

# Going God's Way

*What is His Will?*



# Class Section 1: God's Will for You

## \* We should desire to please the Lord

*1 Thessalonians 4:1—Finally then, brethren, we urge and exhort in the Lord Jesus that you should abound more and more, just as you received from us how you ought to walk and to please God.*

*John 14:15—If you love Me, keep My commandments.*

*John 14:23a—Jesus answered and said to him, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My Word."*

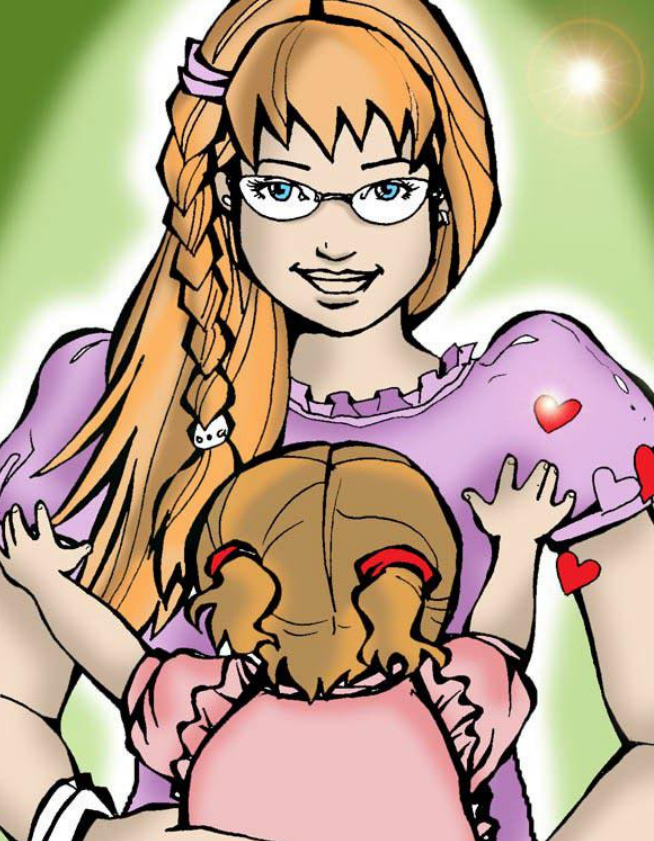


Throughout these classes, we've talked and learned a lot together about the close relationship the Lord wants to have with us. He wants to bring satisfaction and joy into our lives. We've talked about the gifts He offers—the gifts of healing, joy, of hearing from Him, of love, of strength, of help in times of trouble, of His very presence.

Now we want to talk about giving Him more of ourselves so that He can fulfill His plan in our lives.

## \* The fundamental thing

We know from the Word that the fundamental thing that the Lord expects from all of us is love: to love Him and love our neighbors.



*Galatians 5:14 – All the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this: You should love your neighbor as yourself.*

*Matthew 7:12 - Do to others whatever you would like them to do to you. This is the essence of all that is taught in the law and the prophets.*

*Matthew 22:37-39 – ‘You must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. A*

*second is equally important: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ The entire law and all the demands of the prophets are based on these two commandments.”*

*Micah 6:8 - the LORD has told you what is good, and this is what he requires of you: to do what is right, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God.*

**\* A sense of priorities is essential for making the right decisions.**

No man is a great man, and no woman is a great woman, unless they have a sense of priorities. If we keep from doing the better thing because we're so occupied with things that are secondary, we will not find the fulfillment that we seek nor will we achieve the great potential He has placed in each of us.

There is a very true saying: "Only one life, it will soon be past; only what's done for Christ will last."

*1 Corinthians 3:14—If anyone's work which he has built on it endures, he will receive a reward.*

*Matthew 6:33—But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.*

*2 Corinthians 4:18—We do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal.*

## **Busy on the way**

There was an older woman who arranged to travel by train through the mountains in the south of Austria. She had always wanted to take that trip, knowing the grandeur of the Alpine scenery she would pass as the train made its way. She boarded the train and decided to make sure she was comfortable. For the next few hours the woman fussed with her handbag and her little bag, trying to arrange things—adjusting a little pillow she had brought along for her back, and fussing about, never looking out at the scenery.

