

*Teach me to do your will, for you are my God! Let your good Spirit lead me on level ground!*  
(Psalm 143:10)

How many times have you heard it said that “*God has a plan for your life?*” Well, if you’ve been a Christian for a while it’s probably safe to say that you’ve heard it on more than one occasion. Scripture teaches that we’re all created in God’s image and with the help of the Holy Spirit we can discover and live out His plan for our lives. Even though God formulated that plan long before we were born, the moment that we were immersed and came up out of that water reborn in Christ, we were set aside to do His will. Regrettably, what most of us fail to appreciate is that living our lives according to God’s plan is a journey of faith not just a generic, cookie cutter, one size fits all approach to life. In fact, it’s one of one, devised by your Creator for you and you alone. The problem that we all seem to have with accepting His amazing gift is that He also gave us the ability to choose and then left it up to us to determine the path that we’ll ultimately follow. So, we can either choose to follow God’s will and find fulfillment in our lives or we can choose to follow our own path or the path that the world has made for us but remember this; the pleasures of the latter are just as fleeting as they are deceptive. *“Do not conform 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)

Okay, right about now you may be thinking, *“I’m already an immersed believer and I want to do God’s will but how can I possibly know what His plan is for me?”* Well, that’s a good question especially in light of the fact that we’re all born with different talents and Godly gifts. (ref. Romans 12:6-8) Christian, God doesn’t try to conceal His will, He wants to reveal it to us! Even though we live in the computer age, God’s will isn’t something that we’ll find by Googling it or by watching a YouTube video. It will only be revealed to us when we allow Him to take control of our lives, obey everything that we already know (from Scripture) about His will and by fervently and sincerely praying for the Holy Spirit to open our hearts to Him. Do birds swim in the depths of the oceans? No! Do fish sing to us from the treetops? Again, no! In fact, every single one of God’s creations have been put here for a reason and God provides all of them with everything that they’ll ever need to do what He put them here to do. We are also God’s creations and He’s promised to provide us with everything that we’ll need to do what He calls on us to do as well. But fear not Christian, His plan directly relates to the gifts that He has already bestowed upon you. So, if you’ve not been gifted with a great singing voice the chances are better than good that He’s probably not going to call upon you to serve in the music ministry. But, whatever He calls on you to do in His name, doing God’s will means being an active advocate for the Gospel in everything that you do and say and (this is key Christian) ... It must not be done to glorify yourself, it must be done to glorify God! *“For I know the plans I have for you,” declared the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”* (Jeremiah 29:11)

Martin Luther once said that if he could *“understand the first two words of the Lord’s Prayer as Christ did, the rest of his life in Christ would fall into place.”* Putting that into the context of doing God’s will, more often than not reading and/or hearing doesn’t always result in

understanding. Jesus didn't just say the words "Our Father", He truly "understood" what it meant to say them. Understanding is the key in Luther's comment and the key to understanding God's will is that, first and foremost, you have to know in your heart that you've been set aside for Christ's ministry. So, does that mean that you should go back to school and become a preacher or quit your job and run off to serve as a missionary in a third-world country somewhere? No, of course it doesn't! Although both are admirable vocations evangelists and missionaries have been given special gifts that make them well suited for those callings! Even so, you too have been called to share the Gospel with others by serving as a living testament to Jesus Christ through your words, the way you conduct yourself and by demonstrating your love of Christ through the special gifts that He's provided. *"You yourselves are our letter, written on our hearts, known and read by everyone. You show that you are a letter from Christ, the result of our ministry, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts."* (2Corinthians 3:2-3)

If you struggle with knowing and understanding God's will for your life, you're certainly not alone! Most (if not all) of us struggle with it too. That's precisely why we need to quit depending upon ourselves or the world for answers and put our full and complete trust in God. For most of us that's not always the easiest thing to do because it seems that God's plan always seems to put us right smack in the middle of situations that tests our resolve. Knowing that, it's important to remember that these things are simply transitory ordeals that allow us to grow in Christ and into the mature Christian that He expects us to be. Christian, even if you don't understand or know His will, He does have a plan for your life! Even if you've chosen to follow your own path or the one the world has provided, that may very well be a part of God's plan and it's being played out right before your eyes. The truth is, God's will for your life was determined for you long before you were born and nobody else can bring about what He sent you here to do. If you struggle with knowing God's will, pray and put your trust in His Holy Spirit. He will guide your footsteps and give you everything you'll ever need to be successful in fulfilling your earthly mission. *"But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you."* (John 14:26)

Your Humble Servants in Christ Jesus,

Carl Howard, Brian Abney, Rod Perks and Joe Applegarth