

Title: **"It Is Not Right": How to Discern God's Will for You and Walk in It**
Text: **Acts 6:1-7**
Date: **March 3, 2024**

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Big Idea

We're all regularly faced with decisions we have to make and forks in the road we have to navigate. Everyone seems to have an opinion as to what we should do and where we should go. But how, in the midst of this noise, do we ever begin to discern God's will for us? Where do we even start?

1. The Problem

"Hellenists", in context here, were those Jews who had once lived outside of Palestine as a result of what was called the Dispersion (which really began all the way back when the people of Israel were exiled from the land). Quite naturally, they had to learn to live elsewhere. And, as such, they picked up differences—differences in culture, in custom, and, most significantly it would seem, in language. These Diaspora Jews are called "Hellenists" because they'd been significantly influenced by Greek culture. And Greek would have been their primary language.

But then, contrastingly, this group called the "Hebrews" are simply those who have been in and around Palestine for some time now and for them. They had traditional Jewish sensibilities. And while they likely knew some Greek to get around, their primary language was most likely Aramaic.

All this to say, culturally, linguistically, these two groups of Jews were very different. And yet they both had come to faith in the Messiah, Jesus, and were a part of this burgeoning early church. It's not all that surprising to learn, therefore, that, because of these differences, there were also disconnects.

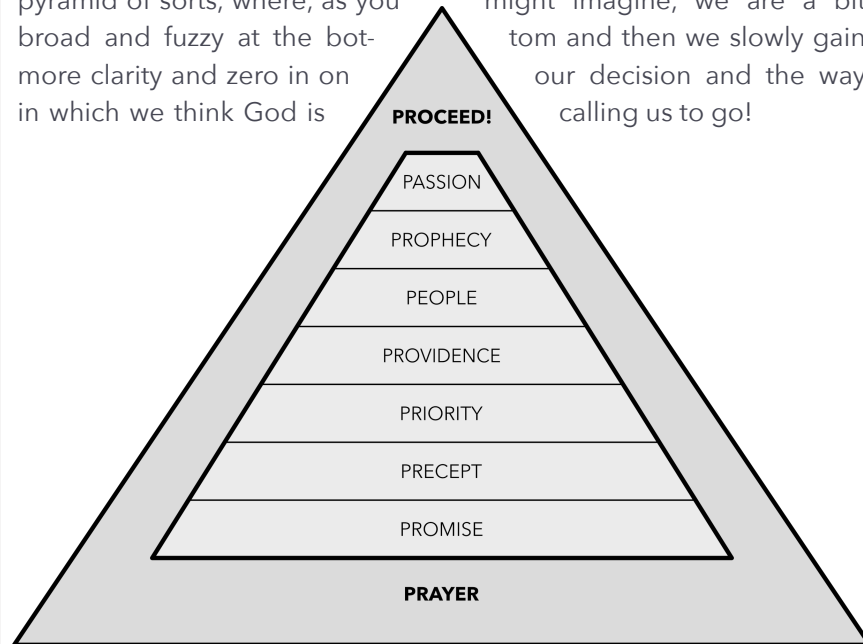
2. The Solution

Somehow, in the mix of all this upheaval, in the face of all this conflict, they're able to discern: What is God calling us to do? Which direction

should we go in? What decision should we make? What's God's will here so we can walk in it? And I just want to know: How did they do this? And how we can learn from it?

3. The Lesson

I want to lay out a 9-step workflow you can use when you're facing similar situations and you're trying to discern God's guidance in it all. In an effort to make it even easier for you to grab ahold of, I put these nine steps in diagrammatical form, so you can picture it. It's a pyramid of sorts, where, as you might imagine, we are a bit broad and fuzzy at the bottom and then we slowly gain more clarity and zero in on our decision and the way in which we think God is calling us to go!



Reflection Questions

- Think of one way in which you are currently trying to discern God's will for you. Where are you facing a tough decision or a fork in the road? Take this week and slowly work your way through the nine steps outlined above. Which of these do you anticipate being the easiest for you? Which will likely be the hardest? After considering them all, what do you feel God is leading you to do?

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Our Mission & Values

Mercy Hill Church exists to help restore us to God, neighbor, and city through the good news of Jesus Christ.

FAITH: The Way Back to God | We are redeemed to enjoy intimate presses our church *upwards* in love

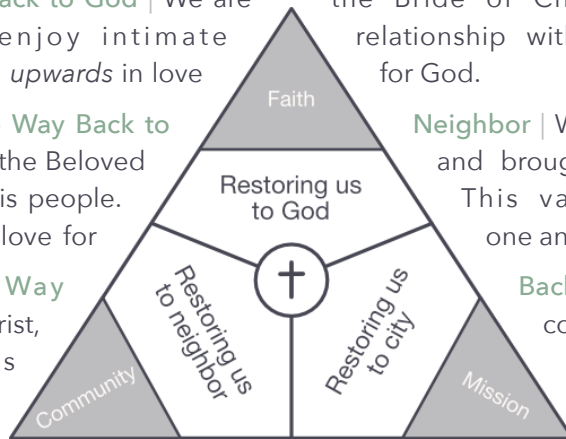
COMMUNITY: The Way Back to Christ, adopted in the Beloved relationship with his people. church *inwards* in love for

MISSION: The Way the Embassy of Christ, Savior to be his value presses our in love for the

the Bride of Christ, created and relationship with him. This value for God.

Neighbor | We are the Family of and brought into covenantal relationship with his people. This value presses our one another.

Back to City | We are commissioned by the ambassadors. This church *outwards* unbelieving.



Your Next Steps

When approaching the Christian faith and life, it can be confusing to know where to even begin. Come find us at the Next Steps Table after the service—it would be our joy to help you along in the journey! And if you're a visitor, we have a special gift bag for you. Don't miss it!



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Welcome to Mercy Hill Church.
We are so glad you've joined us today!

Announcement Spotlight

International Food Fair Sign Up!

God's heart is for the nations to know him, enjoy him, and glorify him forever. As a way of both celebrating and reminding ourselves of this, we thought it would be a fun way to kick off our Missions Emphasis Week by sharing a meal together composed of signature dishes from countries around the world. We are very excited for this, but we need your help! Please see the details below . . .

- **When?** Sunday, March 17th, after the service, beginning at around 12:00pm.
- **Where?** The meal will be held in the dining area off of the Sanctuary.
- **What?** We're asking that each of you sign up to bring a dish from a country different than your own. If possible, it should serve approximately 6-8 people. In the sign-up form that follows, you'll find a selection of countries to choose from as well as a suggested dish. This is just to get you started. You can make whatever dish you prefer. If you need help, we are happy to provide further suggestions. And, if desired, you can even just purchase something from a nearby restaurant.

For more info and to sign up, scan the QR code below!

If you have questions, feel free to reach out to Joey at joey@mercyhillchurch.org or Megan at kids@mercyhillchurch.org.

All Church Hangout - Today!

Missions Emphasis Week - March 17-24!

Scan the QR code below for more info!

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Or find it online at mercyhillchurch.org/communications-hub.