

How to Know the Will of God

All Scripture is KJV: Romans 12

INTRODUCTION: WHAT DOES THE BIBLE HAVE TO SAY?

Romans 12:1-2

¹ I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.

² And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God

1. I often hear people say how can I know the will of God?
2. Or you will hear people say, I prayed and God revealed his will to me?
 - ❖ Therefore what I want to preach about this morning is how we can know the will of God.
 - ❖ And what I want to preach about is how to we can make the right decisions to please God.
1. And I am going to prove to you this morning that by simply reading the bible, which is his word you are able to know what God's will is for you.
2. The bible contains the very ingredients for us to know the will of God by simply reading it.
3. So what we need to find out is - what does God want me to do?
 - i) What is God's plan for me in my life?
 - ii) What has God got in store for me to do?
 - iii) All these questions are in God's Word.
- It does not take a mysterious event in your life for you to suddenly wake up to the fact what the will of God is for your life.
- No, God wants us to know all truth, and righteousness of his word. And he gives us the means to know that. Ephesians 5:9 (For the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness and righteousness and truth;)
- ✓ However the major theme in anyone's life should be to first know God. Because the natural man receives not the things of God, and neither can he know them.
- ✓ 1 Corinthians 2:14 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.
4. So part of God's overall will is for "all to come to repentance" and to be saved. Because if we were not saved then why should we bother with knowing what God's will is in our lives?

2 Peter 3:9 The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that **all should come to repentance.**

- But that being the case then he wants us to know what his will is.

There are many scriptures in the bible which tell us explicitly what Gods will is; such as 1 Thessalonians 4.

1 Thessalonians 4:1-7

¹ Furthermore then we beseech you, brethren, and exhort you by the Lord Jesus, that as ye have received of us how ye ought to walk and to please God, so ye would abound more and more. ² **For ye know what commandments we gave you by the Lord Jesus.**

³ **For this is the will of God**, even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication: ⁴ That every one of you should know how to possess his vessel in sanctification and honour; ⁵ **Not in the lust of concupiscence** (*passion of lust*), even as the Gentiles which know not God: ⁶ That no man go beyond and defraud his brother in any matter: because that the Lord is the avenger of all such, as we also have forewarned you and testified.

⁷ For God hath **not called us unto uncleanness, but unto holiness.**

- So the **idea of not knowing what Gods will** for you is ludicrous, and foolish.
 - The Lord has not withheld his will from us, but has rather through the entire bible given us his will.
- ✓ So now if you look at the word **“the will of God”**.
 - ✓ Those words refer to what God wants. It’s a response of what God expects from us.
 - ✓ If we looking for the will of God in our lives then we are looking at what God wants us to do with our lives.
 - ✓ So when we begin to make decisions in our lives we need to keep in mind, and make those decisions in accordance with **“what is the perfect will of God”**.
 - ✓ In Romans 12:2 Paul said that **“We need to prove what is acceptable** unto the Lord”.
1. So when we are making a decision for God, we need to make sure that those decisions are conforming to the Law of God, and that it is not a decision based on what the world has taught us, or what we have learned from the world, but rather from what does the bible say which is good and acceptable to God.
 2. Remember it is God, that we are trying and wanting to please, and it should not be ourselves.
 3. Therefore we need to look at and evaluate everything that we want to do, through the eyes of the word of God.
 4. **That-to ask ourselves** “does God agree” with what I want to do, or what I am about to do.

5. In that way we will learn what the will of God is, because it will be based on his word, and not on some feeling or idea that we may have received from the world.
- ✓ Most of what is called the will of God is found in [1 Thessalonians 4:3](#).

³ **For this is the will of God**, even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication: ⁴ That every one of you should know how to possess his vessel in sanctification and honour

- ✓ And many people still today, have no idea what Gods will is, or how to even know it or to find it.
- ✓ They say we have to pray, and search and beg God to reveal his will to them.
- ✓ Whilst there is a time and place to pray to ask God; but for the majority of time and for the most part Gods will is found right here in the bible.

So now when we first turned and looked at [Romans 12:2](#), it told us that we... **be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind.**

- ✓ This tells me that we should not be thinking like the world or acting like the world, but that we need to have our minds renewed on the things of God.
- ✓ That we should not be conformed to this world, and think like this world, but that we should be transformed, by renewing our mind.
- ✓ So if you are listening to things that come from the world and not from the bible you will always have a misunderstanding of what Gods will is for your life.

Again as we saw in [Ephesians 5:9-12](#) ⁹ (For the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness and righteousness and truth;) ¹⁰ Proving what is acceptable unto the Lord. ¹¹ And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them. ¹² For it is a shame even to speak of those things which are done of them in secret.

