

PROVERBS: Wisdom for Living

Study 15: God's will and how to know it

READ Proverbs 16:9 and Deut 29:29 and **LISTEN** to Pastor Craig Baxter's [sermon](#).

If God has a wonderful plan for our lives, why is it so hard to know it and follow it? This is a common question many Christians ask and one that has bred much confusion, frustration, and inaction in the Christian life. In this study our aim is to gain a clear understanding of how God's will operates and how we might wisely and confidently make decisions in our life, whether small or large, that both bring God glory and us much peace and joy.

Main lesson: To understand how God's will operates and to gain confidence in making decisions that are in accordance with His will

Questions:

1. Do you sometimes struggle in understanding God's will in making decisions? Share how you have sought to discern God's will in the past and what the results were.

2. From the Bible we see that God's will has two sides to it, His hidden will, known as the will of decrees, and His revealed will, known as His will of desire (see Deut 29:29 for both). From the following verses explain which will is in view:
Eph 1:11

Matt 10:29-30

Deut 29:29b, 30:11, 14

Prov 16:33

1 Thess 4:3

1 John 2:15-17

3. Why is it important when seeking God's will to understand the difference between God's hidden and revealed will?

4. A. From the following verses why is "prudence" important for making right and godly decisions? You may need to look up the meaning of "prudence" in a dictionary. Prov 14:8, 15; 22:3; 24:27.

B. How is the character trait of "prudence" developed? See Rom 12:1-2.

5. A. From the following verses why is seeking Godly counsel important in making wise decisions? Prov 11:14; 12:15; 15:22; 19:20; 24:5-6; Rom 15:14.

B. What might stop someone from seeking godly counsel?

6. What role does prayer play in decision-making? See Prov 16:3; 2:3-6; James 1:5.

7. Is there currently a decision for which you are seeking God's will? From our study what might be some principles you can use to guide you?

STOP AND PRAY:

Praise: God that His will is always accomplished and that He will guide us accordingly
Confess: times where you have given way to fear and anxiety regarding the future
Pray: that you would grow in your comprehension of and submission to His Word