Ordering tea, opening her sandwiches, checking the timetable, and the time went by. She had always talked about wanting to see what it looked like, but she didn't deal with the main purpose of her trip at all! She forgot what it was all about and just fooled around with those little, inconsequential things. It was a misplaced attention, a false priority. The emphasis was in the wrong place. The mountains passed her by...

- **God has plans for you!**

*1 Peter 4:10—As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.*

*Romans 12:6 - Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them.*

God has gifted each of us with certain qualities and abilities. When we are making decisions and seeking God's will, we should ask ourselves, what are we doing with the gifts we've been given? Are we using them for what is most important?

In all the ages there never has been and never will be a man or woman just like you. You are unique and have no double. No two leaves, no two jewels, no two stars, no two lives are alike. Every life is a fresh thought from God to the world. There's no one in the entire world who can do your work as well as you. There is a need for you. God has a plan for you. And if you don't find and enter into God's purpose for your life, there will be something missing from the glory that would otherwise have been there. Every jewel gleams with its own radiance, every flower distills its own fragrance, every believer has his own particular bit of Jesus' radiance. Has God given you a different personality? He has also created a particular circle of individuals who can be reached and touched by that personality only, and you can do it as none other in all the world.



**No matter how you feel, God can use you!**

It was advertised long ago in a large city that a great violinist would play on a violin worth a thousand dollars—at that time, a

considerable amount of money. The theatre was packed. Many came as much to see the fine violin as to hear the music. The violinist came out and played, and the people were enraptured. But suddenly he threw the violin down and stamped on it, crushed it into matchwood and walked off the stage. The people were shocked, and thought the man must have lost his mind to destroy such a lovely and costly instrument. Then the manager came on and addressed the audience, saying, "Friends, the violinist has not been playing on the thousand-dollar violin yet. The instrument you have heard he bought at a second-hand store for 65 cents. He will play on the thousand-dollar violin now."

And so he did, and there were few people in the audience who could tell any difference. He simply wanted to show them that it is the violinist, rather than the violin, that makes the music. You may be a 65-cent fiddle, but the Master will make music upon you if you are yielded to Him.

### **\* The first step in finding His will: Yield to Him!**

The choice to do God's will should come from a willing heart. God wants volunteers, not draftees!

*2 Corinthians 9:7—So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver.*

*1 Chronicles 28:9a—As for you, my son Solomon, know the God of your father, and serve Him with a loyal heart and with a willing mind; for the Lord searches all hearts and understands all the intent of the thoughts.*

The first step in finding God's guidance is to yield to God. You need to be willing to let go of your ideas of what you think is best in order

to find God's plan.

*Proverbs 3:7—Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord and depart from evil.*

*Matthew 6:10—Your kingdom come. Your will be done on Earth as it is in Heaven.*

### **\* Follow the Guide**

*Psalm 143:10—Teach me to do Your will, for You are my God; Your Spirit is good. Lead me in the land of uprightness.*

An experienced guide of many years in the jungles of Africa once said, "It's hard to lead those who are willful. It's very difficult to guide them. They don't trust their guide, they're always wanting to have their own way, and I've seen many such people in my days of guiding who ran into dangerous situations and serious accidents because they wouldn't follow the guide."

Is it strange then that God's people, the sheep of His pasture, need a Shepherd to guide them? We shouldn't go a day without the presence and guidance of the Lord.

*Psalm 100:3—Know that the Lord, He is God; it is He who has made us, and not we ourselves; we are His people and the sheep of His pasture.*

### **\* Choosing God's will is not necessarily easy**

When we do what the Lord wants us to do, we have the satisfaction of knowing that we are pleasing the One who loves us and laid down His life for us.

But fulfilling what the Lord wants you to do is not always going to be easy. You could face discouragement and other trials. It won't necessarily make you popular and could even sometimes bring you into conflict with those around you.

While we hope that you won't have problems like this, don't be surprised if this sometimes happens!

*Galatians 1:10b—If I still pleased men, I would not be a servant of Christ.*

## \* Rewards for doing God's will

The promises and rewards for doing God's will are numerous!

