

Following God's Will

Introduction:

To grow in your spiritual life involves the ability to know and do the will of God. The Psalmist realized he needed to be taught the will of God. "Teach me to do thy will: for thou art my God..." (Ps. 143:10). There are five shining lights to seeing God's will clearly. Let's view them in order of importance.

5 Shining Lights:

I. **Instruction** of Scriptures (Psalm 119:105)

Four specific directives:

1. **Salvation** – 2 Peter 3:9
2. Separation – World – Romans 12:2
3. Sanctification – Purity – 1 Thessalonians 4:3
4. Spirit of Thanksgiving – 1 Thessalonians 5:18

How to Shine: Read your Bible daily.

II. **Impulse** of the Spirit (Romans 8:27)

5 methods of God communicating His message (Luke 24:44-45):

1. Personal **contact** – Audible (ex. Adam to Jacob) (Genesis 3:9); Dreams
2. Pillar and cloud – Direct and corporate (Ex. 14:19-20)
3. Breast plate – Urim and Thumim (Ex. 28:30); Ephod (1 Samuel 30:7-8)
4. **Designated** spokesperson – prophet or priest (theocratic government) (Jeremiah 1:9)
5. HOLY SPIRIT – PERSONAL contact (2 Peter 1:19-20) Final stage . . . back to the beginning . . .

How to Shine: Be aware of God prompting your attitude.

III. **Input** of Authority (Proverbs 24:6)

- Parents – Ephesians 6:1
- Pastors – Hebrews 13:7
- Police – Romans 13
- Employer – 1 Peter 3:18

How to Shine: Be honoring to those in your life.

IV. **Indicators** of Circumstances (Proverbs 8:12; Ephesians 1:8)

1. God's leading "Wisdom" – Direction - Instruction
2. Good logic "Prudence" – Details – Information

How to Shine: Be observant to your surroundings.

V. **Intent** of the Heart (Psalm 37:4; Ephesians 2:10)

What are your interests, skills, drives, capabilities, or preferences?

Danger: Reversing these "lights" and manipulating our desires and circumstances looking for God's stamp of approval.

"Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct thy paths." (Proverbs 3:5-6)

God's will is not a position but a **condition** of the heart.

How to Shine: Follow your **giftedness**.