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PERSONALLY SPEAKING

THE POWER OF CHOICE

My wife and I once heard a story about a man who had lived in the same house all his life. He always had the same food for breakfast while reading the newspaper. He dressed in the same classic style of clothing, and he abided by an orderly daily routine. Why? “Life is simpler this way,” he said. “I don’t have

to make so many decisions.”

However, life in today’s world with modern technology moves so fast! We’re so busy and we face many decisions daily. Some are small, like those related to our daily routine, but often we face bigger decisions. And occasionally we come to a decision that may be a turning point in our lives.

Making good decisions is the subject of the July issue of *Activated*. One of God’s gifts to humanity is the power of choice. We learn and grow as we make decisions based on the principles of His Word. Making the right decisions can be a serious matter and the consequences are frequently a source of concern. Yet, as followers of Jesus we have an advantage. As we put God first in our lives and do our best to follow the truth of the Bible, we can rest in the promise that “for those who love God all things work together for good” (Romans 8:28).

Indecision due to fear of an undesired outcome can be paralyzing. Don’t be afraid. Take time to seek the Lord for His guidance and be open to the counsel of others whom you trust, but then make your decision and trust that God will take care of the results. If you end up making the wrong choice, God can redirect you and use it somehow for good. After all, you are in His loving hands.

Consider the following illustration. When you are driving a car and following an app that guides you where to go, you might still miss a turn here and there. Well, instead of panicking, you just continue listening to the instructions of the app. It makes a new calculation and sets you on a new course that eventually takes you to your desired destination. God’s Word is similar in some ways to the app. If you miss a turn or go down the wrong street, His Word and the guidance of the still small voice of God’s Spirit will help you to set a new course, so you can still reach your goal.

Happy decision-making with His Holy Spirit App!

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OUT OF OUR COMFORT ZONE

BY MARIA FONTAINE

WE ALL HAVE OUR COMFORT ZONE, the circumstances that we're comfortable with or the people that we've learned to interact with easily and without much conscious effort. The borders of that zone are often determined by various factors, including past experiences, our fears, cultural expectations and what we think will be acceptable to others, and what we consider are reasonable levels of effort on our part that won't create stress or anxiety.

Our comfort zone is nice and cozy. The problem is that if we allow it to govern our decisions, it can end up leaving little room for personal growth and development. It can stifle our being able to experience all that life has to offer, and unless we continue to grow and stretch ourselves, we risk just settling and becoming complacent in heart, mind, and spirit.

The danger of staying within our personal comfort zone when the Lord is trying to broaden our horizons is that we can gradually be lulled into settling for something less rather than striving to reach our full potential. We can lose the ability to see how much more we could do, to the point that we no



longer take steps of faith in new directions.

It's uncomfortable to break through familiar boundaries, and there are risks, because we don't know how things will play out. But the satisfaction, fulfillment, and excitement of encountering new people, new ideas, and new opportunities is part of what makes us deeper, more purpose-driven individuals. We can never grow to reach our potential unless we are

willing to stretch beyond what we think are our limits.

My husband, Peter, once told me about his visit to a physical rehabilitation center where he observed a man who was learning to walk again. The man had been taking tiny shuffling steps, but the therapists decided that it was time for him to do more. The man protested; he was afraid that it was impossible and that he would fall. However, with a therapist on each side of him helping him to walk faster and faster, he realized that he *could* do it. He may have never moved outside his comfort zone and achieved those steps of progress without others encouraging and challenging him.

The Lord sometimes disrupts our comfort zones and brings new challenges into our lives that enable us to step outside the limitations of our current situation, which at times we've placed on ourselves. As we do so, though it may initially be unsettling, we discover new opportunities, relationships and potential that we hadn't previously thought possible.

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GOD'S WILL AND GODLY DECISIONS

ALL OF US HAVE TO MAKE COUNTLESS DECISIONS THROUGHOUT OUR LIVES, including course-altering ones that affect our future, such as where to live, who to marry, what career to pursue, and how to commit to our faith and participate in God's work. Every time of challenge, testing, and trial can also be a pivotal time of decision-making. But how do we make wise decisions that will bring the best results and bear good fruit in our lives?

