

**I Don't Know What to Do!**  
*Finding and Following the Will of God*  
**Why are Christians so Confused about God's Will?**  
*Grace Fellowship Church / Pastor Brad Bigney / August 8, 2010*

**Four Problems that Confuse Us**

**Problem #1: A Desire to Please God**

**2 Corinthians 5:9** "Therefore we make it our aim, whether present or absent, to be well pleasing to Him."

*"God must have a specific path picked out for me... so I don't want to miss it or let Him down. I want to please God!"*

God hasn't called us to put ourselves through the misery of over-spiritualizing every decision.

**So what's the Answer? Do this:** As You Aim to Please God ~ Let God be Mysterious Without Insisting that Every Decision You Make has to be Infused with Mind-Boggling Mystery

**Paul Tripp** "The Bible does not give you sheet music, but it gives everything that you need to live in harmony with the God who has written the melody." *Lost in the Middle*, Paul David Tripp, pp. 202-203

**Problem #2: Unrealistic Expectations**

**1 Peter 1:1** "... to the pilgrims of the Dispersion in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia."

**1 Peter 2:11** "Beloved, I beg you as sojourners and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts which wage war against the soul."

**The Message** "Friends, this world is not your home, so don't make yourselves cozy in it. Don't indulge your ego at the expense of your soul."

Knowing Christ, and having faith in Christ does NOT guarantee you that everything's going to go your way. God didn't promise that.

"We figure we should be able to find a great job right out of college in a great location that provides the same standard of living our parents have right now, and involves us in the world's troubles in a way that would make Bono proud. We want it all—all we need is for God to show us the way... we need the firm reminder that many of us expect too much out of life... when every experience and situation *must* be rewarding and put us on the road to complete fulfillment, then suddenly the decisions about where we live, what house we buy, what dorm we're in, and whether we go with tile or laminate take on weighty significance. There is just too much riding on every decision. I'm pretty sure most of us would be more fulfilled if we didn't fixate on fulfillment quite so much." *Just Do Something*, Kevin DeYoung, p. 30-32

**So what's the Answer? Do this:** Lower the Bar on Your Expectations for this Life and Spend More Time Cultivating Contentment Instead of Trying Nail Down God's Will.

**Philippians 4:11-13** <sup>11</sup> Not that I speak in regard to need, for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content: <sup>12</sup> I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound. Everywhere and in all things I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. <sup>13</sup> I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."

**Problem #3: Too Many Options**

The word 'Decide' comes from the Latin word '*decidere*' and it means 'to cut off' – which explains why so many people struggle to make a decision. We can't stand the thought of cutting off any of our options.

**So what's the Answer? Do this:** Do What You Can to Eliminate Options by Keeping the Main Thing the Main Thing

As a Christian you need to be asking yourself:

- How could I most effectively and fruitfully serve the local church... the Bride of Christ?
- How can I make a maximum investment of my resources – time... money... talent – into God's kingdom?
- Where can I make the greatest impact for eternity and what matters most?
- With the gifts... talents... life experience... and personality makeup that God has given me – how and where can I lift up Christ most?

**Philippians 3:8-14** <sup>7</sup> But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ. <sup>8</sup> Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ <sup>9</sup> and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith; <sup>10</sup> that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death, <sup>11</sup> if, by any means, I may attain to the resurrection from the dead. <sup>12</sup> Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me. <sup>13</sup> Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, <sup>14</sup> I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus."

**Problem #4: Fear**

*"God, don't let anything unpleasant happen to me or anyone I know."*

"Because we have confidence in God's will of decree, we can radically commit ourselves to His will of desire, without fretting over a hidden will of direction." *Just Do Something*, Kevin DeYoung, p. 41

**So what's the Answer? Do this:** Move Forward by Focusing on Who God is Rather than Delaying and Demanding that God First Assure You that His Plan for Your Life that is Risk-Free and Hurt-Free

**Joshua 1:9** "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous, do not be terrified, do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go."

**Romans 8:28-29** "And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose. For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren."

"I may not know the way He leads, but well I know my God!"

**Martin Luther**

**Daniel 11:32b** "...but the people who know their God will display strength and take action."

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*For Personal Reflection*

- In your search for God's will, have you struggled with any of the four problems discussed in the sermon?
- What action(s) will you take to move forward with a commitment or a decision you have been struggling with?