned you not to do something that was good to lead you to something better? I thought I was to care for my

Grandmother in her home. Through a series of misunderstandings my Grandmother threw me out of her house. As a result, I was able to house a foreign student who came to the Lord and has influenced others in his country to have a closer walk with Christ. I thought I knew God's plan but He showed me a better one by the circumstances. Look for God's work.

Godly counsel can instruct us when we do not see the way clearly or when we are in danger of being influenced by personal desire. Proverbs 11:14, 24:6 both tell us that many counselors provide safety. One person may mislead us, but we can usually see a general consensus when we ask several godly people. I knew a woman who asked many men of God about marrying someone she knew little about. They all warned her against it but she found one person whose words encouraged her to do what she had already decided. The marriage lasted less than a month.

Prophecy can encourage, or build up, and console and calm, 1Corinthians 14:3. It is not mentioned as a means of direction here, but it was used in the book of Acts through Agabus to encourage a giving ministry. Always confirm the spirit of a prophetic word through the word to avoid error.

The important issue is that you are holding loosely to the things of the world and the desires of the body, then you can be sure He will show you His desire. You see, the question should not be, "What does God have for me?" but "What is God doing, and how can I be of service in that great endeavor?" When we read testimonies and stories of great victories remember the first shall be last, and he that is greatest shall be servant of all. Jesus greatest act of service to the Father was His obedience to the death of the cross. Romans 12:1& 2 "Take your everyday, ordinary life...and place it before God as an offering. Embracing what God does for you is the best thing you can do for Him. Don't become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking. Instead, fix your attention on God. You'll be changed from the inside out. Readily recognize what he wants from you, and quickly respond to it." (The Message) God's first desire in you is to conform you to the image of His Son. It will take time to transform your outward life so that you will be a better tool in letting Christ work through you. The potter has to mold and shape the clay and fire it before he uses it as He has planned. As you submit your life to God, you will increasingly recognize His will and be used in His service, often without even being aware you are doing so!