*Hebrews 10:36—For you have need of endurance, so that after you have done the will of God, you may receive the promise.*

*2 Chronicles 15:7—But you, be strong and do not let your hands be weak, for your work shall be rewarded!*

*Daniel 12:3—Those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the firmament, and those who turn many to righteousness like the stars forever and ever.*

*Matthew 16:27—For the Son of Man will come in the glory of His Father*





*with His angels, and then He will reward each according to his works. Matthew 25:21—His lord said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.'*

*1 Corinthians 3:8b—Each one will receive his own reward according to his own labor.*

*Galatians 6:7b—For whatever a man sows, that he will also reap.*

*Ephesians 6:8—Knowing that whatever good anyone does, he will receive the same from the Lord,*

*Hebrews 6:10—For God is not unjust to forget your work and labor of love which you have shown toward His name,*

*Revelation 2:10b—Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.*

*Revelation 3:11-12—Behold, I am coming quickly! Hold fast what you have, that no one may take your crown. He who overcomes, I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and he shall go out no more. And I will write on him the name of My God and the name of the city of My God, the New Jerusalem, which comes down out of Heaven from My God. And I will write on him My new name.*

## **Class Section 1: Seven Ways to Know God's Will**

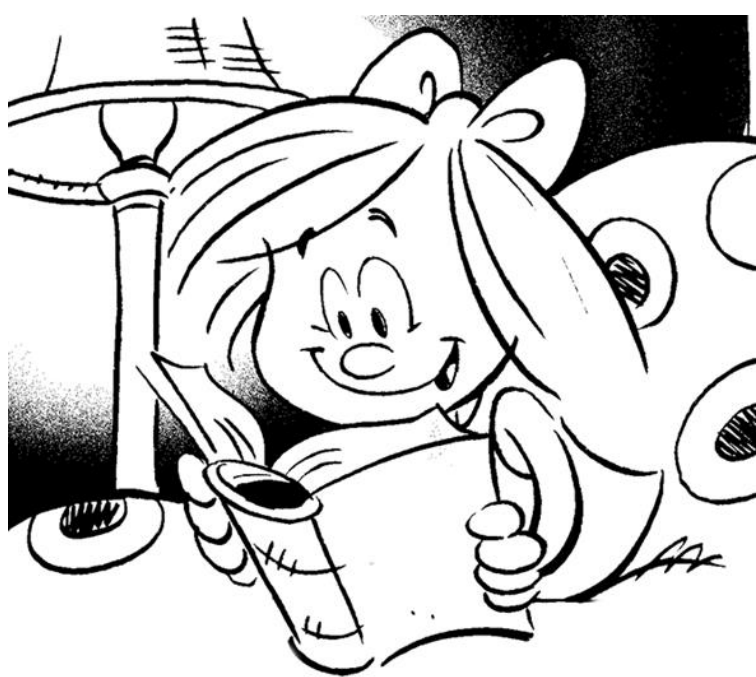
If you sincerely ask God to show you what He knows is best in any given situation, He will. His answer will probably come through one or more of the following means, which are listed in order of importance and reliability.

### **1. God's Word**

The first place to look for the will of God is in His words recorded in the Bible and other inspired writings. He has put the basic answers

to nearly every question or problem we will face in life right there, sometimes clearly spelled out and sometimes in the form of spiritual principles that apply.

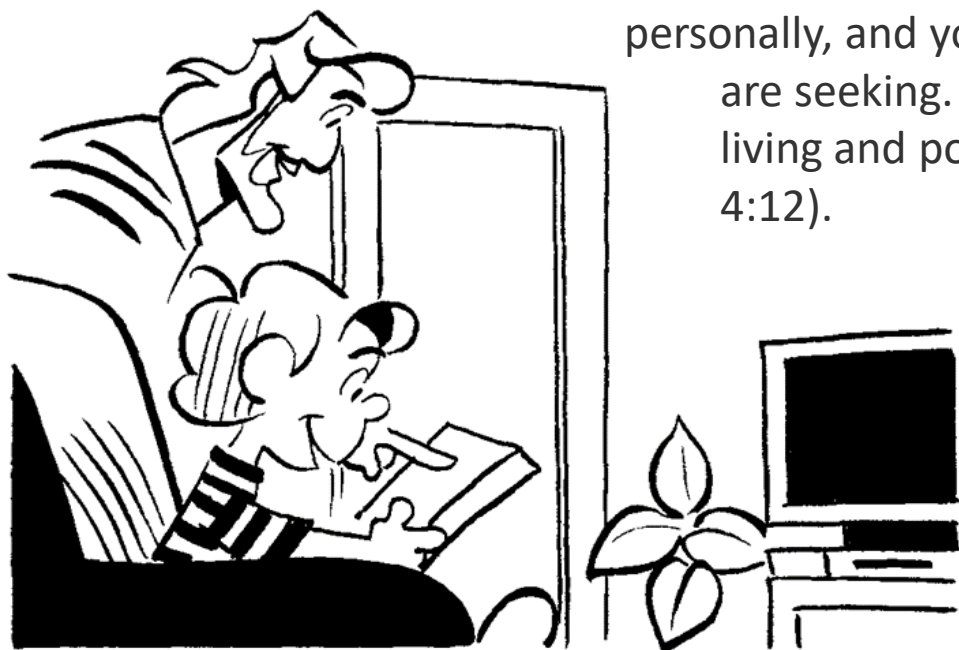
*Psalm 119:165 - Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path" (Psalm 119:105).*



