

LIFE HACKS

Big Idea

How do you know what is God's will for your life? This is one of the most often asked questions. Pastor Curt's goal for this series is to help make the difficult stuff in our lives easier; knowing God's will can do that for us.

We often want God to bless our decision and agree with the way we have decided to go. *Now listen, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money." ... you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears ... then vanishes... you ought to say, "If it is the Lord's will, we will live and do this or that." (James 4:13-15)*

Pastor Curt described three components of God's will: 1) the sovereign will of God - what God is doing on the earth, 2) the moral will of God - what God has already said in His Word, and 3) the personal will of God - what God desires for my life. **The more I get to know the sovereign will of God and the better I understand the moral will of God, the better I will discern the personal will of God, what God desires for me.** Two big questions we need to ask regarding God's will. 1. What am I doing that I should not be doing? 2. What am I not doing that I should be doing?

Here are six filters we should use to discern God's will.

1. Am I in a right relationship with God?
2. What does the Bible say?
3. What would Jesus do?
4. Have I sought godly counsel?
5. Do I sense God's peace?
6. Is it my will or God's will (that I want)?

What's the best way to know God's will? Simple - want what God wants - period! Jesus said to them all: If anyone would come after Me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow Me. Luke 9:23 To know and live God's will for your life starts with surrendering your life to God, then surrendering each day after that to God.

Discussion Questions

- How does James 4:13-15 impact the way we make decisions? Or does it?
- How can we answer the question, "What would Jesus do?" in a particular situation to which the Bible does not speak directly? What part does the Holy Spirit play in that process?
- Pastor Curt described three components of God's will using a golf analogy. Discuss this.
- Groups are essential for spiritual growth. How can this group help each of us to know God's will?
- "God, I want what you want, PERIOD!" Why is that such a difficult place to come to? What kinds of things battle against that level of submission to God's will? How can we effectively deal with those things?

Prayer Focus

Lead your group in a moment of quiet reflection on the current decisions each of them is facing. Ask them to ask God, "Is this Your will, or my will?" Pray for them to have clarity in hearing God's response, and strength to accept His will.

Next Steps

Take an honest look at your own life, and identify areas in which you find it difficult to know God's will. "Find a verse." Make the investment to "search" for what God has already said about situations like yours. Write down those scriptures, commit them to memory, and apply them to your situation

Leader Tip

Be willing to be transparent with your group about times in which you have had difficulty in knowing God's will. Share the process that you went through to find clarity in that situation.