

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 and serves as the president of Josiah Venture. He is also a founding member of Global Youth Initiative, which mobilises and equips youth ministry trainers in over 40 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 21 years he has lived in the Czech Republic, and spent the 10 years before that in Germany. Dave is married to Connie, and has three children, Tyler, Caleb, and Claire.

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

1. God plans in sweeps, but reveals in steps

Plans in sweeps

Psalm 139:16

Eph 1:4

Eph 2:10-11

Reveals in Steps

Exodus 14:21-22

Acts 1:4-8

Gal 5:25

2. If you want to see true, surrender and renew

Romans 12:1-2

II. How you discern God's will?

The hand – five ways to discern the will of God

1. Thumb – The Word of God.

I Thess 4:3

I Pet 2:15

I Thess 5:16-18

2. First finger – the Spirit of God

Act 13:2-4

Act 15:28

Acts 16:6

Caution? - I John 4:1

3. Second finger – the mind of God

I Cor 2:16

Romans 12:2

Luke 14:28-30

4. Third finger – the people of God

Prov 20:18 make plans by seeking advice

Prov 13:10 – wisdom is found in those who take advice

Prov 15:22 – Plans fail for lack of counsel

Exceptions? – Acts 21:10-14

5. Fourth finger – the sovereignty of God

Romans 1:13

I Cor 16:8-9

Eph 2:10

III. Conclusion