One of the mysteries of God's plan for humankind is that, as beings created in His image, He has bestowed upon us the majesty of free will ([Genesis 1:26–27](#)). This includes both the ability to make decisions and the responsibility for the outcomes of those decisions. Part of our growth process as Christians is learning to discern God's will and make godly decisions through our personal relationship with Him, our knowledge of His Word, and our love for Him and others.

Throughout life, each of us will continuously face choices between good and evil, right and wrong, whether to serve God or our own interests. In the process, we learn the benefits of loving God, patterning our lives according to His Word, and worshipping and thanking Him for His love and goodness. As grateful children of our heavenly

Father, we have the privilege of believing in Him, trusting in Him and His Word, and experiencing His blessings as we seek to walk in His will and bring glory to Him through our lives (Romans 10:9–10).

Accepting Jesus as our Savior and receiving His gift of salvation is the most important decision we can make in this life, as it determines our eternal standing in relationship to God and His kingdom. Once we give our life to Christ, it is the start of a new life, and we are faced with numerous other decisions on a daily basis.

For Christians, making decisions starts with learning to discern God's will, what God knows will be the best choice in the situation. Only God knows what is going to happen, and only He can see the whole picture—the past, present, and future. He has promised in His Word to instruct and guide us: “I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with My loving eye on you” (Psalm 32:8 NIV).

Discerning the will of God is meant to be a relational process, involving ourselves and God. In the book of Isaiah, we read, “Come now, let us reason together, says the Lord” (Isaiah 1:18), indicating God's desire to communicate with us. A starting point for finding God's will and making good decisions is committing all our ways to Him. “Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will direct your paths” (Proverbs 3:5–6 NKJV). “Commit your way to the Lord, trust in Him, and He will act” (Psalm 37:5).

If we are striving to walk in close relationship with the Lord, in obedience to the teachings in the Bible, and truly seeking His will for our lives, we can trust that God will guide us and place His desires in our heart. The Bible teaches, “Delight yourself in the Lord, and He will give you the desires of your heart” (Psalm 37:4). But the starting point is to reverence God and desire His will above all else. We should go into decision-making with the same mindset that Jesus did,



when He prayed to His Father saying: “Not My will, but Yours, be done” (Luke 22:42).

The Bible teaches us a cornerstone principle for discerning God's will in Romans 12:2: “Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.” Finding God's will and making godly decisions starts with the Word of God, as we seek to learn and walk in His ways, the teachings in His Word, and to live according to His precepts. Psalm 119:105 says, “Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.”

As we make daily choices to pattern our lives after the Bible's teachings, He has promised to grant us wisdom to make good decisions. “If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him” (James 1:5). Sometimes God will speak to us through a certain verse or passage from Scripture, which seems as if it were written just for the situation we are facing. Sometimes God speaks to our heart in a “still small voice” or a whisper, guiding us into His will and truth. (See 1 Kings 19:11–13 NKJV.)



You may have an inner conviction that something you are praying about is God's will. In your heart you just know that a certain decision or action is the will of God and what you're supposed to do or not do. His Word says, "Your ears will hear a voice behind you saying, 'This is the way; walk in it'" ([Isaiah 30:21 NIV](#)). At times God may speak to us in a dream or through a Bible verse to give us specific guidance, which we can then seek further confirmation for.

When seeking God's will in a decision, it is often wise to ask others for their guidance as well. [Proverbs 15:22](#) says, "Without counsel plans fail, but with many advisers they succeed." Of course, it is important to weigh the counsel of others and to seek confirmations when making important decisions for greater assurance that the decision is the right one.

If something is God's will, He will often open the door to make it possible. We can ask ourselves, "Which direction is God leading or opening the way and the means to do it?" Granted, circumstances and opportunities are not necessarily the primary criteria for making godly decisions, but they can be an indication of how the Lord is leading. Sometimes the Lord directs us by closing one door and opening another. God may orchestrate certain setups and situations as He guides us according to His plan and what He knows will be best for our lives.

