

# Part 2

## Decisions Decisions

Q & A



# **Questions about decision-making for the Christian**

**How do you know what God's will  
is for your life?**

**How does free will influence our  
decisions in faith?**

**How can I filter out disinformation  
and receive God's love and his words?**

**Q: How do you know what  
God's will is for your life?**

**A: We start with two assumptions:**

**God has a will or an intention  
for the content of our lives**

**God communicates His will in a way  
we can understand and obey**

# Is God's will like this?





**O Lord, you have searched me and known me!  
You know when I sit down and when I rise up;  
you discern my thoughts from afar. You search  
out my path and my lying down and are  
acquainted with all my ways. Even before a  
word is on my tongue, behold, O Lord, you  
know it altogether. You hem me in, behind  
and before, and lay your hand upon me. Such  
knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high;  
I cannot attain it.**

**Where shall I go from your Spirit? Or where shall I flee from your presence? If I ascend to heaven, you are there! If I make my bed in Sheol, you are there! If I take the wings of the morning and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me. If I say, "Surely the darkness shall cover me, and the light about me be night," even the darkness is not dark to you; the night is bright as the day, for darkness is as light with you.**

**For you formed my inward parts; you knitted  
me together in my mother's womb. I praise you,  
for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.**

**Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it  
very well. My frame was not hidden from you,  
when I was being made in secret, intricately  
woven in the depths of the earth.**

**Your eyes saw my unformed substance;  
in your book were written, every one of them,  
the days that were formed for me,  
when as yet there was none of them.**

**(Psalm 139:1-16 ESV)**

**A: God gives us three tools to  
discern the content and  
the consequences of His will for us:**

**The clear commands of Scripture**

**The principles we learn from  
the decisions people make in Scripture**

**The Holy Spirit alive in us**



**A: The clear commands of Scripture include:**

**Repent from sin (Matthew 4:17)**

**Believe in Jesus (John 14:1)**

**Seek Biblical justice (Micah 6:8)**

**Care for the needy (James 1:27)**

**Be thankful (Philippians 4:4)**

**Share the Gospel (Matthew 28:18-20)**

**Love God & Love people (Mark 12:30-31)**

**Flee from idolatry (1 Corinthians 10:1-14)**

**A: We learn from the experiences of people in Scripture who obey God's commands, and we learn from the experiences of those who do not.**

**The lessons we learn from their experiences help us to narrow down our focus on what God's will is.**

**For example:**

**Abraham, Joseph, Moses, David, Solomon,  
Mary, Peter, Paul, John**

**A: Scripture teaches that the Holy Spirit reminds us of what Jesus taught, convicts us of sin, counsels us on how to respond to the world, and helps us to have the motivation to respond to God's will.  
(John 14-15)**

**A: We often ask God for specific answers to big decisions because we want comfort/peace/confidence while we're in this world.**

**However, the content of the Christian life is plainly described, and following it must be understood regardless of surrounding circumstances, including location, marital status, vocation, family size, ethnicity, or financial status.**

**And whatever you do, in word or deed,  
do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus,  
giving thanks to God the Father through him.  
(Colossians 3:1-17 ESV)**

**I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.**  
**(Romans 12:1-2 ESV)**



**A: Consider these questions when you are stuck on making a big decision.**

**Does the Bible approve of this action and/or is the principle behind the action Biblical?**

**Is this action helpful?**

**Is this action possible?**

**Q: How does free will influence  
our decisions in faith?**

**A: Let's start with a definition of "free will"**

**free and independent choice; voluntary  
decision; the philosophical doctrine that the  
conduct of human beings expresses personal  
choice and is not simply determined by  
physical or divine forces.**

**A: There are three logical positions to consider when it comes to free will:**

**I have complete freedom all the time to do whatever I choose**

**I have no freedom at any time to do whatever I choose**

**I sometimes have the freedom to do whatever I choose**

**A: Our choices are affected by several factors, and we change our minds often, even when confronted with similar circumstances.**

**The belief that God is omniscient (all-knowing) leads us to the conclusion that God knows what our choices will be and what their outcomes will be. He guides and warns us about those choices, but He does not force choices or communicate specific outcomes before they happen.**

**I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and curse. Therefore choose life, that you and your offspring may live, loving the Lord your God, obeying his voice and holding fast to him, for he is your life and length of days, that you may dwell in the land that the Lord swore to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give them.”**

**(Deuteronomy 30:19-20 ESV)**

**“Now therefore fear the Lord and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness. Put away the gods that your fathers served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the Lord. And if it is evil in your eyes to serve the Lord, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your fathers served in the region beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.”**

**(Joshua 24:14-15 ESV)**



**And calling the crowd to him with his disciples, he said to them, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel’s will save it.**

**(Mark 8:34-36 ESV)**

**A: As a follower of Jesus, my “free will” should change over time as my heart changes over time. If I am becoming more like Jesus (Romans 8), if I am a new creation (2 Corinthians 5), if I am no longer a slave to sin (Romans 6), then my choices will change.**

**For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. (Galatians 5:13 ESV)**

**Q: How can I filter out disinformation  
and receive God's love and his words?**

**A: Let's start with a definition:**

**deliberately misleading or biased information;  
manipulated narrative or facts; propaganda**

**A: We would probably all agree that, based on this definition, there is a lot of disinformation out there. Our goal should be to focus on what is true, even though it is becoming harder to determine the difference between truth and falsehood in the world.**

**However, the truth of God has not changed despite many efforts to change it into something false.**

**A: This question is an important part of our discussion about decision-making. We must have truth available to us to make wise decisions, so your sources of information have a major impact on every aspect of your life.**

**So, where do you look for truth?**

**Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. 9**

**What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me—practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.**

**(Philippians 4:8-9 ESV)**



**Then Pilate said to him, “So you are a king?” Jesus answered, “You say that I am a king. For this purpose I was born and for this purpose I have come into the world—to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth listens to my voice.” Pilate said to him, “What is truth?”**

**(John 18:37-38 ESV)**

**“I have manifested your name to the people whom you gave me out of the world. Yours they were, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything that you have given me is from you. For I have given them the words that you gave me, and they have received them and have come to know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. I am praying for them.**

**I am not praying for the world but for those whom you have given me, for they are yours. All mine are yours, and yours are mine, and I am glorified in them. And I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, keep them in your name, which you have given me, that they may be one, even as we are one. While I was with them, I kept them in your name, which you have given me.**

**I have guarded them, and not one of them has been lost except the son of destruction, that the Scripture might be fulfilled. But now I am coming to you, and these things I speak in the world, that they may have my joy fulfilled in themselves. I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. I do not ask that you take them out of the world, but that you keep them from the evil one.**

**They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. And for their sake I consecrate myself, that they also may be sanctified in truth. I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me.**

**(John 17:6-21 ESV)**

**A: Our battle against disinformation is a daily one. We need to develop a list of trustworthy sources of information and review it regularly to ensure that disinformation isn't creeping in.**

**One of the values of committing to a Bible-centered church is that information can be understood through the lenses of Scripture regularly. You will still meet people who think differently than you do, but you will have the foundation of the Bible as your guide.**