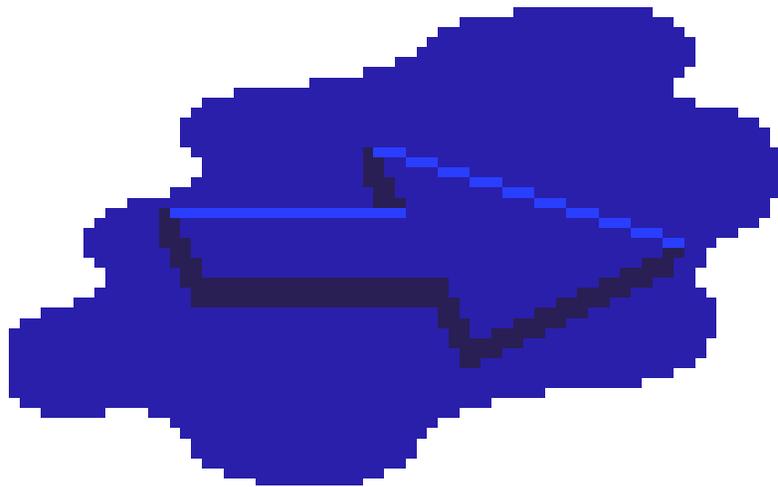


POINTERS
to the
WILL of GOD



by
Evangelist Norman R. Stevens

POINTERS to the WILL of GOD

We are going to look at six things that will help you in determining God's will for your life. However before we do that we must first look at three prerequisites. What is a prerequisite? A prerequisite is something that is needed beforehand. Before you can ever use these six things to help you in determining God's will for your life, you must first meet the following three prerequisites. First, you must be born again. In John 3:7, Jesus said, "Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again."

My friend! You must be born again if you are going to use these six things to help you in determining God's will for your life. Why is that? It would be absolutely impossible for you to understand spiritual truth apart from the new birth, apart from being saved. In I Corinthians 2:14, the Bible says, "But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned."

What is the Bible saying? It is simply saying this. The natural man does not grasp, comprehend, or understand spiritual truth because spiritual truth is spiritually discerned.

That's the natural man. He needs to be saved. He needs to be born again in order to grasp, comprehend, and understand spiritual truth.

What are you trying to say, preacher? It would be absolutely impossible for you to understand spiritual truth apart from the new birth. This is man's condition. Every human being in the world is born spiritually dead. He is born that way, spiritually dead. He is separated from God because of his sin. He is cut off completely, completely from a personal relationship with God Almighty. That is man's condition.

So let me ask you something. Are you saved? Are you born again? You must be born again in order to grasp, comprehend, and understand spiritual truth.

You say, Preacher! What must I do to be saved? The very first thing you must do is realize the fact that you are a sinner and in need of a Saviour. In Romans 3:23, the Bible says, "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God."

Because you are a sinner you are condemned to die. In Hebrews 9:27, the Bible says, "And as it is appointed unto men once to die...." In Romans 6:23, it says, "For the wages of sin is death." That includes eternal separation from God and the people of God in an awful place called hell. And you will never be able to work your way into heaven. In Ephesians 2:8-9, the Bible says, "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast."

God loved you so much that He gave His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ, to bear your sin and die in your place on the cross. He became your substitute. In II Corinthians 5:21, the Bible says, "For he hath made him *to be* sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him." And if man would simply believe on Christ he could be saved. In John 6:47, the Bible says, "Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me hath everlasting life." In Romans 10:9-10, it says, "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation." In Romans 10:13, the Bible says, "For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved."

Jesus did something great for you some 2,000 years ago outside the city of Jerusalem on an old rugged tree. He died in your place on the cross of Calvary that you might be born again.

Listen! You need to admit that you are a sinner. You need to believe on Christ as your crucified, buried, and risen Savior; and, if you will do that, you will receive forgiveness for all of your sins. You will receive His free gift of eternal life by faith; and then, and only then, will you ever be able to use these six things to help you in determining God's will for your life.

Please notice the second prerequisite: you must be in fellowship with God. You must be right with God. That makes sense. If you are truly saved, if you are born again, you need to be right with God. You need to be in fellowship with the Lord.

