

# Knowing Gods Voice, Discerning God's Will

## Spirit Led Leading Series #1

- I. **Every true leader in God's kingdom must be led by God.**
  - A. **Without discernment of His voice, we risk leading people by our own ideas, emotions, or ambitions.**
    - 1. **As spiritual leaders—pastors, teachers, or servants—we must continually cultivate the ability to hear and recognize God's voice.**

John 10:27 (NLT) — 27 My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me.

- 2. **Jesus sets the standard: His people are not led by programs or personalities, but by His voice.**

Proverbs 3:5–6 (NLT) — 5 Trust in the LORD with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. 6 Seek his will in all you do, **and he will show you which path to take.**

- B. **Every leader must decide whether to lead by divine direction or human assumption.** The voice you follow determines the destiny you fulfill.

## II. . The Necessity of Hearing God's Voice

### C. **LEADERSHIP BEGINS WITH LISTENING**

- 1. **Before Moses could lead Israel out of Egypt, he had to first encounter God at the burning bush.**

Exodus 3:4 (NLT) — 4 When the LORD saw Moses coming to take a closer look, God called to him from the middle of the bush, "Moses! Moses!" "Here I am!" Moses replied.

- D.  **Leaders who do not listen to God risk leading people in circles.**

- 2. **2. Our Calling Depends on His Direction**

### E. **God's voice gives clarity, correction, and courage.**

Isaiah 30:21 (NLT) — 21 Your own ears will hear him. Right behind you a voice will say, "This is the way you should go," whether to the right or to the left.

- 3. **Without this inner witness, we may confuse good ideas for God ideas.**

F.  **Discerning God's voice ensures that what we do for Him is actually from Him.**

**Isaiah 30:18–21 (NLT) — 18** So the LORD must wait for you to come to him so he can show you his love and compassion. **For the LORD is a faithful God.** Blessed are those who wait for his help. **19** O people of Zion, who live in Jerusalem, you will weep no more. **He will be gracious if you ask for help. He will surely respond to the sound of your cries.** **20** Though the Lord gave you adversity for food and suffering for drink, he will still be with you to teach you. You will see your teacher with your own eyes. **21** Your own ears will hear him. Right behind you **a voice will say, "This is the way you should go,"** whether to the right or to the left.

**Psalms 32:8 (NLT) — 8** The LORD says, **"I will guide you along the best pathway for your life.** I will advise you and watch over you.

**Psalms 73:24 (NLT) — 24** You guide me with your counsel, leading me to a glorious destiny.

**Proverbs 3:5–6 (NLT) — 5** Trust in the LORD with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. **6** Seek his will in all you do, and **he will show you which path to take.**

**Galatians 5:25 (NLT) — 25** Since we are living by the Spirit, **let us follow the Spirit's leading in every part of our lives.**

**III. IF WE ARE TO BE EFFECTIVE LEADERS WE MUST SEEK TO HEAR GOD'S VOICE AND KNOW HIS WILL, AND FOLLOW ALL HE SPEAKS TO OUR HEART.**

**G. Jesus makes it clear the importance of hearing and listening to what He is saying:**

**John 5:24 (NLT) — 24** "I tell you the truth, **those who listen to my message and believe in God who sent me have eternal life. They will never be condemned for their sins, but they have already passed from death into life.**

**IV. To carry out the will of the Father you must first Hear His voice to know that to do.**

**H. One person, sold out to Jesus.**

- 1. Willing to lay down their dreams and desires in order to live God's dreams and desires**

**2. One person and a handful of others committed to Jesus common causes can change the spiritual atmosphere of a city**

**I. Yes, the world is a mess**

**3. We have drifted far from the Christian moorings our country was founded upon.**

**4. It's much like the nation of Israel Jeremiah prophesied to 2600 years ago**

**Jeremiah 18:11–12 (NLT) — 11** “Therefore, Jeremiah, go and warn all Judah and Jerusalem. Say to them, ‘This is what the LORD says: I am planning disaster for you instead of good. So turn from your evil ways, each of you, **and do what is right.**’” **12** But the people replied, “Don’t waste your breath. **We will continue to live as we want to, stubbornly following our own evil desires.”**

**I. So, if it's true that you can make a difference, what exactly are you suppose to do?**

**5. There are plenty of generic answers that I'm sure you thought of, but is it possible that there might be some specific things He wants you to do?**

