

# Discerning God's Will

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## Summary

God wants to give us wisdom and insight on the large and small decisions we face in our lives.

## Acts 1:24-26

1. What's going on in this story?
2. What is casting lots?
  - a. Used to discern God's will in OT. God led Israel in this practice (ummin and thumin) of rolling dice which allowed God providence over change to make His will known.
3. Why don't we cast lots today?
  - a. Consider the rest of the book of Acts. Do you see casting lots occurring anywhere else in the book? After Acts 2 the Holy Spirit fills the people and the powerful presence of God is once again with His people. Its hallmark is that He is clearly leading them and making His will known. There is no need for casting lots. (Acts 8:39, 10:19, 11:12, 13:4, 16)

*Of course we don't hear an audible voice, so how does God make his will known to us?*

*Can you think of a time when God clearly gave you direction and, if so, How did he do it?*

## On a daily basis, how do you know where you're going? We use our senses!

Similarly, we discern God's will through our spiritual senses.

*What do you think are some of these senses?*

Preface: All of these senses are with the belief that we are walking in the power of the Spirit. Confession, Repentance & Surrender.

## God gives us direction through:

### His Word - makes clear God's general will on a variety of issues

- **Psalm 119:105**
    - How does God use scripture to inform our decisions?
    - What level of priority would you give to Scripture in your decision making?
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- Caution: taking passages out of context

## Prayer

- **Philippians 4:6**
  - How have you seen God give guidance through prayer?
  - How does prayer relieve the anxiety involved in decision making?

## Godly Counsel

- **Proverbs 15:22 & 14:8,15**
- **God gives wisdom through other mature Christians and from our own experiences over the years.**
  - Any funny superstitious stories of trying to discern God's will?
  - From what kind of person would you seek counsel?
  - What insight do these verses provide in making decisions?

## Circumstances

- **Romans 1:10-13**
  - How have you seen God give counsel through circumstances?
  - Have you ever see God confirm a decision you've made after the fact?
  - What might be the danger of simply going by circumstantial clues?

## Surrendered Desires & Emotions

- Psalm 37:4
  - What do you think it means to delight in the Lord?
  - How has God used your delight in Him to give you the desires of your heart?
- Emotions can be unreliable by themselves, but God's Spirit is not truncated from our emotions and desires. What do you want to do? Is that surrendered to God?

## Alignment

1. Alignment of our spiritual senses is another important principle of discerning God's will.

- a. Often we use multiple senses to navigate where we are going in the physical world.

## Consider what we talked about last week:

Stewardship and everything we have is from God.

Romans 12:1,2 - If we are fully yielded to Christ, you will be able to recognize and not gloss over clues pointing in other directions. This is the idea of a living sacrifice, totally given over to following God's will in all things.

We looked at 5 senses- can anyone name them?

We want to always look for the convergence of clues, and alignment of our different senses. Do not rely on one sense, or one avenue of information. Second, we must be wholly submitted to God's will, otherwise we will always "fudge" the results.

Any areas in which you desire to know God's will?

What have you already done to see His will?

What do you want to start doing to discern God's will for your life?

## Prayer