

The expression “**Will of God**” is used in the **Bible** in two ways:

- **God's Sovereign Will** &
- **God's Moral Will**.

### God's Sovereign Will:

⚙️ **God's** “secret” plan...

**Yep** 👍 That determines everything that happens in the universe.

⚙️ **God's** sovereign will is secret...

**Nope** 🙅 Therefore it does not directly affect our decision making.

### God's Moral Will:

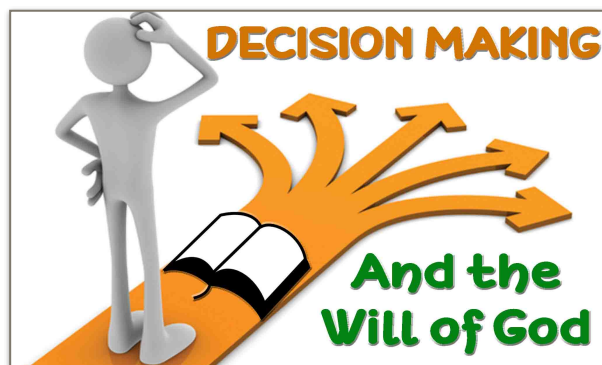
📖 **2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy 3:16-17...**

“All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.”

⚙️ **God's** revealed commands in the **Bible...**

**Yep** 👍 Teach how men ought to believe & live.

- It is the expression of the character of **God**...
  - ✓ That we are to put on .
- It is fully revealed in the **Bible...**
  - ✓ Our final & complete authority for faith & practice.
- It serves as the frame of reference for decision making.
- It touches every aspect of a **believer's** life.
- It prescribes the believer's...
  - ✓ **Goals**,
  - ✓ **Attitudes**,
  - ✓ **Means** &
  - ✓ **Perspectives**.



## Goals...

-  An area of life...
  -  Where we receive guidance from **God's** revealed **Moral Will**.

**FACT** The **believer's** ultimate goal is to glorify **God** in all things.

 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 10:31

 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 5:9


 Colossians 1:10



Besides glorifying **God**...

 What are some other important assignments given that we must obey?

 Share the **Good News** and make disciples

 2<sup>nd</sup> Peter 3:9, Matthew 28:19-20 (1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 10:31-33)

 Minister to others

 Romans 14:19

 Produce spiritual fruit & good works

 Colossians 1:10; John 15:8, Ephesians 2:10

 Fulfill our **God** given responsibilities

 Ephesians 5:22-6:9, Galatians 6:9-10



When the **believer** brings **his** personal goals inline with **God's Word**...


 The **believer** will have concrete guidance...


 That is applicable even to situations...

 That may not be directly addressed by **Scripture**.



When considering an opportunity...

 The **believer** can clarify his options with the question:

 If I take this opportunity...

 Will it help or hinder me in accomplishing my **God**-given goals?

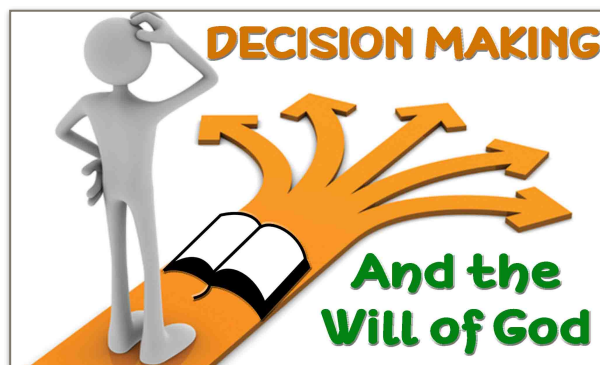


When the **believer** is faced with a choice between two or more options...

 The question should then be asked:

 Which choice will maximize the fulfillment...

...of my spiritual objectives?



## Attitudes...



A 2<sup>nd</sup> area of life...



In which we receive guidance from **God's** revealed **Moral Will**.



**Scripture** commands that we develop **God** honoring attitudes.



List a few that you know of in **Scripture**:

- Love (1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 13:1-3)
- Gratitude (Colossians 3:17)
- Submission (1<sup>st</sup> Peter 5:6)
- Reliance (Proverbs 3:5,6)
- Diligence (Colossians 3:23)
- Courage (John 16:33)
- Humility (Philippians 2:5-8)
- Generous (1<sup>st</sup> Timothy 6:17-19)
- Contentment (Philippians 4:11)



## Means...



A 3<sup>rd</sup> area of life...



