

Knowing the Will of God

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The Source: Scripture
Ephesians 5:15-21

The Paradigm: Prayer
This study utilizes prayer as the analogy for the biblical method of discerning God's will. After all, if we are praying for the knowledge of His will, the biblical exercise of prayer must be involved.

The Pattern:

1. Being prepared to know the will of God—John 15:7.
 - a. The conditions:
 - “If you abide in Me” – Fellowship (cf. 1 John 1:9)
 - “If ... My words abide in you” – Obedience
 - b. The fulfillments:
 - “ask whatever you desire”
 - “it shall be done for you”
2. Being cautious about our desires — Jeremiah 17:9-10; 1 Corinthians 4:3-5.
3. Being assured of God's will — 1 John 5:14.
4. Being aware of how knowledge of God's will is produced — Philippians 2:13.

Recommended Reading: Gary T. Meadors, *Decision Making God's Way* (Grand Rapids, Mich.: Baker Books, 2003).

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