

SEARCHING

SEARCH SERIES – PART #1

Pastor Kevin Cummings – July 20, 2025

Ephesians 5:15-17; Job 33:14-33

I. Searching for _____ can be difficult.

- A. God's will is not a _____.
• Feelings are unreliable! (Jeremiah 17:9)
- B. God's will is not a _____.
• Formulas often contradict each other.
- C. God's will is a _____. (John 15:9-15; I Cor. 1:9)
1. This requires a relationship with Jesus Christ.
2. This requires having the proper attitude.
"Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is-his good, pleasing and perfect will."
Romans 12:2
3. This requires going to the proper place.
• Do not rely on culture or circumstances.
(Exodus 23:2; Jonah 1:1-3; Acts 27:1-14)
• Do rely on God's Word (Ps. 119:97-105)
1.) God's will is found in God's Word.
2.) God's will never contradicts God's Word.
3.) God expects me to obey His Word before He shows me His specific will.

II. Searching for _____ can be difficult.

- A. _____ speaks to us today. (I Kings 19:12; Job 33:14-33)
1. God speaks through dreams. (v. 14-15)
2. God speaks through the Holy Spirit. (v. 16-18)
3. God speaks through pain. (v. 19-22)
4. God speaks through the circumstances of life. (v. 23-30)
5. God speaks through other Christians. (v. 31-33)
6. God speaks through His word (II Tim. 3:16-17)

B. _____ speaks to us today. (Ephesians 6:11; Peter 5:8)
"Don't always believe everything you hear just because someone says it is a message from God; test it first to see if it really is." I John 4:1 (LB)

- How can you tell if it is God or Satan speaking to you?
 1. Does it agree with the Bible? (Luke 21:33; Gal. 1:8)
 2. Does it make me more like Christ? (Philippians 2:5)
 3. Does my church family confirm it? (Ephesians 3:10)
 4. Do I really have peace about it? (I Corinthians 14:33)

III. Searching for _____ can be difficult.

- A. Follow only _____ based advice. (Psalm 1:1)
- B. Follow the _____ leading. (John 14:26)
"Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight. Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the LORD and shun evil." Proverbs 3:5-7
- C. Follow _____ in making decisions.
"Everything is permissible, but not everything is beneficial. Everything is permissible, but not everything is constructive." I Corinthians 10:23
 1. The principle of glory. (Ex. 33:18; I Cor. 10:31-32)
 2. The principle of doubt. (Romans 14:23)
 3. The principle of appearance. (I Thessalonians 5:22)
 4. The principle of moderation and excess. (I Timothy 3:2)
 5. The principle of love. (I Corinthians 8; 13)
 6. The principle of influence. (Matthew 5:13-16)
 7. The principle of growth. (Philippians 1:9-11)
 8. The principle of time. (Eph. 5:16; I Cor. 9:23; Pro. 2:6)
 9. The principle of authority.
(Hebrews 13:17; I Thessalonians 5:12-13)
 10. The principle of purity.
(Philippians 4:8; I Corinthians 6:19-20; Gal. 5:13)

ACTION POINTS:

- 1.) When you don't know what to do, _____ you should do.
- 2.) The _____ question is "what must I do to be saved" and the answer is as simple as ABC: Admit, Believe, Call

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I. Searching for God's will can be difficult.

A. God's will is not a feeling.

- Feelings are unreliable! (Jeremiah 17:9)

B. God's will is not a formula.

- Formulas often contradict each other.

C. God's will is a fellowship. (John 15:9-15; I Cor. 1:9)

1. This requires a relationship with Jesus Christ.
2. This requires having the proper attitude.

"Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is-his good, pleasing and perfect will."

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3. This requires going to the proper place.

- Do not rely on culture or circumstances. (Exodus 23:2; Jonah 1:1-3; Acts 27:1-14)
- Do rely on God's Word (Ps. 119:97-105)
 - 1.) God's will is found in God's Word.
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II. Searching for God's voice can be difficult.

A. God speaks to us today. (I Kings 19:12; Job 33:14-33)

1. God speaks through dreams. (v. 14-15)
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B. Satan speaks to us today. (Ephesians 6:11; Peter 5:8)
"Don't always believe everything you hear just because someone says it is a message from God; test it first to see if it really is." I John 4:1 (LB)

- How can you tell if it is God or Satan speaking to you?
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 2. Does it make me more like Christ? (Philippians 2:5)
 3. Does my church family confirm it? (Ephesians 3:10)
 4. Do I really have peace about it? (I Corinthians 14:33)

III. Searching for answers can be difficult.

A. Follow only Biblically based advice. (Psalm 1:1)

B. Follow the Holy Spirit's leading. (John 14:26)

"Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight. Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the LORD and shun evil." Proverbs 3:5-7

C. Follow 10 principles in making decisions.

"Everything is permissible, but not everything is beneficial. Everything is permissible, but not everything is constructive." I Corinthians 10:23

1. The principle of glory. (Ex. 33:18; I Cor. 10:31-32)
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ACTION POINTS:

- 1.) When you don't know what to do, do what you know you should do.
- 2.) The most important question is "what must I do to be saved" and the answer is as simple as ABC: Admit, Believe, Call

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