An important factor in our decision-making is that we seek to make decisions that will accomplish God's purposes and bring glory to Him. The Bible says: "Whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God" ([1 Corinthians 10:31 NIV](#)). His Word teaches us to make decisions that reflect His goodness and promote justice: "He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?" ([Micah 6:8](#)).

Once you've made your decision, commit it to the Lord and trust Him to act according to His good purposes. If you've done your best to make your decision with prayer and biblical counsel, have faith in God for the outcome ([Hebrews 11:6](#)). If your decision proves to be mistaken down the road or needs a change in direction, admit your mistake and ask God to guide and redirect your path.

What a comfort it is to know that we can discern God's good, acceptable, and perfect will ([Romans 12:2](#)). As we seek to walk in His will and dwell in His presence, we are in the safest place to be in this world. Even if war breaks out around us, or we endure personal tragedy or loss, or face the inevitable storms of life, we will always be safe in God's hands and can trust Him to guide us and keep us.

God bless you!—And He will as you study the Bible, seek to make godly decisions, walk in His will, follow Him and love Him with all your heart, soul, and mind ([Matthew 22:37](#)).

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DAY-TO-DAY DECISIONS

BY SALLY GARCÍA

I READ A MEANINGFUL QUOTE BY C.S.

LEWIS: “Every time you make a choice you are turning the central part of you, the part of you that chooses, into something a little different than it was before.” Could this be true even with the smaller day-to-day decisions?

He went on to say, “Good and evil both increase at compound interest. That is why the decisions you and I make every day are of such infinite importance. The smallest good act today is the capture of a strategic point from which, a few months later, you may be able to go on to victories you never dreamed of. An apparently trivial indulgence in lust or anger today is the loss of a ridge or railway line or bridgehead from which the enemy may launch an attack otherwise impossible.”¹

I’m getting the idea. Kindness begets kindness. It creates a ripple effect. I notice that when I go a bit out of my way to show interest in others, it gets easier, as if I am strengthening a muscle. It used to be difficult for me to strike up conversations with strangers, but now I really enjoy the friendly chats I have when I go out, and many have turned into deeper conversations, and friendships have been forged.

On the contrary, every time I am impatient with my husband, I am opening the way for disunity

and distrust to enter my marriage. How many marriages begin to go sour from insults and arguments that went unchecked?

When I was a child, I didn’t worry much about telling little fibs here and there. “It wasn’t me! I don’t know who broke that.” That kind of stuff. By my teenage years, however, I was a habitual liar, straight-faced and bold in my fabricated stories and with no qualms whatsoever. It took me years to get rid of that habit as it had become a part of my very nature.

So, maybe it’s not what clothes I choose to wear today or the dinner menu tonight that matters, but yes, there are small decisions that little by little will decide my future and even my character. Will I become more self-centered or Christ-centered?

As I get older, will I have the peace and contentment of a life well lived?—Maybe not a life with outstanding accomplishments and mighty deeds, but one built on the many small decisions I made to love God first and to serve my fellowman? If so, I will be happy.

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1. “Mere Christianity” by C.S. Lewis

WHEN LIFE CALLS FOR COURAGE

BY LILIA POTTERS



“BE STILL, AND KNOW THAT I AM GOD” (Psalm 46:10).

This powerful Bible verse has been a source of comfort and strength to me in times when life presented tough choices. Making decisions that could alter the course of your life can be daunting, especially when the outcomes remain uncertain. Yet, as I reflect on my life’s journey, I

see how those pivotal moments—sometimes thrust upon me—ultimately worked out for the best.

Let me share one such experience.

Eighteen years ago, one of my children living abroad needed my help. I had recently moved in with another of my children to assist with my young grandchildren, and I had also been deeply involved in work that I loved. Dropping everything and traveling across the world was a daunting prospect. Yet, the choice was clear when I learned of the circumstances surrounding caring for my six-month-old grandson.