**6. How would you know?**

**J. Today I want to touch on the pursuit of God's will for you life.**

**1. Much of the trouble we find in our spiritual life has to do with stubbornly following our own evil desires**

**2. Now, that might sound harsh but understand that any desires which are not born in the heart of God are innately evil.**

**3. So, it is critical that we set our heart attitudes to know and follow God's will.**

**Let's study this subject out**

**7. Have you ever had to make a decision which you know would be critical to your future and you just weren't sure which option to take?**

**8. All of have.**

**9. If you are a follower instead of just a fan of Jesus, then you want to be certain you are following His will for your life.**

**10. What would please you most Lord, is the heart attitude of any servant of the Lord.**

**11. Too often we use other measures to make our decision... How much does it pay? Where is it located? How will I benefit?**

**12. Unfortunately, we may never even take into consideration what does God want for me.**

## **V. Let's look at this story in Acts Chapter 1.**

**Acts 1:12–26 (NLT) — 12** Then the apostles returned to Jerusalem from the Mount of Olives, a distance of half a mile. **13** When they arrived, they went to the upstairs room of the house where they were staying. Here are the names of those who were present: Peter, John, James, Andrew, Philip, Thomas, Bartholomew, Matthew, James (son of Alphaeus), Simon (the zealot), and Judas (son of James). **14** They all met together and **were constantly united in prayer**, along with Mary the mother of Jesus, several other women, and the brothers of Jesus. **15** During this time, when about 120 believers were together in one place, Peter stood up and addressed them. **16** “Brothers,” he said, **“the Scriptures had to be fulfilled** concerning Judas, who guided those who arrested Jesus. This was predicted long ago by the Holy Spirit, speaking through King David. **17** Judas was one of us and shared in the ministry with us.” **18** (Judas had bought a field with the money he received for his treachery. Falling headfirst there, his body split open, spilling out all his intestines. **19** The news of his death spread to all the people of Jerusalem, and they gave the place the Aramaic name Akeldama, which means “Field of Blood.”) **20** Peter continued, **“This was written in the book of Psalms**, where it says, ‘Let his home become desolate, with no one living in it.’ It also says, ‘Let someone else take his position.’ **21** “So now we must choose a replacement for Judas from among the men who were with us the entire time we were traveling with the Lord Jesus—**22** from the time he was baptized by John until the day he was taken from us. Whoever is chosen will join us as a witness of Jesus’ resurrection.” **23** So they nominated two men: Joseph called Barsabbas (also known as Justus) and Matthias. **24** **Then they all prayed**, “O Lord, you know every heart. Show us which of these men you have chosen **25** as an apostle to replace Judas in this ministry, for he has deserted us and gone where he belongs.” **26** **Then they cast lots**, and Matthias was selected to become an apostle with the other eleven.

## **II. One of the most asked questions by any Christian is “how do I know God’s will for my life?”**

**K. “How can a person discern what is the leading of God’s Holy Spirit, or the leading of my own desires?”**

**L. There are some **principles revealed in God’s word**, that if followed, will help you to discern between the voice of your own desires and that of the Holy Spirit.**

## **III. The Apostles faced a dilemma.**

**M. They had been given a commission by the resurrected Christ to go into all the world and preach the Gospel.**

1. They were told to go back to Jerusalem and wait
2. They had a job to do, but no real specific directions, ...
3. They need God's guidance and the knowledge of His will to move forward in God's perfect plan.
4. Some of the principles for knowing God's will are revealed in this passage of scripture in the book of Acts.
5. Before we take an expository trip through the balance of Acts 1 let me make a few "faith statements" regarding the topic of God's will

**I. God wants you to know His will**

**Matthew 16:24–25 (NLT)** — 24 Then Jesus said to his disciples, "If any of you wants to be my follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross, and **follow me**. 25 If you try to hang on to your life, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for my sake, you will save it.

**N. In order to accurately follow Jesus, you have to know His will.**

1. More than your desire to know God's will is God's desire for you to know His will.
2. Just as any father wants his child to know what his expectations are, even more so does our heavenly Father want us to know, understand, and walk in His will.

**II. You CAN know God's will**

**Romans 12:1–2 (NLT)** — 1 And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship him. 2 Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. **Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.**

**Romans 12:2 (NKJV)** — 2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by **the renewing of your mind**, that you may **prove** what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

**O. prove = dokimazo, dok-im-ad'-zo; to test (lit. or fig.); by impl. to approve:--allow, discern, examine, X like, (ap-) prove, try.**

1. You can discern God's will and look to Him for His leading
2. He would never command you to "prove" or discern His will if it were not possible.