Don't you see! God wants you to walk in fellowship with Him every day. You can walk with God. You can talk to God; and God, through His Word and through His Spirit, can talk back to you.

Man was not created to walk distant from God. Man was created to walk up close with God. God met Adam and Eve in the cool of the day and walked and talked with them, the Bible says in Genesis chapter three.

Micah said that the whole duty of man is to walk up close with God. In Micah 6:8, the Bible says, "He hath shewed thee, O man, what *is* good; and what doth the LORD require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?"

It is not right! It is not right for the child of God not to live in fellowship with Jesus Christ every day. Listen to the Bible! In Psalm 66:18, it says, "If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me." What is the Bible saying? It is saying this: If there is something in your life today and you know it but you are not willing to confess and forsake it, you can pray, and God Almighty is not obligated to hear or answer your cry for help.

So let me ask you something! What separates your fellowship with God? I

am not talking about our relationship with God--once saved always saved. I am talking about our fellowship with God. What is it that separates your fellowship with God? It is sin. So don't go on in your sin. In Proverbs 28:13, the Bible says, "He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy." So let me ask you something else. What brings you back into fellowship with God? It is confession. In I John 1:9, the Bible says, "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

If you are not in fellowship with God today, the fault is not God's. The fault is yours.

Listen folks! You must be in fellowship with God Almighty if you are going to use these six things to help you in determining God's will for your life. It is that simple.

Please notice the third prerequisite: you must be obedient to the Word of God. That too makes sense. If you have been cleansed by the shed blood of Christ, if you have been redeemed by the precious blood of the Lamb, you need to be obedient to the Word of God. Your attitude should be, Lord, I am willing to do whatever you shew me from the Bible. In James 1:22, the Bible says, "But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves."

Don't go around saying "Jesus I love you; Jesus I love you," if you are not going to do what the Bible says to do, and if you do what it says not to do. Don't lie about it. Listen to the Bible. In John 14:21, it says, "He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me..." In John 14:23, the Bible says, "...If a man love me, he will keep my words..." In John 14:24, it says, "He that loveth me not keepeth not my sayings..." In John 14:15, Jesus said it this way, "If ye love me, keep my commandments."

You show the measure of your love toward Christ by your measure of obedience to the Word of God. Did you know that keeping God's commandments is an evidence of your love for Christ? It shows that your love is not in word and in profession only, but in deed and in action.

Listen folks! If you meet these three prerequisites today, you can use the following six things to help you in determining God's will for your life. First, the Bible will help you to determine God's will for your life. Second, prayer will help you to determine God's will for your life. Third, inner peace will help you to determine God's will for your life. Fourth, godly reasoning will help you to determine God's will for your life. Fifth, the godly advice of others will help you to determine God's will for your life. Sixth, circumstances of life will help you to determine God's will for your life.

Please notice number one: the Bible will help you determine God's will for your life. All you need to do is simply submit yourself to the teachings, to the principles, to the commandments of the Word of God.

In Psalm 119:9, the Bible says, "Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to thy word." In Psalm 119:11, it says, "Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee." Psalm 119:105 says, "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path."

Ladies and Gentlemen, the Bible will help you in determining God's will for your life. For example! God did not save you merely to get you out of hell. God did not save you merely to forgive you of your sins. God did not save you merely to take you to heaven. He did not do that. He saved you so that you might worship the Lord and serve Him. The Bible makes it very clear that you are to worship and serve God. In Luke 4:8, Jesus said, "...Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve." What was Jesus saying? He was simply saying this: Worship precedes service. You can serve without true worship, but you cannot truly worship God Almighty without serving Him.

So let me ask you something! Are you worshipping the Lord? Are you serving God? As a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ, you ought to be worshipping the Lord. You ought to be serving God. If you will get a high view of God today and get your heart cleansed by His sacrifice, you will serve Him because the Bible teaches us that a high view of God leads to a heart of worship, a desire for cleansing, and a willingness to serve the Lord.

The Bible gives you commandments to follow. In John 15:10, Jesus said, "If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love."

Is it all right to steal? What does the Bible have to say about it? In Exodus 20:15, it says, "Thou shalt not steal."