- ✓ So Gods will is Proving what is acceptable unto the Lord.
- ✓ But if you are listening to the world you won't know what Gods will is, because he says you need to prove what is acceptable unto the Lord.

Q. So let me ask you this “how are you going to know what Gods will is” if you are not proving what is acceptable?

- ✓ You will do things and you will think that you are doing God's will, but in reality you not. You will say things that you think is of the will of God, but all you will be doing is repeating things that you have heard in the world.
- ✓ But the bible says we are to renew our minds, we are not to get it from the world, we are to get it from the word of God.

Remember [1 Thessalonias 4:2-3](#), where it said..... ² For ye know what commandments we gave you by the Lord Jesus. ³ **For this is the will of God, even your sanctification**, that ye should abstain from fornication:

The first thing he points out to them in this scripture is that..... “you know the commandments”. And he says that these are the commandments from the Lord Jesus.

- ✓ So what is the will of God spoken here in this scripture? Well it was saying that these are Gods commandments and we need to follow them.
- ✓ You see because we are to be set apart..... Because if you are conformed to this world then you are not set apart....you are not different.....you are just like the rest of the world.....so the scripture is saying.....No.....we need to be set apart we need to be different.....we need to be holy. We need to be sanctified and live a clean life.
- ✓ So the bible says.....It's the will of God that you abstain from fornication. And how do we know that to be true. Well because the bible says we are to flee fornication that's why.
- A lot of people will say, you know whatI know what Gods will is..... because I prayed about it and you know.....God revealed it to me, and you know I am at peace about that.....and I feel good about it. (wrong)
- **But you should know that.....If it does not conform to Gods will in his word.....then it's not Gods will.....it's that simple.**

And here is a scripture that will prove whether it is Gods will or not. Proverbs 28:9.

Proverbs 28:9⁹ He that turneth away his ear **from hearing the law**, **even his prayer shall be abomination.**

So when we turn away our ear from the word of the Lord, which is the scriptures, and seek some other advice or method to determine Gods will... then.....God says that if you do that then **even his prayer shall be abomination.**

- People who think that they can simply turn away from what God says and try to seek his will in some other way, he says that their prayers are an abomination unto him.
 - So when you turn away from Gods word, and come crying to God, and saying God what is your will for me Oh God,.....please oh God tell me.....please let me hear from you what you will is for my life.....speak to me oh God.....Guide and direct me oh God.
 - **But God will say I will not hear you.** He has already told you to seek him in his word?, but you have been disobedient and have tried to reach him some other way, and he says.....No.....I will not hear you.....I will not tell you.....I will not listen to you.....because you have disobeyed what I have already told you.?
 - God says "You have not studied the word of the Lord to see my will, yet you still want me to help you anyway?" – I will not hear you he says.
1. So when God does not hear you..... don't come crying to him if you have disobeyed him.
 2. He said I have already told you what you should be doing but you have ignored it. You have ignored my word. Therefore I will ignore you!
 3. You need to listen to the law of God.....you need to listen to the commandments.
 4. Then that will tell you what God wants and that will tell you what God needs you to do.

Now here's another verse in the bible that tells you what the will of God is.

Ephesians 6: ⁵ Servants, be obedient to them that are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in singleness of your heart, as unto Christ; ⁶ Not with eyeservice, **as menpleasers;** **but as the servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart;** ⁷ **With good will doing service, as to the Lord,** and not to men:

1. This is a scripture that also reveals the will of God.
 2. This is a scripture that teaches on the will of God in the work place.
 3. This scripture shows how a person who is going to work for someone or who is under someone's authority in the workplace, and how he is to act in the work place.
- Look at the many instructions that this verse is giving you. God is saying that if you are working for a boss or a person who is over you, then you need to do it to the best of your ability, stating the various reasons why you should.
 - This is not so that you can please you boss.....no.....this is so that you can please the Lord. **Why? Because this is the will of God.** That's why?

I have seen many people who when told to do something by their Boss, or someone who is in authority over them, slouch and complain and mutter under their breath, and find every reason to complain, or to be so slothful at their work, that they may as well not bother at all. I am sure you have seen people like that.....or maybe you are that person.

1. But in reality that is going against the will of God, in that example the Lord says to us that we need to work as doing it unto the Lord, for him.
 2. So the will of God when you are at work is to do it heartily as unto the Lord.
- ❖ So Gods will is not so mysterious as we would like to think, but instead Gods word keeps reminding us time and again; stating what his will for us is.
 - ❖ And what Gods word is telling us over and over again is to follow the law of God. Which is to follow the word of God. That's God's Will.