I packed a bag and traveled overseas, expecting a short stay. But three months later, I faced a life-altering decision: Should I apply for permanent residency and remain, or return “home” to my other responsibilities, work, and belongings? The longing for familiar surroundings weighed heavily on me, but so did the undeniable pull to remain where I was needed most.

Ordinarily, I would have listed all the pros and cons. The cons certainly seemed overwhelming: staying meant leaving behind my work, financial security, and every earthly possession I had except what had fit in my suitcase. But then there was the one undeniable pro—looking into my grandson’s eyes. The sacrifices faded into the background compared to being present for him when he needed me most.

So, I stayed.

Eighteen years later, I can confidently say it was the right decision. The challenges were real, but they led to personal growth and new opportunities I never imagined.



IT BEGINS WITH THE LEAP

I've leaped a lot in my life, especially in recent years. I leaped into moving to Nebraska (okay, maybe we call that one "was dragged against her will"). I leaped into faith. I leaped into writing. Most recently I've leaped into public speaking. At some point in the midst of all these leaps, I've smacked into a wall—a wall of disappointments, doubts, failures, frustrations and fear.

Leaping is scary. Yet I also believe that despite the risks and the fear, it's necessary. Because if you don't ever leap, you won't ever know what could have been. And what could have been might have made all the difference.

For me, leaping has made the difference between unbelief and faith. It's made the difference between living passively and living passionately. It's made the difference between existing comfortably in the box and thriving in the wild open.

It's true, sometimes when you leap you fall; sometimes you smack hard into a wall and get the wind knocked clean out of you. But sometimes you soar. You may not realize it in the moment, but in leaping you are soaring into the start of something new, something beautiful and life-changing and good.

It all begins with the leap.—*Michelle DeRusha, "It Begins with the Leap," The Lincoln Journal Star, May 15, 2015*

The badge of courage does not require that we walk through something dangerous. It simply requires that we continue to share God's love whenever and wherever we are.—*Tom White*

I found support—emotional and financial—from unexpected sources, and the path ahead, though unclear at first, became brighter with each step.

That little boy, as it turns out, is autistic. I cared for him full-time during his early years, and later part-time as his parents became more involved. Nearly five years ago, just as I considered stepping away to visit and help my other children, life presented another pivotal decision.


That same boy, now a teenager, once again needed my full-time care. In August 2020, I rearranged my life and home to accommodate his living with me. It was a new chapter, filled with learning curves and challenges, but also profound joy and purpose.

Today, that teenager is thriving. He graduated from high school and is pursuing a career in IT support while working part-time. His journey inspires me daily, reminding me of the importance of saying "yes" when called upon, even when the future is unclear.

In turn, my experiences with him led me to new opportunities. I became a Certified Autism Resource Specialist and now share my knowledge and experience with families, caregivers, and educators. Through training and advocacy, I've learned that, while the journey with autism can be challenging, love, patience, and understanding can unlock the potential within every child.

Reflecting on these life-altering decisions, I find reassurance in knowing that no matter the challenges, as Christians, "we know [with great confidence] that God [who is deeply concerned about us] causes all things to work together [as a plan] for good for those who love God, to those who are called according to His plan *and* purpose" (Romans 8:28 AMP). When life calls for courage, we can find peace in knowing and trusting God.

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ANSWERS TO YOUR QUESTIONS

DOES GOD HAVE A PLAN?

Q: DOES GOD REALLY HAVE A PLAN FOR MY LIFE, LIKE I KEEP HEARING? OFTEN MY LIFE FEELS MORE LIKE A BUMPER-CAR RIDE—CONTINUALLY RUNNING INTO ONE OBSTACLE AFTER ANOTHER AND GETTING BOUNCED IN EVERY DIRECTION.

A: God *does* have a plan for each of us, and it is one that is tailored to our unique personality, abilities, and interests. Not only that, but He wants to let us in on that plan and work with us to bring it to pass.

