

How do I know God's Will?

This is one of those good news/bad news situations.

The good news is that based upon years (many) of living, countless conversations with many people and voluminous reading and study, we are convinced we can actually answer this question.

The bad news? You probably won't like the answer!

First, we must make a disclaimer for the Divine. Yahweh is not the Universal answer-matic. God does not seek to solve our every problem. Life has lessons we all must learn, exactly like students in school. The teacher is present to help, guide, offer hints...but the teacher (or parent, fellow students, whomever) does the student a disservice by solving the student's problems for him or her.

Life's lessons must be internalized in order to become part of the soul. Otherwise, they remain outside our grasp and useless to us.

God continually provides us with the situations we need in order to be able to learn and grow. Still, our lives often present decisions that must be made, with no clear or obvious answer. How do we decide what is right? Put within the religious context, what does God want? The answer is

In this moment, given everything you know, sense and feel, what you *think* is God's will for you, IS God's Will.

Let's put it another way

In your most honest and deepest self, what you conceive to be the highest, best and most loving thing to do IS, in this moment, God's Will.

The first key is **data**: knowledge and information. Do you have all the facts? What does the Bible say? Have you researched what the Saints have done in similar circumstances? What do your wisest friends say?

The second key is **honesty**. We've become experts at making excuses and rationalizing. Let's say your job pays well and you've become accustomed to the perks, but it feels kind of dirty working there. You've seen people of color treated badly, and you know women are sexualized because you hear it all the time. Certainly, you can rationalize and make excuses to support staying on the job, claiming for whatever reason that being there is God's Will, while in your heart you know it isn't true.

Oddly, however, we have found that honesty (or lack of it) isn't the real problem. Much more often, we find that people actually do know what God wants for their lives, yet they *refuse* to accept it and follow through! Sad to say, "enough-ness" is usually the real problem. We hear something like this, "If I were a different (had the right body, parents, education, etc.) / If I had the time (money, the right connections, etc.), I would be a (dancer, journalist, activist, politician, writer, traveler), but since I'm not (or I don't), *it's not for me*."

The only way to know God's Will is to follow His guidance and leading, whatever you know it to be. The better your data and the greater your honesty, the more probability you'll be right. Failure to follow God's guidance means living inside your own head and allowing your ego to lead. The longer we live an ego-led life puts God in a bind, because He will not violate your will, even if the ego is in charge of it. People who live from the ego are ignoring what God has placed in the heart. In moments of ego-weakness, God can jump in and try to get their attention, like a flaming angel at the foot of the bed...but mostly, God watches, saddened by all the self-inflicted pain.

Thankfully, we have a way-shower! Yeshua perfectly demonstrated how to live an egoless life, serving, sharing and loving all people, yet living balanced in the world.