

**PROVERBS SERIES SIXTEEN
GOD'S GUIDANCE
Dr. Roger Barrier**

Proverbs 3:5-6;13:16;15:22;18:1;19:2;20:5;27:9

"What is God's your will for your life?" Mention the phrase, "the will of God", and there seems to be a tremendous amount of confusion. Some feel that God's will is lost. Others are afraid of His will. They don't want to find it. Too many are confused. I conclude that God gets blamed for a lot of stuff that He had nothing to do with.

Today we will examine proverbial wisdom concerning God's will. When you leave you will have a better idea of the interactive relationship with God that makes the will of God the most obvious thing in your life.

Our attention will center around Proverb 3:5-6:

*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.*

These two verses have encouraged believers for centuries in their quest for God's guidance. Those who have sincerely met the conditions discovered that the promise has never failed.

TRUST IN THE LORD

Trust is only built in a long-term relationship—not a one-time experience.

Trust is built over time.

Are you afraid to trust the Lord fully?

WITH ALL YOUR HEART

We are talking commitment.

There are too many "cafeteria Christians" who pick and choose what they want, and miss the best dishes God fixes for them!

This commitment is spelled out in Romans 12:1-2. Before we can "prove by experience" what God's will is, and discover that His will is "good, pleasing, and perfect", we must first give Him our bodies, minds and wills—a total commitment of our total beings.

Knowing and doing the will of God is not a "spiritual technique" that we use occasionally; it's a committed lifestyle that involves everything we do.

AND LEAN NOT ON YOUR OWN UNDERSTANDING

It is not good to seek God's will alone.

Not every friend is a good counselor, so we must choose wisely.

As we seek to know God's will, we must gather all the facts we can and assess them. Our decisions must be based on knowledge and truth.

Proverb 12:15; 5:22; 27:9; 20:5; 18:13; 13:16; 19:2; and 13:13

IN ALL YOUR WAYS ACKNOWLEDGE HIM

The Hebrew word translated "acknowledge" in Proverbs 3:6 carries with it the idea of intimate communion and is used to describe the marriage relationship (Gen 4:1; 19:8).

Since the will of God comes from the heart of God, His will should draw my heart closer to Him.

AND HE WILL MAKE YOUR PATHS STRAIGHT.

God has plans for our lives.

Proverb 19:21

Ephesians 2:10

God expects us to use our brains and make plans, but He also expects us to submit those plans to Him, and let Him make the final decision.

Proverb 16:3

PROVERBIAL CHECKLIST

1. Humble Your Heart In Your Relationship With The Lord.
2. Gather Pertinent Facts.
3. Seek Wise counsel.
4. Interact With The Spirit In Analyzing Appropriate Scriptures.
5. Commit Your Plans To The Lord.
6. Listen And Wait Quietly For God To Speak.
 - a. Bible verses, promises or warnings
 - b. God's people
 - c. Providential circumstances
 - d. Worship and/or prayer
 - e. Trials and/or sufferings
 - f. "Fleeces" (Judges 6:17-40) (only if God invites you to lay one out)
 - g. Inner promptings of the human spirit
7. Do Whatever Your Heart Leads You To Do.

This checklist outlines what the Psalmist meant in Psalm 37:4: "Delight yourself in the Lord and He will give you the desires of your heart."

Notice He didn't say that he would fulfill our desires, He said He'd put the right desires in there.