

DISCOVERING GOD'S WILL FOR YOUR LIFE
#2: THE SEVEN DISCOVERY PRINCIPLES

Intro: *We can discover God's guidance by prayerfully using these discovery principles in various combinations:*

Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.

Psalm 119:105

I. God's Guidance Through His Written Word

- Often God's will for your life is revealed by His _____ and commandments in the _____!
- **Danger!** God's word can sometimes be misinterpreted, or taken out of _____. Use proper interpretation methods.
- You must _____ the Bible to effectively use it.
- Remember, God will _____ lead you to do something that is contrary to His written word.

But I will stay on at Ephesus until Pentecost, because a great door for effective work has opened to me, and there are many who oppose me.

I Corinthians 16:8-9

II. Circumstances

- God often controls our circumstances through open and closed " _____ " — opportunities or lack of them.

Dangers!

- 1) A closed door might be God testing our _____.
- 2) A door may be closed through the _____ of others or work of Satan.

Brothers, choose seven men from among you who are known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom. We will turn this responsibility over to them.

Acts 6:3

III. Spiritual Wisdom and Common Sense

- Not only spiritual wisdom, but logic and common sense are often _____ - _____.

Dangers!

- 1) We can confuse worldly wisdom (contrary to God's ways and His Word) with _____ human logic.
- 2) God's divine wisdom and will is _____ the same as ours. We should never _____ God in by our common sense.

IV. Personal Desires, Interests, and Abilities

- God often _____ - _____ us with desires, interests, and abilities to do his will. Do what you like as long as it doesn't violate scriptural guidelines.

- **Danger!** Our perception of our interests and abilities sometimes are different from God's reality.

Plans fail for lack of counsel, but with many advisers they succeed.

Proverbs 15:22

V. Advice

- God has given us _____, wise, and godly people as friends and church family to learn from and use for advice

Dangers!

- 1) We can others' advice to avoid taking personal responsibility. The decision is still yours.
- 2) No matter how mature and godly others are, they still may not be right for you.

While Peter was still thinking about the vision, the Spirit said to him, "Simon, three men are looking for you...."

Acts 10:19

VI. Inner Urgings

- The _____ feeling that the Holy Spirit is leading, "Speaking," and directing us.

Dangers!

- 1) Often it's hard to differentiate between God's spirit, _____ spirit, and satanic influence.
- 2) Depending _____ on this principle can be an excuse for not praying and using other principles.

In the last days, God says, "I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, and your old men will dream dreams."

Acts 2:17

VII. Special Guidance

- Special guidance consists of dreams, visions, visits by angels, etc. This occurs _____.
- **Danger!** If this happens often, it may be a sign of emotional instability or lack of spiritual maturity.

Important Note: Use more than one discovery principle on major decisions. Give more weight to the first 5 principles (The Big 5).

Answers: I. Teachings; Bible; context; know; never. II. Doors; faith; sin. III. God-given; acceptable; not always; box. IV. Custom-builds. V. Mature. VI. Inner; our; primarily. VII. Rarely.