In which we receive guidance from **God's** revealed **Moral Will**.



Our means must be **biblically lawful** (Ephesians 5:1-14)



Our means must be wise (Ephesians 5:15-17)



## Perspective...



A 4<sup>th</sup> area of life...



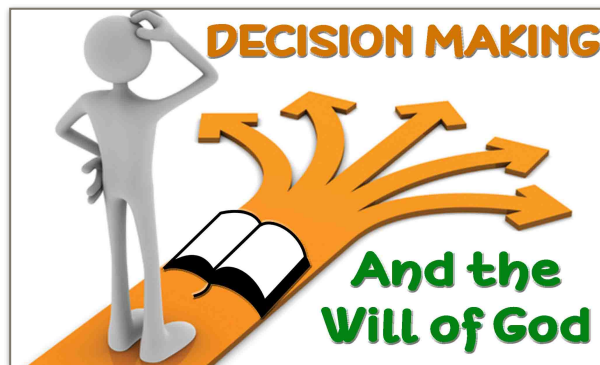
In which we receive guidance from **God's** revealed **Moral Will**.



A **believer** whose world view is shaped by **Scripture**...



Will have a sense of self-identity different from the world's.



Give a few examples of how this is so...



Security (Romans 8:31-39)

↪ The **believer** will face life with a deep sense of security, knowing that **he** is loved by **God** with a love **he** did not earn (and which, therefore, **he** can do nothing to forfeit)



Worth (Ephesians 2:10; 1 Peter 4:10,11)

↪ The **believer** will face life with a clear grasp of **his** personal worth, because **he** will be aware that **God** has equipped **him** to participate meaningfully in the outworking of the eternal purposes of **God**.



Servant Focus (Philippians 2:1-5)

↪ The **believer** can have a strong sense of security and significance in **Christ** as **he** puts off self-promoting motivations in decision making and puts on a focus on the needs of others.



Awareness of Environment (Ephesians 6:12)

↪ The **believer** understands that **he** is on assignment from **God** in **enemy territory**.



Outlook (Matthew 6:19-21; Romans 8:18; 2 Corinthians 4:17,18)

↪ The **believer** understands that life on earth is preparatory for "real life" in heaven, and that what **he** invests for **God** now will be repaid with interest later.

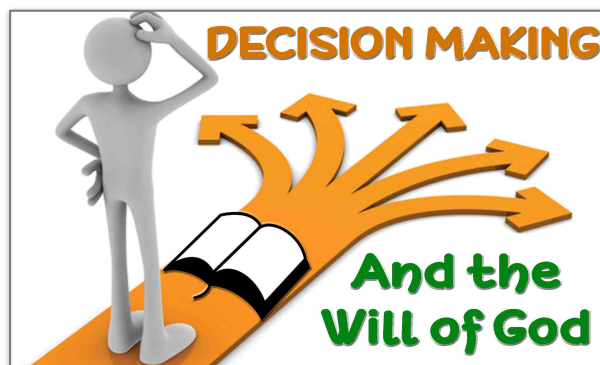


Submissiveness & World View (Romans 12:2)

↪ The **believer** allows for **God's Word** to mould **his** mind's viewpoint, and resists the influence from the world.

→ Faith (2 Corinthians 5:7)

↪ The **believer** walks by faith, seeing his life, and therefore **his** decisions, through the "glasses" of **God's Word**.



## The Believer's Response to God's Moral Will...



When a decision or choice...

 Obeys all the requirements of **God's Moral Will...**

**Yep**  The believer then has freedom to choose !



If the decision or choice results in...

 Thoughts, attitudes, & actions that conflict with **God's Moral Will...**

**Nope**  That decision or choice is then sinful...

...and not permitted.









Thus it is of great importance...

 That the **believer** learn what **Scripture** commands !



How can a **believer** gain an understanding...




 And learn what **Scripture** commands?

-  Reading (1<sup>st</sup> Timothy 4:13)
-  Careful Consideration (2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy 2:7)
-  Search & Inquiry (2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy 2:15)
-  Meditation (Joshua 1:8)
-  Memorisation (Psalm 119:11)
-  Learn from Bible Teachers (Philippians 4:9)

 All of this requires time & effort = Discipline!



**Remember:**

-  The **believer** can expect that the **Holy Spirit** will be at work within **him** to give **him** understanding as **he** studies.
-  However, the **Holy Spirit** does not work to illuminate the **Bible's** meaning apart from our diligent study.
-  As the **believer** grows in **his** understanding of **God's Word**, **he** must grow in his obedience to it!