## 2. The voice of God's Word

Have you ever been thinking or praying about something when the Lord brought to mind a certain verse or passage from the Scriptures that shed His light on the issue? That's what's known as hearing the voice of God's Word. Or have you ever been reading the Bible when all of a sudden a verse or passage spoke directly to you, as though it had been written just for you in regard to some situation you faced? That is also the voice of the Word. God applies His Word to you

personally, and you get the answer you are seeking. "The Word of God is living and powerful" (Hebrews 4:12).



### 3. Direct revelation

God also speaks to us through dreams and visions, as well as messages we receive directly from Him when He speaks to our hearts, which the Bible calls "prophecy."



*Psalm 138:3—In the day when I cried out,  
You answered me*

*Isaiah 30:21—Your ears shall hear a word  
behind you, saying, "This is the way, walk in it."*

*Jeremiah 33:3—Call to Me, and I will answer you, and show you  
great and mighty things, which you do not know.*

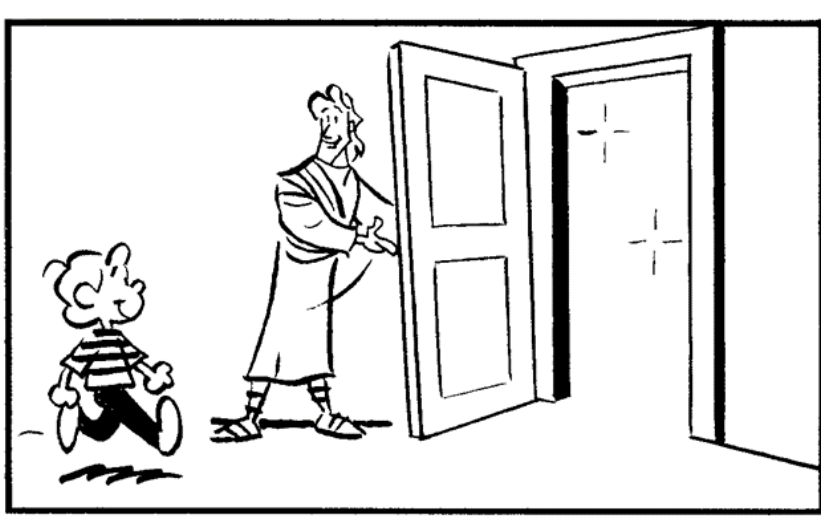
*Proverbs 1:23 - I will pour out my spirit to you; I will make my words  
known to you.*

### 4. Godly counselors

If you want to learn to play the piano, ask an accomplished pianist to teach you. If you want to learn to cook, ask somebody who knows how to cook, whose meals you've enjoyed. If you're trying to find God's will in a given situation, ask others who are established in their faith, have a strong personal relationship with Jesus, and are wise in His ways.

*Proverbs 11:14—Where there is no counsel, the people fall; but in  
the multitude of counselors there is safety.*

*Proverbs 15:22—Without counsel, plans go awry, but in the  
multitude of counselors they are established.*



