

Finding the Will of God

Does God have a will for your life, or does he just want you to love him and use your own wisdom in decisions? If he does have a will, what will happen if you miss it? In discerning God's will, should you pray and listen, ask lots of advice, or just use common sense? The Bible gives clear answers to all these questions – answers that we need both for ourselves and for those we lead. In this seminar Dave will unpack five ways the Bible teaches us to discover God's will, and show how God plans and reveals his plan for our lives.

Dave Patty has been involved in training youth leaders and leading national and international youth movements in Europe for over 30 years. He serves as the president of Josiah Venture. He is also a founding member of Global Youth Initiative, which mobilizes and equips youth ministry trainers in over 60 countries of the world. Dave is an ordained pastor with a BA in theology and a MA in education. He has also done graduate work in leadership development at Harvard University. For the past 27 years he has lived in the Czech Republic, and he spent the 10 years before that in Germany. Dave is married to Connie and has three grown children, Tyler, Caleb, and Claire.

I. What is the nature of God's will?

A. God plans in sweeps, but reveals in steps

1. Plans in sweeps
 - a. Psalm 139:16
 - b. Eph 1:4
 - c. Eph 2:10-11
2. Reveals in Steps
 - a. Exodus 14:21-22
 - b. Acts 1:4-8
 - c. Gal 5:25

B. If you want to see true, surrender and renewal

1. Romans 12:1-2

II. How can you discern God's will?

The hand – five ways to discern the will of God

A. Thumb – The Word of God.

1. I Thess 4:3
2. I Pet 2:15
3. I Thess 5:16-18

B. First finger – the Spirit of God

1. Act 13:2-4
2. Act 15:28
3. Acts 16:6
4. Caution? - I John 4:1

C. Second finger – the mind of God

1. I Cor 2:16
2. Romans 12:2
3. Luke 14:28-30

D. Third finger – the people of God

1. Prov 20:18 make plans by seeking advice
2. Prov 13:10 – wisdom is found in those who take advice
3. Prov 15:22 – Plans fail for lack of counsel
4. Exceptions? – Acts 21:10-14

E. Fourth finger – the sovereignty of God

1. Romans 1:13
2. I Cor 16:8-9
3. Eph 2:10

III. Conclusion