## Freedom & Responsibility...



If **believers** are free to choose in non-commanded decisions...



**They** are also required to choose !



The responsibility for the decision falls on the individual, and



The responsibility presupposes accountability. (1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 10:23)



Freedom is taught in **Scriptures...**

➔ But always in the context of **God** showing us how to use that freedom for His glory - not our own selfish ends!



### Case Study #1: 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 7:39



According to this verse what freedom of choice does the wife have while her husband is living?

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According to this verse what freedom of choice does the wife have when her husband dies?

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According to this verse what limitations are there to the wife's choice?

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## Case Study #2: 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 9:7



According to this verse what is the emphasis of God's moral will?

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According to this verse what freedom of choice exists for the giver?

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According to this verse what limitations are there on the givers choice?

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## The Command to be wise...

### Ephesians 5:15-16...

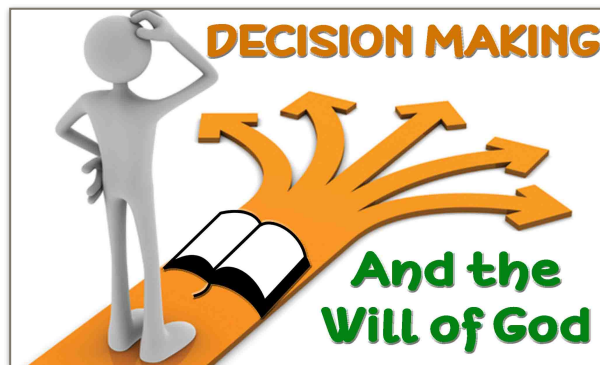
"Therefore be careful how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise, making the most of your time, because the days are evil."

### Colossians 4:5...

"Conduct yourselves with wisdom toward outsiders, making the most of the opportunity."

### Matthew 10:16...

"Behold, I send you out as sheep in the midst of wolves; so be shrewd as serpents and innocent as doves."



### Case Study #3: 1<sup>st</sup> Thessalonians 3:1-5



On what basis did Paul, Timothy & Silus make their decision?

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### Case Study #4: 2<sup>nd</sup> Samuel 18:1-4



What information did David use to make his decision?

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Is this what David wanted initially?

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### Remember:

- The choice **you** make cannot obstruct the outworking of **God's** sovereign purpose for your life.
- **God** is sovereignly at work in **your** decision to accomplish **His** purposes.
- **He** will work out the choice that best fits **His** sovereign plan for **us** and the universe!



### How do we find wisdom?



Study the Scriptures (2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy 2:7, 3:15-17; 2 Peter 1:19; Psalm 119:97-100)



Ask God for it (James 1:5)



Wisdom is given progressively as a component of spiritual growth.



Do outside Research (Nehemiah 2:11-16; Joshua 2; Luke 1:1-3)



Observe life itself (Hebrews 5:14)

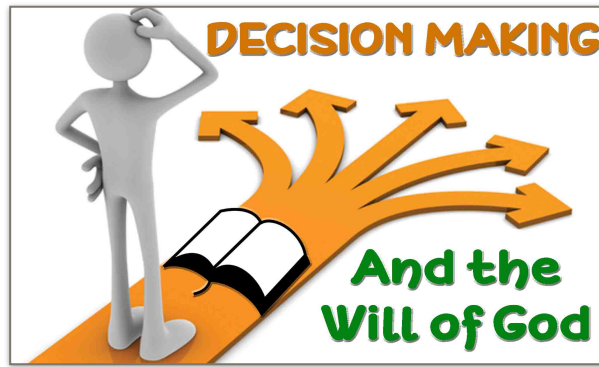


Maturity is gained by application of learned truth.



It is the product of:

- In-depth Bible Study
- Obedience to God's Word
- Experience



**FACT** The practice of truth expands our capacity for a greater depth of wisdom.

## Principles of Decision Making...

1. Where God commands in His Word - we must obey.
2. Where there is no command, then God gives us the freedom & responsibility to choose.
3. Where there is freedom to choose, God commands us to use wisdom in our choice.
4. Where there is freedom to choose, God will give us wisdom if we ask.
5. After making our choice based on God's moral will & wisdom...  
...we must trust our sovereign God to work out all the details for good.

Where there is no command from God's Moral...  
...will we have the freedom and responsibility to choose.

God's Moral Will (God's Command's from His Word)

**The choice of wisdom**

