

Proving the Will of God

How To Determine the Will of God

Romans 12:1-2

Introduction:

Major Decisions: There are many situations in life when we are forced to make decisions regarding our plans or the plans of God. It is in those circumstances that we need to “prove” the perfect will of God.

- | | |
|--|---------------------------------|
| ?? Your career choice | ?? Retirement |
| ?? Person you are to marry | ?? Missions Trip |
| ?? Whether to get married or stay single | ?? House to Buy |
| ?? Job Opportunity | ?? Ministry to serve in |
| ?? Major move to new community | ?? Changing churches |
| ?? Have surgery or not | ?? Full time Christian ministry |

Minor Decisions: There are other daily, less important decisions that we have to make which appear unimportant and in which we can use our God-given reasoning powers to make a decision.

- | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| ?? Clothes to wear | ?? Vacation location |
| ?? Turn right or turn left | ?? Kind of car to buy |
| ?? Go to a movie or not | ?? What to buy for birthday gift |

God does have a perfect plan for your life. God is concerned about you making the right decisions. God wants to lead you. God wants to bless you. God wants to make you a blessing.

Jeremiah 29:11, John 10:10, Psalm 37:23

Romans 12:1-2 - it all begins here. The surrender of body and mind to determine God’s will.

I. Examples for the Old Testament

II. Examples for the New Testament

III. Principles We Can Glean From Scripture

I. Examples for the Old Testament

1. Moses - pillar of fire and cloud

Exodus 13:21 And the LORD went before them by day in a pillar of a cloud, to lead them the way; and by night in a [pillar of fire](#), to give them light; to go by day and night:

2. Priests - Urim and Thummim

Exodus 28:30 And thou shalt put in the breastplate of judgment the [Urim](#) and the Thummim; and they shall be upon Aaron's heart, when he goeth in before the LORD: and Aaron shall bear the judgment of the children of Israel upon his heart before the LORD continually.

3. Abraham - Choosing a Wife for Isaac

Genesis 24:11 And he made his camels to kneel down without the city by a well of water at the time of the evening, *even* the time that women go out to draw *water*. 12 And he said, O LORD God of my master Abraham, I pray thee, send me good speed this day, and shew kindness unto my master Abraham. 13 Behold, I stand *here* by the well of water; and the daughters of the men of the city come out to draw water: 14 And let it come to pass, that the damsel to whom I shall say, Let down thy pitcher, I pray thee, that I may drink; and she shall say, Drink, and I will give thy camels drink also: *let the same be she that* thou hast appointed for thy servant Isaac; and thereby shall I know that thou hast shewed kindness unto my master.

4. Gideon - the fleece

Judges 6:37 Behold, I will put a fleece of wool in the floor; *and* if the dew be on the fleece only, and *it be* dry upon all the earth *beside*, then shall I know that thou wilt save Israel by mine hand, as thou hast said. 38 And it was so: for he rose up early on the morrow, and thrust the fleece together, and wringed the dew out of the fleece, a bowl full of water.

5. Jonah - lots were cast

Jonah 1:7 And they said every one to his fellow, Come, and let us cast [lots](#), that we may know for whose cause this evil *is* upon us. So they cast [lots](#), and the lot fell upon Jonah.

6. King Belshazzar - Handwriting on the Wall

Daniel 5:4 They drank wine, and praised the gods of gold, and of silver, of brass, of iron, of wood, and of stone. 5 In the same hour came forth fingers of a man's hand, and wrote over against the candlestick upon the plaster of the wall of the king's palace: and the king saw the part of the hand that wrote. 6 Then the king's countenance was changed, and his thoughts troubled him, so that the joints of his loins were loosed, and his knees smote one against another.

II. Examples for the New Testament

1. Angel Visits

Matthew 1:20 But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost. (Matthew 2:13, Matthew 2:19)
(Peter in prison, Acts 5:19; Philip in Acts 8:26)

2. Casting Lots -

Acts 1:26 And they gave forth their lots; and the lot fell upon Matthias; and he was numbered with the eleven apostles.