**Isaiah 42:16 (NLT) — 16 I will lead** blind Israel down a new path, **guiding them** along an unfamiliar way. **I will brighten the darkness** before them and smooth out the road ahead of them. Yes, I will indeed do these things; I will not forsake them.

3. For example... Paul knew he was called to be an apostle

**Romans 1:1 (NLT) — 1** This letter is from Paul, a slave of Christ Jesus, **chosen by God** to be an apostle and sent out to preach his Good News.

**P. You can know God's will**

**III. God knows how to speak to you in a way in which you will know it is Him...**

**John 10:3–4 (NLT) — 3** The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and **the sheep recognize his voice** and come to him. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. **4** After he has gathered his own flock, he walks ahead of them, and **they follow him because they know his voice.**

**John 10:14 (NLT) — 14** "I am the good shepherd; I know my own sheep, and they know me,

**Q. If you will tune in and listen,**

1. If you have a heart's desire to know His purposes, instead of looking for affirmation on what you want to do...
2. You can hear His voice and know His will.

**R. Let's look at some principles for knowing God's will found in Acts 1**

**I. Principle #1. To know the will of God you must walk in obedience to the light you have already.**

**Luke 24:49 (NLT) — 49** “And now I will send the Holy Spirit, just as my Father promised. But stay here in the city until the Holy Spirit comes and fills you with power from heaven.”

**Acts 1:4 (NLT) — 4** Once when he was eating with them, he commanded them, “Do not leave Jerusalem until the Father sends you the gift he promised, as I told you before.

**Acts 1:12 (NLT) — 12** Then the apostles returned to Jerusalem from the Mount of Olives, a distance of half a mile.

### **Jesus commanded the disciples to wait in Jerusalem**

- 1. All they knew was to wait for the “Promise of the Father”**
- 2. They really did not know what it would look like, nor did they know how they would know He had come**
- 3. The only light they had was “wait”.**

### **S. If you are going to know God’s will, you must walk in the light He has already given you...**

- 4. What was the last thing God clearly showed you or spoke to you? - are you doing that? If not, go back and get it right**
- 5. For example: If the Lord convicted you about offending someone, go to that person and seek forgiveness and reconciliation - this is walking in the light**

### **T. This is really about having the right heart attitude.**

- 6. A heart that is submissive and obedient God’s word.**
- 7. A Heart that desires the knowledge of His will**
- 8. A heart committed to follow where ever God leads**

### **U. There were 120 followers of Jesus who waited in that upper room in Jerusalem**

- 9. These were obedient to the light they had, and now were in position to receive more light.**

**1 Corinthians 15:4–6 (NLT) — 4** He was buried, and he was raised from the dead on the third day, just as the Scriptures said. **5** He was seen by Peter and then by the Twelve. **6** After that, **he was seen by more than 500 of his followers at one time**, most of whom are still alive, though some have died.

- 1. There were 500 people who saw the resurrected Lord, and who heard the command to wait in the city - however, only 120 were in the upper room!**

Think about this for a moment...

1. What happened to the other 380 people who heard the will of God to wait in the city of Jerusalem?
2. They did what many do...
  2. Some **Gave UP** – Instead of obeying God’s will they gave up following Jesus and went on with their lives as they desired, wearing the Christian name tag... Going to church, good people, but not true disciples... authentic followers of Jesus.
  3. Some **Fell BACK**- These are people who fall back into their life and lifestyle they had before they knew Jesus.

*Because they didn’t follow Jesus they got entangled back in the world*

**2 Timothy 4:10 (NLT)** — 10 Demas has deserted me because he loves the things of this life and has gone to Thessalonica...

4. Some **Ran AHEAD** –
  3. These are people who are typically “type A” highly driven people who have a hard time waiting on the Lord
  4. In a desire to meet needs they run out in front of God...
  5. Maybe some of these 380 people thought Jesus gave us a command to go into all the world and preach the gospel, so let’s get ur done!
  6. They knew part of His will, but did not follow all His will.
  7. Jesus said go into the all the world and preach the gospel, but He added, “wait in the city of Jerusalem until you receive the Promise of the Father”; the empowerment to do what He has called you to do.
- II. The bottom line to the first principle of knowing God’s will is to walk in the light He has already given you.

