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Knowing the will of god for your life pdf

When I was a young man, I seemed to constantly wrestle with knowing God's will for my life. More than anything, I wanted to follow His plan. Interestingly, now that I'm old (currently 47 years old), I still struggle with doing his will in my life. I have come to learn that this is not just something that a young person does early in life; it is a lifelong quest to stay in the exact center of His plan and to trust it! So, then, how can we know God's plan for our lives? In the last twenty-five years that I have been in office, I have discovered eight important keys to knowing God's will and planning for your life. Here they are: 1) Walk with God. For starters, if you are interested in knowing God's plan for your life, then you need to learn to go with God. You need to develop a relationship with Him. Christianity is about relationship rather than just religion. And then you have to cultivate your relationship with God. You must seek to know Him and not just seek to know about Him. You will cultivate that relationship best by spending time in His Word, taking time for prayer, and taking every opportunity you can to be involved in church and small group Bible study opportunities. As you seek these disciplines in your life, God will begin the first steps to reveal His plan to you. Proverbs 3:5-6 Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own mind; 6 Recognize Him in all your ways, and He will guide your ways. 2) Surrender your will to God. Many times when we say we seek God's will, what we really want to say to God is this: OK, God, here's what I plan to do. Now I need you to rubber stamp this, okay? I must tell you that this is not really effective in finding His true will. Before God begins to reveal His will to you, you must be committed to doing whatever He desires you to do. God is likely to be slow to show you His plan if He knows you're unlikely to make that plan anyway. Romans 12:1-2 I therefore ask you, brethren, through the mercy of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. 2 And not to be aderated into this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that it can prove what is the good and acceptable and perfect will of God. Jesus was willing to die for us, so shouldn't we be willing to live for Him? When we surrender to Him, that is when He really begins to direct our steps. 3) Obey what you already know to be God's will. Many people seem to want to know what God's plan is for their lives, but they overlook the fact that 98% of His will is already separated carefully by His Word. God is very clear about many, many aspects of His will. For example, it is clear His plan that we refrain from sexual immorality (1 Thessalonians 4:3). If we do not obey the things that God has shown us clear to be why would we think he would reveal further further about His plan for our lives? Obedience is an important first step. 4) Seek godly input. An important component of finding God's will is to seek contributions from godly counselors in your life. If you currently don't have 3-4 godly mentors, then I would highly recommend that you seek them outright. Think of it this way: you should understand that you are basically a composite of the five people you spend the most time with. So then it is important that you choose these five people well. If you choose to surround yourself with godly counselors, they will be crucial in helping you discern God's plan for your life. But if you surround yourself with people who are far from God, your hope of finding His best for your life will be greatly diminished. Proverbs 11:14 Where there is no council, the people fall; but in the diversity of advisors there is certainty. The Church is designed to help you a lot with this. I want to encourage you to be in church every time the doors open. The more you engage with a community of believers, the greater your chances of finding godly men and women who can help you discern God's will. 5) Pay attention to how God has connected you. God has created you to fulfill a specific role in this world. There is no one else who can achieve entirely what God has deliberately created you to do. The Apostle Peter gives us this admonition: 1 Peter 4:10 Who has each received a gift, minister it to each other, as good stewards of the merciful grace of God. God has given every one of us to accomplish a special mission for which we alone were created. How amazing is that? Wow! So, when you are trying to discover God's will for your life, pay attention to how He has gifted you. His plan for you will always be directly related to the gifts He has given you. The big news is that you will automatically be good at whatever it is that He has called you to do! 6) Listen to the Spirit of God. I experienced a major turning point in my own prayer life when I learned to just shut up while Praying. It might sound strange to you, and it seemed strange to me at first. You see, I used to do all the talking when I prayed to God. But then, several years ago, I read Bill Hybel's book, Too Busy Not To Pray. That book completely changed the way I approached God through prayer. Since I read that book, I have added an important component to my prayer life: listening. I take time to listen to what God might have to say to me. Practically, the way I go about it is to bring a notepad with me when I sit down to pray. Then I write at the top of several pages things like the following: What is the next step in my career? What's the next step in my department? What's the next step for my family? What's the next step for my marriage? What is the next step in my education? What is the next step in my finances? During my prayer time, I meditate on issues like the above. Often God comes start flooding my heart with information on one or more of these issues. I write as soon as I can as He speaks to my heart. What a wonderful experience that is to know His Spirit on me, guide my thoughts and words. Through such experiences, He has often shown me with great clarity what His will is for my life. I long for those experiences when He speaks to me like that. Those times are really life-changing. John 10:27 My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. 7) Listen to your heart. In addition to listening to the Spirit, I also recommend listening to your heart. To understand my point here, consider the following passage: Psalm 37:4-5 — Rejoice also in the LORD, and He will give you the desires of your heart. 5 Take the way to the LORD, also trust in Him, and he shall bring it to pass. (NKJV) I love this passage, because it shows me that, when I walk with the Lord, he will actually let me do many really cool things that I actually love to do! When you are close to Him, He actually begins to shape your desires so that you desire the things He has already called you to do. So then His plan will actually be a super exciting adventure. I always have the most fun in life when I do God's will. And that's because He shapes my wantar to want to do the things that He has actually created me. 8) Take a look at your circumstances. God often clearly shows his plan for our lives by setting up the circumstances in obvious ways. And He also shows us what His will is not for us to do in the same way. It's not His will that you take the job that isn't offered to you. If you are 5' 6 tall and weigh 125 lbs., it is unlikely that God has created you to play professional football. Over the years, I've discovered that God is pretty good at opening and closing doors. He also did so for the Apostle Paul and his enterouge in the Acts. Take a look at this passage: Acts 16:6-10 6 Now that they had gone through Phrygia and the region of Galatians, they were forbidden by the Holy Spirit to preach the word in Asia. 7 After they had come to Mysia, they tried to enter Bithynia, but the Spirit did not let them come. 8 So by passing Mysia, they came down to Troas. 9 And a vision appeared unto Paul in the night. A man from Macedonia stood and pleaded with him and said; Come over to Macedonia and help us! 10 Now after he had seen the vision, immediately we sought to go to Macedonia and conclude that the Lord had called us to preach the gospel unto them. So even Paul had to face closed doors in his service. God often uses closed doors to show us clearly what He doesn't want us to do. And he also uses open doors sometimes to show us what he wants us to do. Of course, this doesn't mean that every open door is definitely God's plan, but it helps to give you some basic direction. A final thought: Next time you start pondering God's plan your life, I would encourage you to reflect on the above eight keys. Using Use principles to help you hone in on His plan. And when you seek His will clearly, you will find it. For more, visit Sensible Faith. Believe.

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