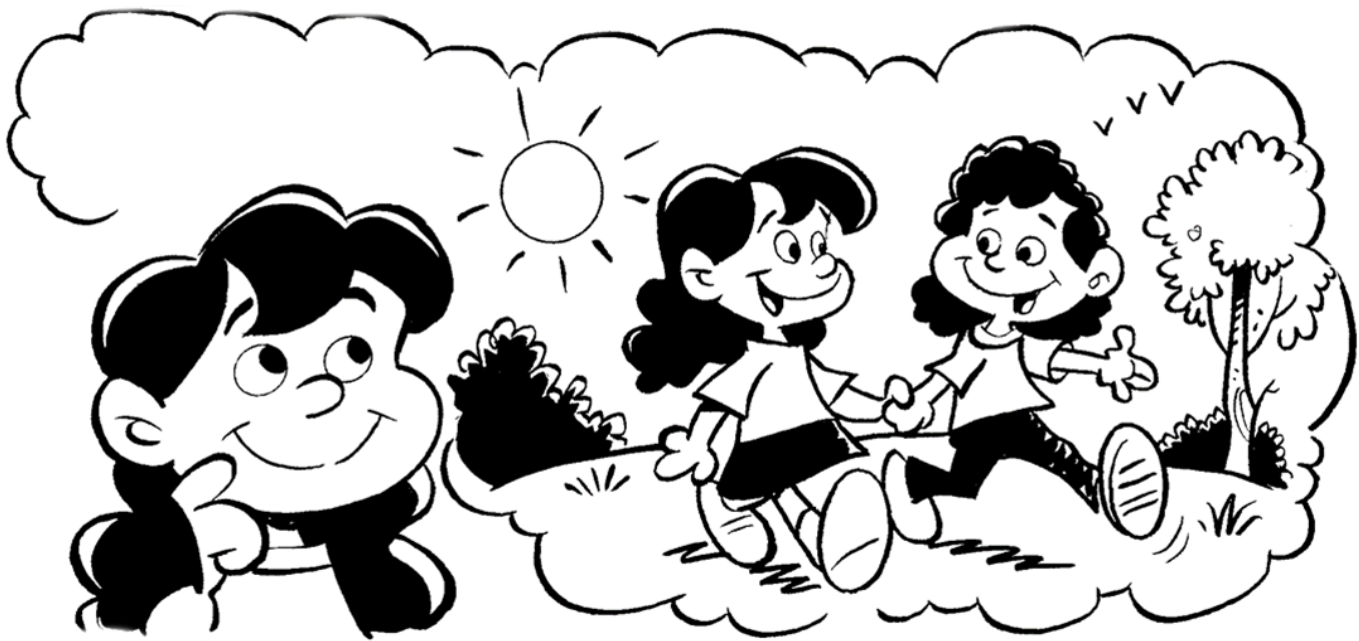
## 5. Circumstances and conditions

Sometimes obvious circumstances indicate God's leading. Imagine a long hallway lined with doors. Which room are you going to enter? You walk down the hallway knocking on doors and trying the doorknobs. You can only go through the door that opens. If something is God's will, He will usually open a door of opportunity that makes it possible.

*2 Corinthians 2:12—[Paul wrote:] Furthermore, when I came to Troas to preach Christ's gospel, and a door was opened to me by the Lord. Revelation 3:8 - I have set before you an open door, and no one can shut it.*

## 6. Strong impressions or desires

At times when you feel a strong desire or longing to do something, go somewhere, or see someone, it may be that God put that feeling in your heart. When you are pleasing the Lord, He often puts the desire within your heart to do the thing that will make both you and Him happy. He is willing to fulfill your particular wishes as a part of His plan for you.



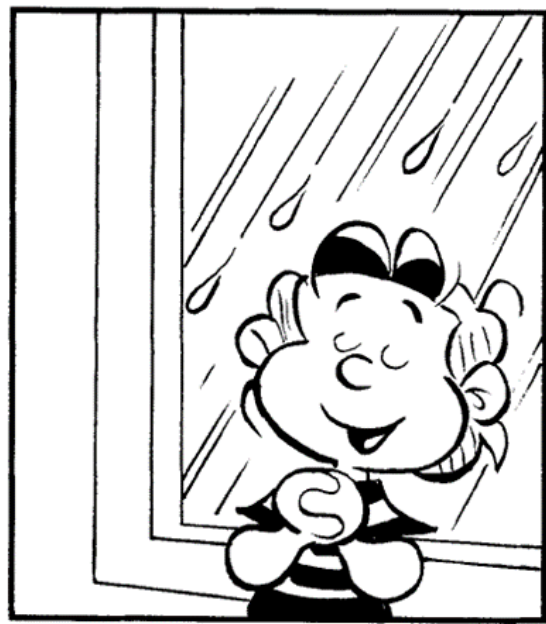
When our desires, wants and wishes are good for us, then He usually gives them to us. Or when our dreams, goals, ambitions, and aspirations will bring us and others happiness, He usually lets us fulfill them. However, if our personal desires aren't a part of the Lord's plan for us, and He knows that something won't be good for us, then it's wise to listen to Him and follow Him, because He knows best. He can see the past, the present, and the future. He's the only One who's all-knowing, all powerful, all seeing, and ever present to help us in our times of need, and in our times of decision making.