## II. **Principle #2. Be in Fellowship with other believers**

**Acts 1:13–15 (NLT)** — 13 When they arrived, they went to the upstairs room of the house where they were staying. Here are the names of those who were present: Peter, John, James, Andrew, Philip, Thomas, Bartholomew, Matthew, James (son of Alphaeus), Simon (the zealot), and Judas (son of James). 14 **They all met together** and **were constantly united in prayer**, along with Mary the mother of Jesus, several other women, and the brothers of Jesus. 15 During this time, when about **120 believers were together in one place**, Peter stood up and addressed them.

- V. Being committed in fellowship is vital to the spiritual life of every follower of Jesus

1. **Just being in church services regularly puts you in a position to hear the voice of the Lord during worship, during the teaching of God's word**
2. **The gifts of the Holy Spirit operate for the building up of His body and move particularly when God's people gather together**
3. **Jesus gave leadership gifts to His body for building up the saints**

**Ephesians 4:11–12 (NLT)** — 11 Now these are the gifts Christ gave to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers. 12 Their responsibility is to equip God's people to do his work and build up the church, the body of Christ.

4. **Scripture declares...**

**Proverbs 11:14 (NLT)** — 14 Without wise leadership, a nation falls; there is safety in having many advisers.

5. **Being in fellowship is vital for your ability to know God's will**

**Hebrews 10:25 (NLT)** — 25 And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near.

### III. **Principle #3. Pray to know God, and to know His will**

**Acts 1:14 (NLT)** — 14 They all met together and were **constantly united in prayer**, along with Mary the mother of Jesus, several other women, and the brothers of Jesus.

**Acts 1:24 (NLT)** — 24 Then **they all prayed**, "O Lord, you know every heart. Show us which of these men you have chosen

#### W. **Prayer is our communion with the Father**

1. **Prayer is the place where we daily surrender our will, our plans, and our desires, in order to follow the will, plans and desires of our Lord**
2. **Prayer is the place where we confess our sins and receive His cleansing**
3. **Prayer is the place where we develop our intimacy with the Father**
4. **Prayer is the place where we sit quietly and listen and meditate on Him**
5. **You cannot know the will of God in any matter without asking, without surrendering, without submitting in prayer to the Father**

**X. Prayer is an important key to knowing God and His will - note these two points about prayer**

**Matthew 7:7–11 (NLT)** — 7 “Keep on asking, and you will receive what you ask for. Keep on seeking, and you will find. Keep on knocking, and the door will be opened to you. 8 For everyone who asks, receives. Everyone who seeks, finds. And to everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. 9 “You parents—if your children ask for a loaf of bread, do you give them a stone instead? 10 Or if they ask for a fish, do you give them a snake? Of course not! 11 So if you sinful people know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give good gifts to those who ask him.

1. **Since God wants you to know His will - if you ask you can count on the fact that He will reveal it to you**
2. **Ask, seek, knock - you will receive, you will find, it will be opened to you**
3. **If you don't ask, you will not know, if you don't seek, you will not find, if you don't knock, it will not be opened**

**Y. This is such a critical point...**

4. **I have seen it so often**
5. **Someone gets a job offer... more money, better benefits**
6. **So, you have this seemingly wonderful open door in front of you... Let me urge you not to run through the door without asking God first; is this your will?**
7. **Maybe you have always wanted to live in North Carolina... it's been a long time desire... But is it God's will? You won't know until you have asked.**
8. **You have family urging you to move closer... Have you asked the Lord? Remember what Jesus said...**

**Matthew 10:37 (NLT)** — 37 “If you love your father or mother more than you love me, you are not worthy of being mine; or if you love your son or daughter more than me, you are not worthy of being mine.

9. **You finally meet the girl or guy of your dreams... You've been single so very long and are tired of going home to an empty apartment; you begin a dating relationship... but have you asked God, is this your will?**

**James 4:1–3 (NLT) — 1** What is causing the quarrels and fights among you? Don't they come from **the evil desires at war within you**? **2** You want what you don't have, so you scheme and kill to get it. You are jealous of what others have, but you can't get it, so you fight and wage war to take it away from them. Yet you don't have what you want because you don't ask God for it. **3** And even when you ask, **you don't get it because your motives are all wrong—you want only what will give you pleasure.**

#### **Z. It's not only an issue of asking...**

**10. Many people don't bother asking...**

**11. Start by asking, Lord is this your will?**

#### **AA. And If you are asking, are your motives right**

**12. Are you open to hear what ever He has to say?**

**13. or is you mind made up already and your heart set!**

### **IV.Principle #4. Search God's word to know His will**

**Acts 1:15–20 (NLT) — 15** During this time, when about 120 believers were together in one place, Peter stood up and addressed them. **16** "Brothers," he said, **"the Scriptures had to be fulfilled** concerning Judas, who guided those who arrested Jesus. **This was predicted long ago** by the Holy Spirit, speaking through King David. **17** Judas was one of us and shared in the ministry with us." **18** (Judas had bought a field with the money he received for his treachery. Falling headfirst there, his body split open, spilling out all his intestines. **19** The news of his death spread to all the people of Jerusalem, and they gave the place the Aramaic name Akeldama, which means "Field of Blood.") **20** Peter continued, **"This was written in the book of Psalms**, where it says, 'Let his home become desolate, with no one living in it.' It also says, 'Let someone else take his position.'