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths” (Proverbs 3:5–6). That doesn’t mean, though, that everything will be easy or happen just as we would like. In fact, sometimes it may seem like everything God allows to come your way is difficult. Does God ever ask too much of us? Sometimes it can seem that way.

God wants what’s best for us, but often the means to that end involves us going through both triumphs and trials, joy and pain. From our perspective, a particular situation or event may not seem good, but God’s Word promises that “we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose” (Romans 8:28). He sees

farther than we do, and His plans are better and more complete than ours. (See Isaiah 55:8–9.)

In the prophet Jeremiah’s time, the Israelites were defeated militarily, scattered, and in exile. They probably wondered what had happened to God’s promised plan for them as a people. God explained that they would remain in exile for 70 years, as a punishment for their waywardness. That couldn’t have been good news, but He reassured them that He continued to work on their behalf. “‘I know the plans I have for you,’ declares the Lord, ‘plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future’” (Jeremiah 29:11 NIV).

So, if you find yourself in a situation where you feel lost and you’re wondering what became of God’s plan for you, don’t despair. As we follow God in obedience, His plan will come to pass.

If we could see, if we could know
We often say,
But God in love a veil doth throw
Across our way.

We cannot see what lies before,
And so we cling to Him the more,
He leads us till this life is o’er,
Trust and obey.

—Norman J. Clayton ■

THE BEST GAME PLAN

BY ROSANE CORDOBA

I HAD JUST TURNED 13 AND MY LIFE STARTED TO FALL APART. My parents had separated and my older sister got married and moved away. A good friend died in a car accident, and on top of it all, I hit puberty. I became rebellious, not just at home, but also with my teachers. The only person I feared was the school director, a tall and elegant woman who didn't put up with any foolishness.

Eventually, my teachers got fed up with me and I was sent to talk with the director. I went into her office trembling, but to my surprise she received me with a smile and told me I would be having a few sessions with the school counselor.

The counselor was a sweet, well-prepared lady who, after hearing all of my complaints, asked me if I liked sports.

"Yes," I replied. At that time, I was playing in my neighborhood sports club. We were the champions of Rio de Janeiro's Teen Volley Championship.

She continued: "If you want to play and win, do you play by your own rules or by the rules of the game?"

"By the rules of the game, otherwise I will be disqualified and lose my chance to play," I responded.

"And so it is with the game of life. If you want to play well and be a winner, you must play by the rules," she concluded.

Suddenly, I understood. What I had learned in sports about teamwork, cheering others on when they make a mistake, following the coach's instructions, or lunging to get a seemingly lost ball and scoring an unexpected point could be applied to life. Soon I went back to being the happy, well-behaved student I had been before. What a great influence a caring adult can have on a teenager!

Cora Coralina, a famous Brazilian writer, said: "Even when everything seems to be tumbling down, it is up to me to decide if I will cry or laugh, go or stay, give up or keep fighting, for I have discovered that in the uncertain road of life, the most important thing to do is to decide."

Our lives are built on decisions. God created a beautiful world for us to live in and enjoy, but we must put Him and His will in first place; and like any game, it takes practice. Sometimes we have to lay aside our own plans and just follow His leading, even when we don't understand. That requires faith and trust that He has the best game plan for each one of us.

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Find Wisdom in God's Word

BY MARIE ALVERO



WE'RE AT A RESTAURANT AND ONE OF MY KIDS TURNS TO ME AND SAYS, "MOM, WHAT DO I WANT TO EAT?" Because I am a well-seasoned mom, I respond with "I don't know!" This teenager can read, drive, and work, she does not need me to make this decision for her.

Sometimes I think we try to make life decisions the same way as my daughter did. When faced with a choice we say, "God, tell me what to do!" as if God's going to weigh in on all our little decisions. But God could say something like "Nope, I've already given you boundaries and you have access to the information you need to make this decision." Like any good parent, God wants us to take ownership of our decisions, to move in accordance with our faith, to learn, grow, try, fail, stretch and develop within our capacity.

