

DISCOVERING GOD'S WILL

PART ONE

Pastor Ken Ritz * Jan 8, 2012 * New Life Vineyard Church

He will make your paths straight!

Proverbs 3:6

God's Will Includes:

1. God's Providential Will

- God's Providential Will includes the things God has planned that He will definitely do.

But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son,
Galatians 4:4

...and everyone was judged according to what they had done... All whose names were not found written in the book of life were thrown into the lake of fire.

Revelation 20:13-15

- God's providential will is not dependent on our faith or obedience, but God uses people to accomplish it.
- The more familiar we become with God's providential will, the easier it is for us to identify his will for our personal lives.

2. God's Moral Will

- The moral will of God includes the things God has given us as commands, both negative and positive; the moral choices he desires us to make.

It is God's will that you should be sanctified: that you should avoid sexual immorality.

1 Thessalonians 4:3

3. God's Personal Will

- God's personal will concerns all the decisions we need to make for our daily lives.
- The more familiar I become with the Providential Will of God, and the more obedient I become to the Moral Will of God, the easier it will be for me to discover the Personal Will of God.
- The biggest problem is not God's unwillingness to show me his will, but my unwillingness to follow through.

God does not give us direction for consideration --- he assumes participation.

Trust in the Lord with your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.

Proverbs 3:5-6

"We receive enlightenment, only in proportion as we give ourselves more and more fully to God, by humble submission and love. We do not first see, and then act. We act, and then see. And that is why the man or woman who waits to see clearly before he will believe, never starts on the journey."

Thomas Merton.

- It is surrender to the known will of God that paves the way for discovery of the unknown will of God.

Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. 3 For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God.

Colossians 3:2-3

When Christ, who is your life...

Colossians 3:4

"If you're someone who puts their faith in Jesus, then trust him in being led. To me, it's not rocket science... your life is God's, so let him do as he wills with it." Zac Levi (TV Actor, "Chuck")