

Session 5: The Way of Wisdom

WCR Summer Elective: God's Will & Making Decisions

Review:

God's will of decree. This refers to God's sovereignty over all things. Everything that comes to pass, falls under God's choosing or allowing it to come to pass. Everything that happens, happens according to God's plan.

God's will of desire. This refers to what God has commanded and taught in Scripture. God's decree describes the way things are. God's desire or moral will describes the way things ought to be.

God's will of direction. This refers to what God has planned for an individual person. This can be the most confusing aspect of understanding God's will and yet, it tends to be what we are looking for the most, especially when we have a decision to make.

1. The Way of Wisdom: Principles of decision making applied.

- a. In decisions specifically addressed by the Scriptures, God's will is understood and must be obeyed.
- b. In decisions where the Bible gives no command, the believer is free and responsible to choose.
- c. You cannot expect God to speak directly to or given clear-cut direction to non-moral decisions.
- d. Once the believer makes the decision, the sovereign will of God is revealed.
- e. Example: What should Adam and Even eat for supper?

The LORD God commanded the man, saying, "From any tree of the garden you may eat freely; but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat from it you will surely die." Genesis 2:16,17

Therefore Adam and Eve were free to choose whatever type of fruit they wanted as long as it wasn't from the tree they were commanded not to eat from.¹

¹ Much of this is taken from Gary Friesen, *Decision Making and the Will of God*, page 172 and following.

2. The Way of Wisdom: Making non-moral decisions and discerning God's will of direction for your life.

a. Seek wisdom

*My son, if you will receive my words
And treasure my commandments within you,
Make your ear attentive to wisdom,
Incline your heart to understanding;
For if you cry for discernment,
Lift your voice for understanding;
If you seek her as silver
And search for her as for hidden treasures;
Then you will discern the fear of the LORD
And discover the knowledge of God.
For the LORD gives wisdom;
From His mouth come knowledge and understanding. Proverbs 2:1-6*

- Wisdom allows us to have a God-centered approach to life
- Wisdom keeps us from making foolish decisions

b. Acquire wisdom

- Search your heart for selfish desires or idols of the heart
- Ask God for discernment (prayer and inner impressions by God's Spirit)
- Seek wisdom from the Scriptures
- Seek wisdom from personal research
- Seek wisdom from wise counselors
- Seek wisdom through life experience (common sense)

c. A person should apply maturity by gathering and evaluating data, devoting sufficient time to the process, giving personal preference and desires of the heart their proper place and make decisions based on sound reasoning and with love for God and others in mind.

d. Don't be frozen with indecision:

- A person should exercise good judgment and not waste time
- A person should be grateful for the freedom to choose according to personal preference