



CHRIST AND THE CHURCH

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PART 3: KNOWING GOD, KNOWING HIS WILL

The better we get to know a person, the more acquainted we become with his or her desires. Remember: as a member of the body of Christ, the church, God loves you, and He *wants* you to know His will. Seek it . . . discover it . . . and then do it. His way is always best!

A. CENTRAL QUESTION



I know it's God's will for the big things in life, such as his desire that all people accept Jesus Christ as their Savior, but how do I know God's will for the more specific day-to-day things?

B. EPHESIANS 1:15-18 (NIV)

For this reason, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all God's people,¹⁶ I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers.¹⁷ I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better.¹⁸ I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people. (Eph. 1:15-18 NIV)

C. WHY GOD WANTS YOU TO KNOW HIS WILL

1. He wants to establish an intimate, personal relationship with you (Ephesians 1:17).
2. He wants your heart and mind to be in complete harmony with His purpose and His kingdom (Ephesians 1:18).
3. He wants you to learn complete trust and dependence on Him (Psalm 55:22).
4. He wants your spiritual welfare to be dependent on Him and independent of external circumstances (Matthew 6:34).

5. He knows you are human and that you don't always understand what is happening in your life (Proverbs 3:5-6).
6. He wants you to experience the richness of His love in our everyday lives (James 1:17).

D. DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. When are most Christian believers most likely to seek God's will?
2. What might be some reasons why Christian believers don't want to know God's will?
3. Do you think God reveals his will even when Christian believers don't pursue it? Why or why not?

E. THREE PRINCIPLES FOR KNOWING GOD'S WILL

1. Principle No. 1: God's will is based on an obedient relationship, not on a system (John 14:23; Revelation 3:20). "Seek the guide, not guidance."
2. Principle No. 2: God allows you to make decisions within His limits. His wisdom helps us fill the gap between His principles, promises, and commands.
3. Principle No. 3: God's will never conflicts with His Word.

F. APPLICATION: IN ORDER TO KNOW GOD'S WILL...

1. I must have a _____ with Him (Ephesians 1:17).
2. I must make myself _____ before Him (Luke 22:42b).
3. I must obey His _____ in the Bible (Psalm 1:1-3; 19:7; 119:105, 130; Joshua 1:6-9).
4. I must use the absence or presence of God's _____ to guide me (Romans 8:6; Philip. 4:6-7).
5. I must pursue His _____ when making decisions (Ephesians 1:17).
6. I must expect God to give me a _____ (Matthew 7:7-8). It may be either: yes, no, wait, or the answer is already in His Word.
