

“Five Principles to Discern God’s Will”
Luan Nguyen; July 22, 2007

Prayer: Psalm 86

I. Introduction

Col. 1:10; Proverbs 3:5&6; Proverbs 23:17; Exodus 18:15-16.

II. Our Problem

How God Sees It	How We See It
This life is but a breath.	This life can last a long time.
Knowing God is the greatest joy there is.	The more stuff we have the happier we’ll be.
It is more blessed to give than to receive.	It is more blessed to receive than to give.
He who loses this life for my sake will find it.	Hang on to this life and make it last as long as you can.

III. Five Biblical Assumptions About Our Condition

1. We are prone to be deceived.
 - a. Proverbs 21:2; Jeremiah 17:9

2. We are prone to be proud.
 - a. Proverbs 16:18; 2 Chronicles 33-35.

3. We are prone to be self-centered.

4. We are prone to seek comfort, not what's right.

5. We are prone to live by sight, not by faith.
a. Col. 3:1ff.

IV. Five Principles to Discern God's Will

1. Consider Godly Counsels

2. Consider the Evidences of Sin Present

3. Consider the Implications of Each Decision and it's Impact

4. Consider Your Role and Responsibility

5. Consider the Known Facts

V. Conclusion

The Joy in Understanding the Sovereignty of God.

Proverbs 16:9; 19:21.

Care Group and Application Questions

1. What is the biblical basis for encouraging Christians to seek to live their lives according to God's will?
2. How do you determine which decision you need to intentionally seek God's will on and which you don't?
3. How would describe the pattern in your life in the area of seeking God's will?
 - a. I don't give much thought to this.
 - b. I don't normally try to discern what is God's will and what is not because I believe God is always in control.
 - c. I always have a desire to do so but find it frustrating.
 - d. I am paralyzed because I don't know what to do.
 - e. I am at peace with the pattern that I see.
 - f. Other: _____
4. What is the role of prayer in our efforts to discern God's will? Why is it not enough on its own?
5. What are you wrestling with right now in this area of discerning God's will that the group can help you with?