

## KNOWING THE WILL OF GOD FOR MY LIFE

Dr. John Jenkins

I want to be on Main Street downtown knowing the will of God for my life. One wrong decision can have long range manifestations on your life. One wrong decision can mess you up.

John 10:27: My sheep hear my voice...and they follow me. We must learn the difference between His voice and other voices including your own voice. Sheep are seasoned people; lambs are immature people. Listen to the sheep. You don't have to understand the sheep, but learn to trust and obey. Learn to hear from God. God is still speaking. He speaks about your marriage; your occupation, and your finances.

Here are 10 ways that God is speaking:

1. He speaks through His word. God is not contrary to His word. Whatever God tells must agree with His word. (Hebrews 4:12) His word is alive. It can be precise and persistent. (Psalm 119:105) His word is a lamp.
2. He speaks through prayer/inner conviction. It is a dialogue. Be still long enough to hear from God. (Romans 8:16) There is an inner agreement with your spirit. It comes in some quiet places. (II Samuel 5:12) David knew that he was established King of Israel.
3. God speaks through Authority. (Proverbs 21:1) Do not try to manipulate the heart of your king. See how God has guided their hearts. (Ephesians 6:1) Honor your parents. All of us are under some kind of authority as long as it is not contrary to scripture. There are four authorities in our lives: family, government, employment and church.
4. Godly counsel. (Proverbs 11:14) Where there is no counsel the people fall; but in the multitude of counsel there is safety.
5. Spiritual Gifts. (Acts 2:4-8; I Corinthians 12:10)
  - A. The gift of tongues. One is for the community and the other is personal.
  - B. Gift of the Prophet (I Samuel 8) God speaks to Israel about a king. God warns them not to have a king but they rejected God's voice. (I Samuel 12) God reveals David's sin to him. (Acts 21:10-11) Agabus spoke to Paul about his ministry.
  - C. The preached or taught word. (II Timothy 3: 16)
  - D. Word of knowledge. (John 4) God knows your business. He is dealing with you about something he has already told you. God is reminding you of a precious conversation He has had with you.
6. Situations and circumstances. (Philippians 4:19) God is organizing or orchestrating situations and circumstances to order our steps. God knows what is best for you even when you want to go another way. He is opening doors and closing doors. It is not the Devil it is God that has locked the door. (Genesis 22) Abraham tested to sacrifice his son. (I Kings 17) Elijah hung around this widow because she had some food. God's provision. Where there is vision there is provision. (Genesis 6:14) God speaks to Noah and gives him specific directions to build an ark with a specific wood gopher wood.
7. Similitudes or images. It means God will flash before your eyes things that will clearly speak to a consistent pattern of something. He shows you something out of your comfort zone. (Hosea 12:10) I have spoken by the prophets and have multiplied visions. I have given symbols through the witness of the prophets.

8. Fleece (Judges 6:36-40) It is a confirmation from God through events to affirm His word and will. (Genesis 24: 12-26) Warning sign on this fleece piece. Don't depend on fleeces. It is for immature people who are not sure of hearing the voice of God. Fleeces must be progressive and not preventive. It is the attitude that I am not moving forward until You speak to me, not the attitude that I am going forward so that you can meet me. Don't try to blackmail God.
9. Dreams and visions. Hundreds of them throughout scripture. All your dreams did not come from God. Don't lean on a single dream, vision or event. God will speak to you.
10. An audible voice. Many scriptures on this. (Luke 3:21-22) A voice came from heaven. (I Samuel 3:10) Personally I have not heard an audible voice of God. (I Kings 19:11-12) Elijah on the run from Jezebel but God did not speak through the wind nor through an earthquake nor the fire but through a still small voice. Learn to listen to that still voice. It may require you to take a step of faith. God will affirm His word. I want to hear God's voice.

These last three are the spectacular.