**Because Peter knew the word he could understand what was happening around him and he knew what to do.**

**1. God speaks through His word**

**Psalms 119:6 (NLT) — 6** Then I will not be ashamed **when I compare my life with your commands.**

**Psalms 119:7 (NLT) — 7** **As I learn your righteous regulations**, I will thank you by living as I should!

**Psalms 119:105 (NLT) — 105** **Your word is a lamp** to guide my feet and a light for my path.

#### **BB. Let God's word be the acid test**

2. **If it doesn't line up with God's word - it's not God's will**
3. **If you determine in your heart to do something and it directly contradicts God's word or a principle in His word - it cannot be His will**
4. **even if an angel appears to you in a vision; if he tells you to do something that does not line up with God's word - throw it out**
5. **even if you hear a loud voice and a hand appears on the wall and writes a message; if it is contrary to the written word of God in the bible or principles found in the word - throw it out!**
6. **even if you are called out of a large crowd, and a prophet of God begins to prophecy and "reads your mail" - and they can tell you things about you that only you know about - if they prophecy something to you that flows against the written word of God - throw it out!**
7. **Realize you are not the exception!**
8. **Everyone thinks the commands, and the principles in His word apply to everyone... until it hits home then there is some kind of special exception for you!**
9. **Let the written word of God be your guide post.**

### **CC. Be attentive to the Rhema word**

1. **Rhema -is Greek for "word", "Utterance"**
2. **This is when you are reading along in your quiet time, minding your own business and all of a sudden it is like lightning comes from the book and into your heart**
3. **God has taken his "logos" - written word and made it "rhema" a spoken word in to your situation**
4. **i.e. many years ago I had been praying that God would show me if I were to marry Elly - one morning, in my quiet time I read ...**

**Proverbs 18:22 (NKJV) — 22 He who finds a wife finds a good thing, And obtains favor from the LORD.**

5. **as soon as I read it - I knew**
6. **This Rhema also kept me when my feet were growing cold**

7. standing outside the door of the sanctuary, they were playing the song for our wedding entrance and all of a sudden panic set in! - "oh my God, what am I doing - the finality of the decision was hitting me, then I prayed and the Lord brought to my remembrance the word He gave me...

**DD. You need a working knowledge of God's word to help you in knowing God's will**

8. that's why I am always encouraging you to read through your bible every year - get the whole picture!

## **V. Principle #5. Trust God to guide you**

**Acts 1:23–26 (NKJV) — 23** And they proposed two: Joseph called Barsabas, who was surnamed Justus, and Matthias. **24** And they prayed and said, "You, O Lord, who know the hearts of all, show which of these two You have chosen **25** to take part in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas by transgression fell, that he might go to his own place." **26** And they cast their lots, and the lot fell on Matthias. And he was numbered with the eleven apostles.

**EE. If your heart is set on knowing Him, you can trust Him to guide you into His will**

**Psalm 37:3–5 (NLT) — 3** Trust in the LORD and do good. Then you will live safely in the land and prosper. **4** Take delight in the LORD, and he will give you your heart's desires. **5** Commit everything you do to the LORD. Trust him, and he will help you.

**Psalm 37:23 (NLT) — 23** The LORD directs the steps of the godly. He delights in every detail of their lives.

**Proverbs 3:5–6 (NLT) — 5** Trust in the LORD with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. **6** Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take.

**FF. Cultivate relationship with Him - intimacy with God will lead you into His heart!**

1. intimacy - in-to-me-see

**GG. Another part of this is having the attitude of "not my will, but your will be done."**

2. **Delight yourself in the Lord - speaks of intimacy - the more intimate you are with Him, the more you know Him, the more you will be able to know what His will is.**

**Psalm 32:8–9 (NKJV) — 8** I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; **I will guide you with My eye.** **9** Do not be like the horse or like the mule, Which have no understanding, Which must be harnessed with bit and bridle, Else they will not come near you.