Is it all right to lie? What does the Bible have to say about it? In Exodus 20:16, it says, "Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour."

Is it all right for you to marry an unsaved man or woman? What does the Bible have to say about it? In II Corinthians 6:14-18, it says, "Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty."

The Bible also gives you principles to follow. Nowhere in the Word of God do you find the saying, "Don't smoke Camel cigarettes." However, you have principles in the Word of God to follow. In I Corinthians 6:19-20, the Bible says, "What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye

have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's."

Don't you see! You have the Holy Spirit of God living in you as a believer in Jesus Christ. The world recognizes the very fact that smoking is bad for your health.

Please notice number two: prayer will help you to determine God's will for your life. You ought to seek God in prayer before you ever make a decision in this life. You need to pray.

In James 4:2, the Bible says, "Ye have not, because...." And he gives you a reason "...Because ye ask not." That's the reason you have not--there is very little praying going on.

You need to acknowledge God through prayer. In Proverbs 3:5-6, the Bible says, "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."

You need to pray for wisdom. In James 1:5, the Bible says, "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him."

Sometimes fasting is required. In Matthew 17:15, a certain man came to Jesus and said, "Lord, have mercy on my son: for he is lunatick, and sore vexed...." In Matthew 17:16, he goes on to say, "And I brought him to thy disciple, and they could not cure him." In Matthew 17:17-18, Jesus said, "...O faithless and perverse generation, how long shall I be with you? how long shall I suffer you? bring him hither to me. And Jesus rebuked the devil; and he departed out of him: and the child was cured from that very hour."

In verse 19, the disciples said, "...Why could not we cast him out?" In Matthew 17:20-22, Jesus said unto them, "...Because of your unbelief: for verily I say unto you, If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you. Howbeit this kind goeth not out but by prayer and fasting."

Please notice number three: inner peace will help you determine God's will for your life. In Colossians 3:15, the Bible says, "And let the peace of God rule in your hearts...." In James 4:17, it says, "Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin." In Romans 14:22, the Bible says, "...Happy is he that condemneth not himself in that thing which he alloweth."

The peace of God should rule in every circumstance of life. If you don't have peace in doing something, don't do it. If you don't have peace in not doing something, you should be doing it. If you have any doubt in doing something, don't do it. If you have any doubt in not doing something, you should be doing it. It is that simple.

For example! I have no conviction against playing card games with my grandson. However, I have some Christian friends who would not play any type of card game whatsoever. They don't have peace in playing card games so they don't do it.

Notice number four: godly reasoning will help you to determine God's will for your life. In Colossians 3:16, the Bible says, "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom...."

How important is the Word of God in your life today? The Bible needs to be more than a devotional textbook. The Bible needs to be more than a sermon textbook for a preacher. If your relationship to this book is only something you are doing on Sunday morning, Sunday night, Wednesday night, or fifteen minutes a day, it will never fill you mind.

Don't you see! Godly reasoning comes from a Bible-filled mind. Listen to the Bible. In Philippians 4:13, it says, "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me." In Joshua 1:9, it says, "Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the LORD thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest." In Hebrews 13:5-6, Jesus said, "....I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee. So that we may boldly say, The Lord *is* my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me."

In Romans 12:19, the Bible says, "Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord." In Hebrews 11:6, Jesus said, "But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him." In Romans 1:17, the Apostle Paul said, "....The just shall live by faith." In II Corinthians 5:7, the Bible says, "For we walk by faith, not by sight." In Mark 11:22, Jesus said it this way, "....Have faith in God." That's good advice.

In Hebrews 4:15-16, the Bible says, "For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need." In I Thessalonians 5:18, it says, "In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you." In I Corinthians 10:13, the Bible says, "There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it." In Romans 8:28, it says, "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose."

In Philippians 4:4-5, the Bible says, "Rejoice in the Lord alway: and again I say, Rejoice. Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord is at hand." In Luke 18:1, Jesus said, "....men ought always to pray, and not to faint." In Proverbs 24:10, the Bible says, "If thou faint in the day of adversity, thy strength is small." In Nehemiah 8:10, it says, "....the joy of the LORD is your strength."

In I Peter 3:7, the Bible says, "Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered."