This might sound contradictory to God's promise that He will direct our paths (Proverbs 3:6 NKJV) or that He will give us the desires of our heart (Psalm 37:4). But I think it's very similar to how I taught my kids to eat wisely. When they were little, I deliberately fed them nutrient-dense foods and avoided junk food. I gradually exposed them to a wide variety of foods and flavors. I had

them work in the kitchen with me, grocery shop with me, and generally be a part of the A to Z of feeding a household. As older teens and young adults they're now all capable in the kitchen and grocery store, so I don't get too involved in their decisions about food.

This is similar to how God has given us His Word. He's shown us His heart, we can see what He loves and what He hates, and through that we can develop an understanding of God's will. Does that mean that we approach every decision with clarity? No. It means that as long as we are not straying from the boundaries of God's Word, we have the freedom to learn, try, retry, and stretch.

James 1:5 says, "If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you" (NIV). The first place to look for wisdom is in the Bible. God's will and wisdom are not generally going to come to us by miraculous revelation, but rather through the direction He has already given us in His Word.

MARIE ALVERO IS A FORMER MISSIONARY TO AFRICA AND MEXICO. SHE CURRENTLY LIVES A HAPPY, BUSY LIFE WITH HER HUSBAND AND CHILDREN IN CENTRAL TEXAS, USA. ■

Urgent, Important, or Superfluous?

BY VICTORIA OLIVETTA



EVERY DAY I SEE NEWS HEADLINES ABOUT DISCOURAGING AND DISHEARTENING EVENTS, and at times receive contradictory information about things that affect my day-to-day life, finances, budgeting, and plans for the future.

In the midst of this uncertainty, I have a choice. I choose to stay connected to what is important instead of what randomly appears as “urgent” in the news. I choose to pattern my life after the principles in the Bible so that I can be an agent of God’s light and hope to the world around me.

I choose my personal and spiritual development as my source of hope and harmony, and the way I stay connected with my identity, purpose, and vision.

Worrying about what is happening in the world takes energy and time away from thinking proactively about what truly concerns me—my activities, productivity, well-being, health, family, coworkers, and relationship with the Lord.

To minimize the distressing effects from the information that the media offers, I select news headlines that are related specifically to my interests and my profession, and I ignore the rest. And I join groups online where the news is categorized according to what relates to my profession or interests. These are reliable sources that do the hard work of searching for the important among the superfluous.

I don’t let a day go by without reading the Bible or a Christian author, and on weekends I take advantage of listening to Christian mentors on their YouTube channels. I also regularly enjoy my favorite comedians. Humor is medicine for my soul.

In moments of uncertainty, I remember that nothing will be asked of me beyond what I can endure and manage, and that along with the challenges, the skills I need to overcome are at my disposal. No matter how intense the circumstances may seem, tomorrow is another day, a new beginning where the old has passed and all things are made new.

“No test or temptation that comes your way is beyond the course of what others have had to face. All you need to remember is that God will never let you down; he’ll never let you be pushed past your limit; he’ll always be there to help you come through it” (1 Corinthians 10:13 MSG).

“[Jesus] said to me, ‘My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness’” (2 Corinthians 12:9).

I have found that simplicity can lead to wisdom, because simplicity is linked to humility. Declaring my needs and lacks to my heavenly Father is the key that can provide answers and open previously sealed doors.

VICTORIA OLIVETTA IS A MEMBER OF THE FAMILY INTERNATIONAL IN ARGENTINA. ■



WHAT DOES GOD'S WILL LOOK LIKE?

BY LORI LYNCH

WHAT SHOULD I STUDY? Where should I live and what type of job should I get? Should I marry that person, have kids, take that extra class, or move to a new city or country? These are common questions that people have and they seek God for His direction when trying to determine His will. I know I've asked God a few of these questions, and other more specific ones. However, when trying to determine the best path of life, it's easy to miss the forest for the trees.