3. **As you grow in maturity and trust in your relationship with the Lord it becomes easier for the Lord to guide you**

## **VI. Principle #. 6 - Fast to know the will of God**

**Ezra 8:21–23 (NKJV) — 21** Then I proclaimed a fast there at the river of Ahava, that we might humble ourselves before our God, to seek from Him the right way for us and our little ones and all our possessions. **22** For I was ashamed to request of the king an escort of soldiers and horsemen to help us against the enemy on the road, because we had spoken to the king, saying, “The hand of our God is upon all those for good who seek Him, but His power and His wrath are against all those who forsake Him.” **23** So we fasted and entreated our God for this, and He answered our prayer.

**Acts 10:30–32 (NKJV) — 30** So Cornelius said, “Four days ago I was fasting until this hour; and at the ninth hour I prayed in my house, and behold, a man stood before me in bright clothing, **31** and said, ‘Cornelius, your prayer has been heard, and your alms are remembered in the sight of God. **32** Send therefore to Joppa and call Simon here, whose surname is Peter. He is lodging in the house of Simon, a tanner, by the sea. When he comes, he will speak to you.’

**Fasting = Separating yourself unto the Lord - denying the fleshly desires - quieting all the other voices, in order to hear the voice of God**

1. **fasting is one of the most powerful weapons and tools in the arsenal of the Christian**
2. **by crucifying the desires of the flesh and getting alone with God to seek His face - you increase the probability of hearing His voice.**
3. **No major, life changing decision should be made without a time of fasting.**

## **VII. Some things to remember in discerning God’s will**

**Be guided by the peace in your heart**

**Colossians 3:15 (NLT) — 15** And **let the peace that comes from Christ rule in your hearts.** For as members of one body you are called to live in peace. And always be thankful.

**John 14:27 (NLT) — 27** “I am leaving you with a gift—peace of mind and heart. And the peace I give is a gift the world cannot give. So don’t be troubled or afraid.

1. if you have a sense of well being about the direction or conclusion you have come to or are walking in,... a quiet confidence, then it is most likely God’s will

2. if you don’t have peace - don’t move forward

**HH.If you are married - walk in unity**

3. when facing major decisions in life, do not move ahead without being in unity

**Matthew 12:25 (NLT) — 25** Jesus knew their thoughts and replied, “Any kingdom divided by civil war is doomed. A town or family splintered by feuding will fall apart.

4. if you have a decision to make that has a time constraint i.e. which school you are going to send the kids to ... and you can’t find compromise; then the husband needs to make the call and the wife submit

5. husband be certain in cases like this you lead in the right spirit... with a servant’s heart; seeking the best for your family

6. wife be certain you submit in the right spirit... not grudgingly or with an “I told you so attitude if it turns out to be the wrong call”

7. Let it be few decisions you make that you are not in unity

**God still speaks in dreams and visions**

**Acts 2:17 (NLT) — 17** ‘In the last days,’ God says, ‘I will pour out my Spirit upon all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy. Your young men will see visions, and your old men will dream dreams.

1. Be certain that the dream or vision you have lines up with God’s word

**2. Be certain to check with Godly counselors**

**VIII. God does speak through circumstances**

**Revelation 3:8 (NLT) — 8** “I know all the things you do, and I have opened a door for you that no one can close. You have little strength, yet you obeyed my word and did not deny me.

1. while not all open doors are from the Lord, He does open doors for us, and close some.

**IX. Some questions to ask yourself regarding the choices you have in front of you or the decision you come to...**

**II. What would Jesus do?**

**JJ. Is this going to draw me closer to the Lord and His people?**

**KK. What effect will my choice have on my relationship with the Lord and others in the body?**

**LL. What choice would glorify Jesus most?**

**MM. Does the Word of God say anything about the situation?**

**NN. Does what I am about to do build up others or tear them down?**

**X. The key is to be sure that we are submitted to Him and are willing to do whatever he shows us. If we purpose to do His will, we will know His leading.**

**XI. Follow these simple principles...**

**Principle #1. To know the will of God you must walk in obedience to the light you have already.**

**OO. Principle #2. Be in Fellowship with other believers**

**PP. Principle #3. Pray to know God, and to know His will**

**QQ. Principle #4. God's word is our primary guide to knowing His will**

**RR. Principle #5. Trust God to guide you**

**SS. Principle #6. Fast to know God's will**

**TT. Principle #7. God still speaks in dreams and visions**

**UU. Principle #8. God does speak through circumstances**