In Ephesians 5:25, it says, "Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it." In Romans 8:8, the Bible says, "So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God." In Psalm 46:10, it says, "Be still, and know that I am God..." In Philippians 4:19, it says, "But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus." In Galatians 6:7, the Bible says, "Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap."

Do you get the picture here? What are you saying, preacher? I am simply saying this: A Bible-filled mind will help you determine God's will for your life.

Please notice number five: the godly advice of others will help you to determine God's will for your life. In the book of Acts, we find the Apostle Paul on his way to Jerusalem. We also find disciples trying to persuade him not to go. They did so because they knew, through the Spirit, what was ahead of Paul in Jerusalem. In Acts 21:4, the Bible says, "And finding disciples, we tarried there seven days: who said to Paul through the Spirit, that he should not go up to Jerusalem."

In Acts 21:10-12, the prophet Agabus warned Paul of the danger also when he said, "And as we tarried there many days, there came down from Judaea a certain prophet, named Agabus. 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. And when we heard these things, both we, and they of that place, besought him not to go up to Jerusalem."

In Proverbs 11:14, the Bible says, "...but in the multitude of counsellors there is safety." So go to your pastor for godly advice. Seek out godly advice from a brother or sister in Christ who manifest the fruits of the Spirit. In Galatians 5:22-23, the Bible says, "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance..."

Don't get your spiritual advice from that brother or that sister in Christ who loves the world and the world loves them. Don't do that.

Listen folks! The lifestyle of the spiritual man is different from that of the world. The desires of the spiritual man are different from that of the world also.

Don't get your spiritual advice from the unsaved crowd, from the ungodly crowd. Don't you do that! In Psalm 1:1, the Bible says, "Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly..."

What are you trying to say, preacher? I am simply saying this: The righteous

man does not believe like wicked men, and the spiritual man does not behave like the world. In I John 2:15-16, the Bible says, "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world."

Please notice number six: circumstances of life will help you to determine God's will for your life. In Acts chapter twenty-seven, the Apostle Paul was on his way to Rome when the Lord directed him to the island of Melita where he shipwrecked. It was not Paul's desire to go to Melita, but God's desire for him!

Don't you want help in determining God's will for your life? Sure you do. We have noticed six things that will help you in determining God's will for your life—first, the Word of God; second, prayer; third, inner peace; fourth, Godly reasoning; fifth, the advice of others; and sixth, circumstances of life. All of these things will help you to determine God's will for your life.

How is a Person Saved?

Salvation is all of God. God does the saving. Just take God at His Word and claim His salvation by faith. You will never be able to work your way into heaven. God does not have a scale in heaven whereby He weighs your good and bad works. That is a lie of the Devil – Romans 3:24; Acts 4:12; Ephesians 2:8-9; Titus 3:5; I Peter 1:18; Romans 5:8.

Salvation is as simple as believing on Christ as the one who bore your sin, who died in your place, who was buried, and whom God resurrected from the dead – John 1:12, 3:16, 6:47; Acts 16:31; II Corinthians 5:21; Romans 10:9-10; Romans 10:13.

Simply admit that you are a sinner and believe on Christ as your crucified, buried, and risen Saviour. You will receive forgiveness for all of your sins. You will receive His free gift of eternal life by faith – Romans 3:10, 23; I Corinthians 15:3-4.

Jesus did a wonderful thing for you some 2,000 years ago on Calvary's cross. He died for you. He was buried for you. He rose again the third day for you, and nothing would thrill Him more than to save you today.

Won't you go to Him right now in prayer and tell Him in your own words that you will trust Him as your Saviour? Or pray this simple prayer: Dear Lord, I know I am a sinner. I believe Jesus died for me and that He arose from the grave. Here and now I ask You to forgive me of my sin and save me. In Jesus's name. Amen.

If you prayed that simple prayer, I would like to hear from you. Please contact me by e-mail or phone (813) 760-4028.

Evangelist Norman R. Stevens
602 Canterbury Road
Kings Mountain, NC 28086-9601
Phone: (813) 760-4028

E-mail: nrsevangelist@earthlink.net
<http://www.evangelistnormanstevens.com>