Now go to Mica 6.

The reason why I want you to turn to this scripture is because I have hear time and time again that people have said "I have prayed to God" and he told me what to do".

1. They will say.....I did not know what to do so I prayed to God.....and he revealed it to me that I must do xyz...etc.....
2. They will throw that term around a lot, and say that as they prayed God revealed it to them or showed them what they should do.

Now whilst that may sound very spiritual it is not.

1. Because we need to be very careful when we say.....God told me this...or God told me that.....
2. Because that is adding to the word of God.....and God warns us not to add to his word? Right?

3. So we need to be very careful, and make sure that it is coming from the word of God? And not from ourselves.
 4. We can't verify or confirm that it is of God, if we have some kind of feeling about it, of that a still small voice within us told us to do xyz.....etc....
- ❖ We can't take what we think it is and call it Gods word. Because we need to go to the bible and see what God says, not what we want it to be or to say.
 - ❖ We need to go to the bible which is God's word written in stone and that's where we need to get **THE WILL OF GOD** and nowhere else my friends.
 - ❖ We can't just ignore Gods word, and go and pray and say that I have peace about it. And I am going to do this or that, and it's not biblical.
1. The things that we need to know according to Gods will is contained in the word of God.
 2. Like the bible commands us to go to church, it commands us to not to steal, it commands us not to lie, it commands us not to murder, it commands us not to covet it commands us to love God, it commands us not to commit fornication, it commands us not to commit adultery, it commands us what to do and also what to abstain from and what not to do.
- ✓ So mostly we need to know my friends it is all contained in the word of God.
 - ❖ **The whole bible is not just the word of God, but it is also the will of God.**
 - ✓ You can't just pray about it and say that God told me to stay at home and not go to church. No.... God did not tell you that, he told you to go to church. Hebrews 10:25 says, not forsaking the gathering of believers. So don't say that you prayed about it and that God told you to stay at home. God will never go against what he has already told you to do in his word. **His word is His Will for you.**
 - ✓ Then how about when a woman and a man want to get married to each other. If the one is a believer and the other is not. Well I prayed about it and God told me that it is ok if you love them dearly and that you want to get married it is ok. **No....that is not what God's will is.** His will is that you are both spiritually equally yoked before you want to get married.

2 Corinthians 6:14 Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?

- ✓ God will never allow you to have your will over his. He wants what he says. And anything that you do that is not of God's will, it is your own opinion and interpretation and your will over his.
- ✓ Even though you might be at peace about it because you prayed, does not make it right and does not make it God's will.
- ✓ **Having a good feeling about something does not make it God's will.** If you go against Gods law it is not God's will.

There is nothing that cannot be answered by God's will and his word. Look at Micah 6.

Micah 6:8 KJV He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?

- ✓ So according to the bible God has shown man what his downfalls are, and how he can get right with God.
- ✓ According to this scripture God has given man the remedy to get right and stay right with the Lord.

✚ He said "**and what doth the Lord require of thee**",

1. Then God said in Micah 6:8, that in order for man to be right with God he is "**to do justly.**"
2. He is "**to love mercy**".
3. He is also **to walk humbly with thy God?**

- ✓ If man would do these three things he could walk with God.
 - ✓ So what God is saying in this verse is a question, he is not requiring anything of us, that he has not already told us.
 - ✓ The question simply is that He said it is **to do justly?**
 - ✓ Which means to do that which is right? Justice and righteousness is often interchanged in the scriptures as the same word of expression. So God is saying just do that which is right.
 - ✓ This verse here is the same as what God said in Ecclesiastes 12:13¹³ Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: **Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man.**
- ❖ That means that God does not expect you to do or to keep anything that he has not already told you in the bible.

Now.....Just to show you that you cannot trust these new modern toy bible versions. I looked up this verse in some of their new translations. Here is what some of them say about **Micah 6:8**

Micah 6:8 KJV He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?

CEB He has told you, **human one**, what is good and what the Lord requires from you: to do justice, embrace faithful love, and walk humbly with your God.

CJB **Human being**, you have already been told what is good, what *Adonai* demands of you — no more than to act justly, love grace and walk in purity with your God.

ERV **Human**, the Lord has told you what goodness is. This is what he wants from you: Be fair to other people. Love kindness and loyalty, and humbly obey your God.

ISV He has made it clear to you, **mortal man**, what is good and what the Lord is requiring from you— to act with justice, to treasure the Lord's gracious love, and to walk humbly in the company of your God.

NIV

He has shown you, **O mortal**, what is good. **And what does the Lord require of you?** To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.

- ❖ Does that even sound like Gods word?
- ❖ It's a joke that's what it is?