3. Dreams & Visions

Acts 10:9 On the morrow, as they went on their journey, and drew nigh unto the city, Peter went up upon the housetop to pray about the sixth hour: 10 And he became very hungry, and would have eaten: but while they made ready, he fell into a trance,

4. Prophetic Utterances

Acts 21:4 And finding disciples, we tarried there seven days: who said to Paul through the Spirit, that he should not go up to Jerusalem. Acts 21:11 And when he was come unto us, he took Paul's girdle, and bound his own hands and feet, and said, Thus saith the Holy Ghost, So shall the Jews at Jerusalem bind the man that owneth this girdle, and shall deliver *him* into the hands of the Gentiles. 12 And when we heard these things, both we, and they of that place, besought him not to go up to Jerusalem. Acts 11:28 And there stood up one of them named Agabus, and signified by the Spirit that there should be great dearth throughout all the world: which came to pass in the days of Claudius Caesar.

5. Circumstances

1 Corinthians 16:9 For a great door and effectual is opened unto me.

2 Corinthians 2:12 Furthermore, when I came to Troas a door was opened unto me of the Lord,

Colossians 4:3 Withal praying also for us, that God would open unto us a door of utterance, to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I am also in bonds:

6. Witness of the Spirit

Acts 16:6 Now when they had gone throughout Phrygia and the region of Galatia, and were forbidden of the Holy Ghost to preach the word in Asia,

Acts 11:12 Peter with Cornelius

Acts 20:23 Paul going to Jerusalem

7. Reason & Purpose

Acts 19:21 Paul purposed in the spirit, when he had passed through Macedonia and Achaia, to go to Jerusalem, saying, After I have been there, I must also see Rome.

Acts 20:16 For Paul had determined to sail by Ephesus, because he would not spend the time in Asia: for he hasted, if it were possible for him, to be at Jerusalem the day of Pentecost.

8. Fasting and Prayer

Acts 13:2 - Choosing Barnabas and Saul

III. Principles We Can Glean From Scripture

When considering important decision and the will of God it is necessary to walk through these steps to discern the mind of God. Using any one of them alone can leave us vulnerable to error.

These things you should consider carefully:

1. **The Word** - Psalms 119:130 The entrance of thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple. Psalms 119:105 Thy word *is* a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path. (Hebrews 4:12, Psalm 19: 7-14)
2. **The Spirit** - meaning a burden from God: Romans 8:14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. 16 The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: John 14:26 But the Comforter, *which is* the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you. (Acts 8:5, 26)
3. **The Voice** - Isaiah 30:21 And your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, This is the way, walk in it, when you turn to the right hand, and when you turn to the left. John 16:13 Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, *that* shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come. 1 Kings 19:12 a still small voice.
4. **The Circumstances** - open and closed doors: Revelation 3:8 I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it: 1 Corinthians 16:9 For a great door and effectual is opened unto me. 2 Corinthians 2:12 Furthermore, when I came to Troas a door was opened unto me of the Lord.
5. **The Wise Counselors** - Proverbs 11:14 Where no counsel *is*, the people fall: but in the multitude of counselors *there is* safety. Proverbs 15:22 Without counsel purposes are disappointed: but in the multitude of counselors they are established
6. **The Reason & Logic** - Acts 16:10 And after he had seen the vision, immediately we endeavored to go into Macedonia, assuredly gathering that the Lord had called us for to preach the gospel unto them. Acts 19:21 After these things were ended, Paul purposed in the spirit, when he had passed through Macedonia and Achaia, to go to Jerusalem, saying, After I have been there, I must also see Rome. Acts 20:16 For Paul had determined to sail by Ephesus, because he would not spend the time in Asia: for he hasted, if it were possible for him, to be at Jerusalem the day of Pentecost.
7. **The Peace of God** - Psalms 29:11 The LORD will give strength unto his people; the LORD will bless his people with peace. Isaiah 55:12 For ye shall go out with joy, and be led forth with peace: the mountains and the hills shall break forth before you into singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap *their* hands. Philippians 4:7 And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. Colossians 3:15 And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful.

Prayer & Fasting -

Bathe the thing in prayer. Soak in the Lord's Presence. Rest in the Lord. Wait patiently for him.