

Discovering the Will of God

Essential #1: The Word of God

If you are to discover and know the will of God, then you must discover and know the Word of God. One of the reasons for this is because **the Word of God is the will of God**. It is the divine source of instruction in how we should conduct ourselves as believers in Jesus Christ; it is the supreme owner's manual of life. Whenever we need to know how we should act or speak, we can simply look it up in God's Word and know for certain that we have the will of God for that situation. Do you ever wonder how you should be as an employee, regardless of how your boss treats you? Look it up in His word. How about who your friends should be, or what kind of person you should date or marry? It's all in His word—from friends to finances, divorce to discipline, from being a child to being a parent—when it comes to *how* we should live our lives, you can find it in God's Word. There is another reason for knowing the Word of God: for the purpose of knowing His will.

In the book of Joshua we read “This book of the law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success”. Joshua 1:8 (NKJ) The only way we can do the things that God wants us to do is by meditating on the Word of God. You see, the Word of God is not just what God is saying to us. It is also the source of our ability to carry out His instructions. The book of the law represents God's will to man, and the only way we can fulfill what it teaches is by keeping it in our spirits.

If you obey Him by meditating on the Word, it will empower you to do what the Word says (which is His will). By doing this you will make your way prosperous, and you will have good success. The word translated as **success** comes from a Hebrew word that is found nowhere else in scripture; it means **to deal wisely in the affairs of life**. Ephesians 5:17 says not to be unwise but instead to know the will of the Lord. **God's Word enables you to do God's will** and it makes you wise, which is the will of God for you. This just goes to show that you can't separate God's word from His will.

In the book of John we read the words of our Lord, “If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you” John 15:7 (NKJ). Notice it says *if His words abide in you*. The word *abide* literally means *to remain*. In Joshua, it said that God’s Word should not depart from our mouths. This matches what Jesus was saying in John 15—His Word must remain in us. This is very significant when we look at one more scripture: “Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know he hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him” 1John 5:14-15 (NKJ). The connection here is obvious; **if His Word abiding in us allows us to have whatever we ask, and we have what we ask because we are asking according to His will, then God’s word in us causes our desires to become agreeable to His will and we receive that which we ask of Him.** In addition to this, the Bible says, “...For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. A good man out of the good treasures of his heart brings forth good things...” Matthew 12:34-35 (NKJ). If we have the Word in us, then out of our hearts will spring the Word. And since the Word is synonymous with His will, as we speak the Word, His Will shall be manifested.

One more note before we move on: **You don’t have to be a scholar to know and understand the Word of God.** You don’t need to know Greek and Hebrew, or have a degree, to understand what God is saying to you about His will for your life. As wonderful as it may be to have a title at the beginning or end of your name, you don’t need them to have a firm grasp of the Word. Now, don’t misunderstand me; education is great and I encourage everyone to get as much of it as you can, but don’t let the lack of a formal education cause you to believe that you can’t know and understand the scriptures.

In Grecian culture there were two types of Greek language. One was a very highbrow, aristocratic form of the language; the other was what we would describe as uncultivated vernacular. I share this with you because one of the reasons the educated Greeks rejected the Holy scriptures as being truly the Word of God, was the fact that the transcripts were written in the form of Greek that they considered to be a lower grade of language. You see, God intended for everyone and anyone to be able to read and understand His Word. It wasn’t written so that only a select few could enjoy the riches of its content. It was written for all.

Now that we have a firm understanding of the necessity of knowing the Word of God, as it relates to knowing and doing the will of God, let’s move on to the next essential.