

Decision making and the will of God

How to avoid "fleeing" God

1. **The Traditional View**
2. The Dangers of Subjectivity
3. Biblical Decision making

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The Traditional View

- God's "Individual Will" is that ideal detailed life-plan which God has uniquely designed for each believer.
- This life plan encompasses every decision we make and is the basis of God's daily guidance.
- This is also sometimes called God's "perfect will," "specific will," "ideal will," or "the center of God's will."

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Principles of Decision-making

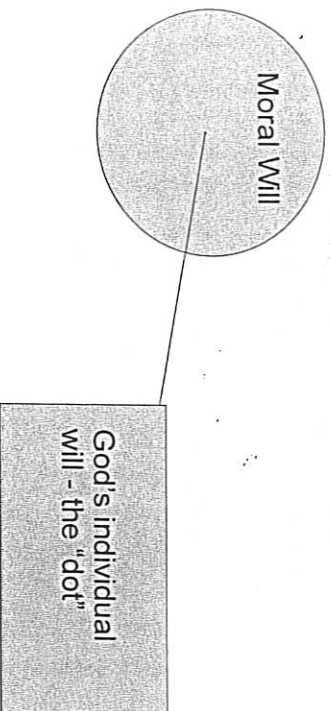
The Premise

For each of our decisions God has a perfect plan or will.

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The "Dot"



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The Purpose

The goal of the believer is to discover God's individual will ("find the dot") and make decisions in accordance with it.

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The Process

The believer interprets the inner impressions and outward signs through which the Holy Spirit communicates His leading.

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The Proof

The confirmation that one has correctly discerned the individual will of God comes from an inner sense of peace and outward (successful) results of the decision.

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The Process

(road signs pointing God's perfect will)

- The Scriptures – points to God's moral will which puts us in the ballpark.
- Circumstances – open & closed doors, fleeces.
- Inner Witness of the Holy Spirit – peace.
- Mature counsel from other believers.
- Personal desires.
- Common sense.
- Special supernatural guidance – audible voice, vision, trance, dream, miracle, prophecy.

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The Proof

(confirming God's perfect will)

- Agreement of road signs.
- Results – peace & blessing, it worked.
- Prayer – the still small voice.
- Personal Communion with God.

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Problems with the Traditional Method

- Ordinary decisions made based upon what seems best [no dot].
- Equal options
- Immaturity on the part of the decision-maker.

Discussion Questions

1. Have you ever tried to discern God's will with regard to a particular situation? How did you go about this?
2. Why are results (good or bad) an unreliable indicator of God's will?

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