The sole purpose of these bibles is to try and corrupt the word of God.

- Also **1 Thessalonians 5:18** speaks of the will of God. Where we are to give thanks to God.

¹⁸ In every thing give thanks: for **this is the will of God** in Christ Jesus concerning you.

- Now turn also to another scripture which speaks about the will of God. 1 Peter 4.

1 Peter 4:1-6 (KJV) ¹ Forasmuch then as Christ hath suffered for us in the flesh, **arm yourselves** likewise with the **same mind**: for he that hath suffered in the flesh hath ceased from sin;

² That he no longer should live the rest of his time in the flesh to the lusts of men, **but to the will of God**.

³ For the time past of our life may suffice us to have wrought the will of the Gentiles, when we walked in lasciviousness, lusts, excess of wine, revellings, banquetings, and abominable idolatries: ⁴ Wherein they think it strange that ye run not with them to the same excess of riot, speaking evil of you: ⁵ Who shall give account to him that is ready to judge the quick and the dead. ⁶ For for this cause was the gospel preached also to them that are dead, that they might be judged according to men in the flesh, but live according to God in the spirit.

.....then verse...19.

¹⁹ Wherefore let them that suffer according to the will of God commit the keeping of their souls to him in well doing, as unto a faithful Creator.

1. Here we see in 1 Peter 1:1 that we are to **arm ourselves**. The amour that God is talking about is his word. So we are told to arm ourselves with the word of God. Which is the sword of the spirit.
2. The **same mind** here is referring to Christ, it is that we are to arm our mind with the word of God, which is our defense in the flesh.
3. You see the bible says here in verse 2 that we or..... **he should no longer live the rest of our time in the flesh to the lusts of men**. But we are to live as the scripture says**but to the will of God**.
4. So the will of God is that we are to live in his word. We are to arm ourselves with the word of God.
5. So to live according to the will of God, it is the opposite to living according to the will of the gentiles as mentioned in Verse 3.
6. **The gentiles will was to walk** in lasciviousness, lusts, excess of wine, revellings, banquetings, and abominable idolatries:

7. The bible says in verse 19, that **when we suffer according to the will of God**, it is God who will keep their souls to him in well doing. God is the faithful creator and therefore he is able to keep your souls as you persevere in his word according to his will.
8. Suffering in this world is no exception to being a believer. But those who do Gods will do suffer even as a result of the fallen world, but the end is eternal with God.
 - So as we see that the worlds will –is as the Gentiles) it is for the unbeliever to commit all these lustful things mentioned, and that they also expect everyone to follow and do that which they do.
 - But God said we as believers need to live according to his will. We need to be separate. We need to be set apart. We need to be holy and not take part of the worlds system. That is what he told us.

Ephesians 5:17 ¹⁷ **Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is.**

- ✓ Therefore as God said, we need to study the scriptures that we should not be unwise to the will of God, but to know what his will is.
- ✓ Most of Gods will is found in the bible. Most of all the questions that we will have will be answered by the bible.

But there are examples of things that the bible might not cover. Such as.

Like what person should I date, or what person should I marry, or what car should I buy, or where should I stay, or should I buy a house or should I rent.

Those types of answers are not specifically found in the bible. But what we should do first is make sure that we are not breaking one of Gods laws, and then we should seek Gods wisdom through prayer that he may guide and direct us.

That is biblical. Because then we are not breaking one of Gods commandments, we are not being foolish to God, we not going against him by not seeking the answer from the scriptures first.

- ✓ These types of questions are perfectly legitimate to put to prayer and to ask God for his guidance on these matters.
- ✓ That's when you can make your own decisions, or ask the Lord to guide you.
- ✓ That's when you can put those requests to prayer. And then use your free will to make you decision which is biblical.

There are over seventeen verses as I said before in the bible that speak of your free will, to make the choices that you need to make. Unlike the Calvinists who say that you have no free will. They will just put that down to Gods sovereignty.

- ✓ We can make our own choices so long as it does not violate his commandments.
- ✚ But you know what – sovereignty is found – Zero times in the bible. Not even once.
- ✚ God is the one who directs us when we are in his will.

- Look at Proverbs 3:5-6 and Romans 8:26-28

Proverb 3:5-6: ⁵ Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. ⁶ **In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.**

Romans 8:26 ²⁶ Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. ²⁷ **And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God.** ²⁸ And **we know** that **all things work together for good to them that love God,** to them who are the called according to his purpose.

- God is the one who will direct your path if you are in his will.
- You have no guarantees if you are not in God's will.

But God has given us a promise if we seek his will first.

Matthew 6: ³³ But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; **and all these things shall be added unto you.**

PRAYER.....CLOSE