If you have a special dream or desire that you want to fulfill in your life, if you're following God, your wishes may very well be within His will. Why not ask Him?—He'll show you what to do! He'll show you what's best!

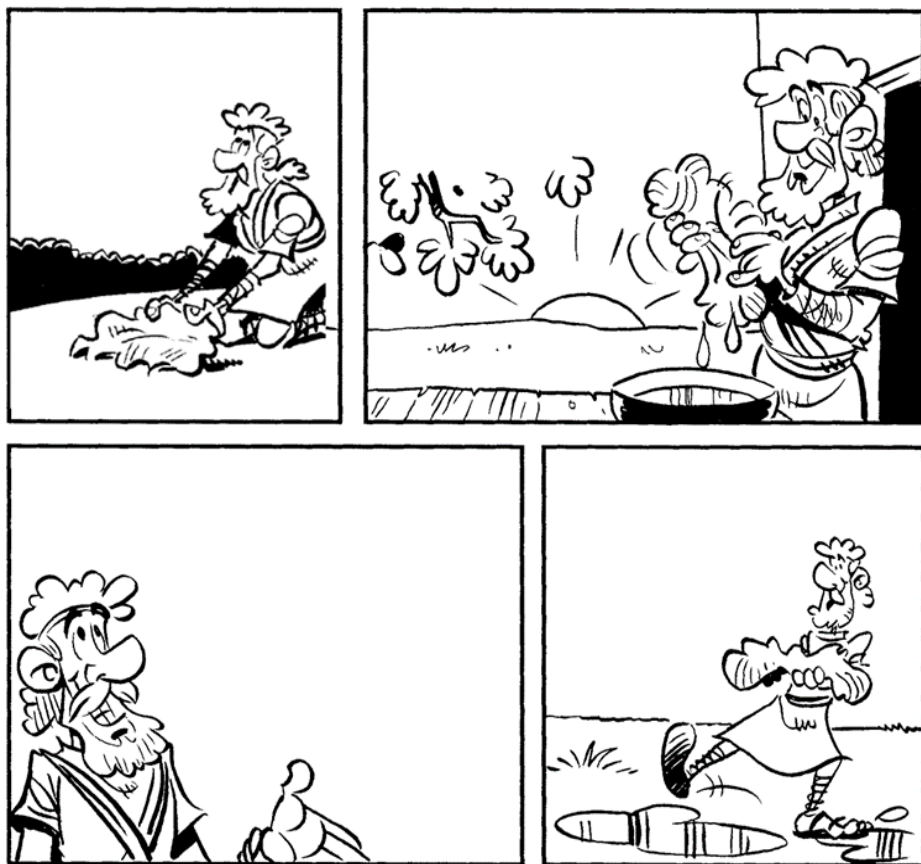
*Psalm 37:4 - Delight yourself also in the Lord, and He shall give you the desires of your heart.*

## 7. Specific predetermined signs

These are sometimes referred to as "fleeces." You can sometimes check or double-check your decision by asking God to give you a specific sign, like Gideon did in the Bible's book of Judges. Asking for such a sign is like making a contract with God. If He fulfills His part of the bargain, you need to fulfill yours.



*Judges 6:36-40 - Gideon said to God, 'I shall put a fleece of wool on the threshing floor; if there is dew on the fleece only, and it is dry on all the ground, then I shall know that You will save Israel by my hand, as You have said.' And it was so. When he rose early the next morning and squeezed the fleece together, he wrung the dew out of the fleece, a bowlful of water. Then Gideon said to God, 'Do not be*



*angry with me, but let me speak just once more: Let me test, I pray, just once more with the fleece; let it now be dry only on the fleece, but on all the ground let there be dew.' And God did so that night. It was dry on the fleece only, but there was dew on all the ground"*

## \* Summary of seven ways to find the will of God

1. The Word
2. The Voice of the Word
3. Revelations (prophecies, dreams, visions)
4. Advisors and counselors
5. Circumstances and conditions
6. Personal desires
7. Specific, pre-determined signs