God is not as concerned about which house we buy, which company we work for, or even what we study in university as He is about other important aspects of His will. That doesn't mean He won't answer our questions and lead and guide us in these matters; to the contrary, Jesus said our Father cares about sparrows ([Matthew 10:29–31](#)), so He'll certainly give us guidance and insight as we take the time to ask Him for help and listen to His guidance. However, as God is an eternal being, He has the best possible view of His “big picture” will for our lives, which is actually quite simple:

1) “It is my Father's will that all who see his Son and believe in him should have eternal life” ([John 6:40 NLT](#)).

God's highest will for each person is to live forever with Him. However, we have to make that possible by believing that Jesus is God's Son who rose from the dead ([Romans 10:9](#)).


2) “The Lord has told you what is good, and this is what he requires of you: to do what is right, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God” ([Micah 6:8 NLT](#)).

This verse goes along with Jesus' statement in [Matthew 22](#) that all the commandments are based on loving God and loving others ([Matthew 22:37–40](#)). Paul summed it up in [Galatians 5](#) when he said that “all the law is fulfilled in one word: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself’” ([Galatians 5:14](#)). Put simply, love is the touchstone by which we should make all our decisions. What college degree you get doesn't matter as much as using your knowledge to help your fellowman. Where you live isn't as important as how you live. How much money you earn doesn't matter as much as your spending habits.



The Bible says: “God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life” (John 3:16). If you do not yet have a personal relationship with Jesus, you can invite Him into your life by praying this simple prayer:

Dear Jesus, I believe that You are the Son of God and that You died on the cross for me so that, through Your sacrifice, I can live forever with You in heaven. I ask that You forgive my sins. I open the door of my heart to You. Please fill me with Your Holy Spirit and help me live in a way that glorifies You. Guide my life and help me to follow You. In Your name I pray. Amen.



In one sense, these basic parameters make life easy. We don't have to worry that we “missed God's highest will” because we didn't get a particular degree, or move to a certain city, or marry a certain person. You're not necessarily missing out on God's plan for your life if you have a minimum-wage job, are still single, don't have children, or didn't study for ministry. On the other hand, it's sometimes easier to sift through job, degree, and housing options than it is to love a pesky co-worker or neighbor, share hard-earned money with the poor and needy, or sacrifice a good job, study, or housing opportunity to take care of an elderly parent. We desperately need God's help to fulfill His will for our lives. Thankfully, He's more than willing to help us.

“Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take” (Proverbs 3:6 NLT).

“The Lord says, ‘I will guide you along the best pathway for your life. I will advise you and watch over you’” (Psalm 32:8 NLT).

“If any of you lacks wisdom [to guide him through a decision or circumstance], he is to ask of [our benevolent] God, who gives to everyone generously and without rebuke *or* blame, and it will be given to him” (James 1:5 AMP).

What's more, the long-term rewards of following God's will are more than worth the sacrifice:

“I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us” (Romans 8:18).

“All who are victorious will become pillars in the Temple of my God, and they will never have to leave it. And I will write on them the name of my God, and they will be citizens in the city of my God—the new Jerusalem that comes down from heaven from my God” (Revelation 3:12 NLT).

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FROM JESUS WITH LOVE

AT THE CROSSROADS

When you are at one of life's crossroads and don't know which direction to go, remember that I take pleasure in guiding you and bringing good things into your life (Matthew 7:11). As you seek Me with all your heart, you will find Me and My will for you, and the way in which you should walk will become clearer (Jeremiah 29:13).

The wisdom of the world declares that you need to forge your own path and follow your own desires to figure out what is the right thing for you. But true wisdom is found in placing your hand in Mine and letting Me lead you in the way you should go, rather than trying to find your own way, or stumbling down the wrong roads and having to backtrack.

My promise to you is that if you ask, you will receive, if you seek, you will find, and if you knock, the door will be opened to you (Matthew 7:7). So in times of decision-making, come to Me, seek My will in the matter, and trust that I will be with you and lead you down the right paths (Psalm 23:3 NET). The path of the righteous—all those who love Me and seek to walk in My ways—is like the light of dawn, which shines brighter and brighter until full day (Proverbs 4:18).