## \* How God shows His will

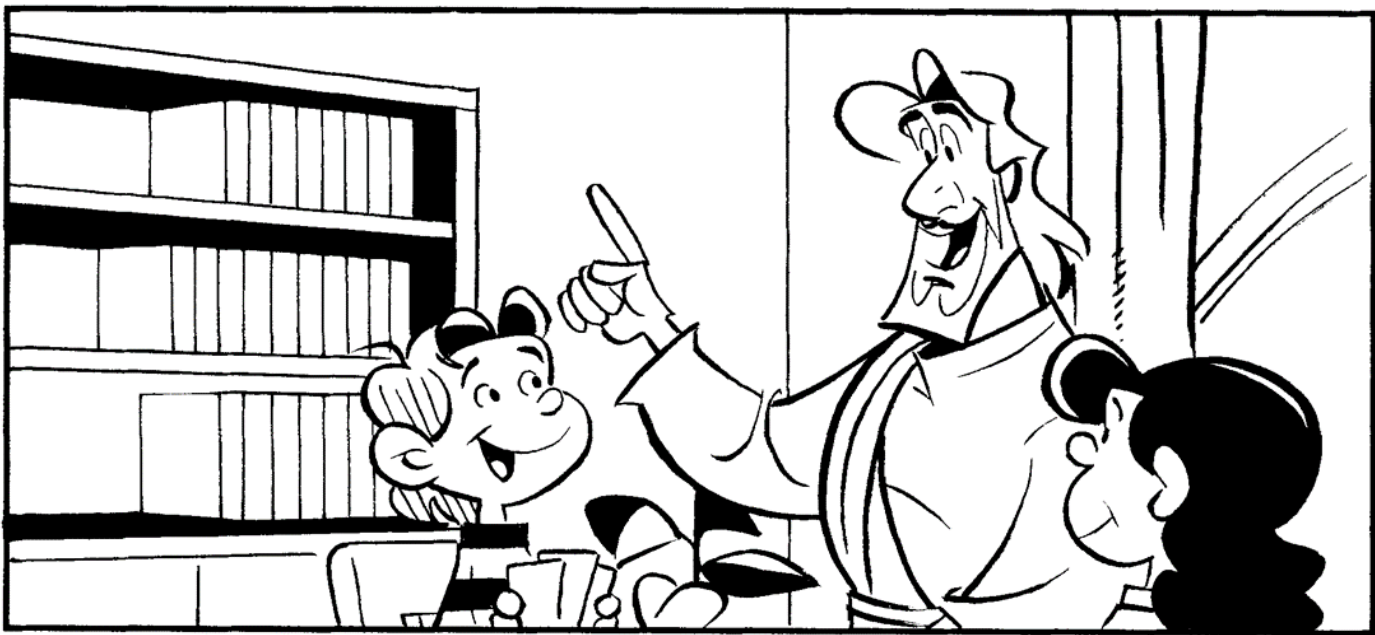
God does not necessarily follow any particular order when revealing His will through these means.

He may speak to you through a prophecy first, then you may confirm that prophecy by the Word. Or He may speak to you through the voice of His Word, and then you search other Scriptures and see what the Lord generally has to say about the subject. We can't put God in a box and say He's got to speak to us in this or that way, in this or that order. But these are ways we know He works, not only from our own experience, but also from what He has said in His written Word.

## \* Let's do it!

May God help us all to not only find His will, but to do it!

*John 13:17—If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them.*



## "Teach Me to Do Thy Will"

Teach me Your way, O Lord; I will walk in Your truth; Unite my heart to fear Your name. Lead me, O Lord, in Your righteousness because of my enemies; make Your way straight before my face. Lead me in Your truth and teach me, for You are the God of my salvation; on You I wait all the day. For You are my rock and my fortress; therefore, for Your name's sake, lead me and guide me.

O Lord, You have searched me and known me. You know my sitting down and my rising up; You understand my thought afar off. You comprehend my path and my lying down, and are acquainted with all my ways. For there is not a word on my tongue, but behold, O Lord, You know it altogether.

Search me, O God, and know my heart; try me, and know my anxieties; And see if there is any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting. Teach me to do Your will, for You are my God; Your Spirit is good. Lead me in the land of uprightness.

*(Psalm 86:11; 5:8; 25:5; 31:3; 139:1-4, 23-24; 143:10)*