

# 5 Ways To Know You're In God's Will When Everything Is Fighting Against You.



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## **Part One : Prayer is always the first thing you should do.**

There is nothing that can substitute for prayer. Simple heartfelt communication with God is the most important key in knowing God's will in your life. When it seems like all of Hell is against you and there is nobody to help, you must pray like you have never prayed before.

### **James 1:5-7**

*5 If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.*

*6 But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed.*

*7 For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord.*

When you pray, pray for God's will to be revealed in your life. Jesus said to pray, "Thy will be done." If you are praying because of your own desires, you are asking for the wrong things. But when you have reached the place when you are willing to accept God's will over your own, you have reached a turning point in prayer. God will see that you have surrendered your will to His and He will begin to reveal His plan to you. It may not seem like it, but God wants you know His will for your life more than you want to know it yourself. You have to learn to trust that God has your best interest at heart no matter how bad it might appear at the time.

When you pray, pray in the Spirit. Paul said that the Spirit will pray for you 'with groanings that cannot be uttered.' God knows what you have need of more than you do.

### **Rom 8:26-27**

*26 Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.*

*27 And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God.*

The Spirit intercedes on our behalf, but God is really moved through the power of intercessory prayer. When your brothers and sisters join with you to pray for God's will in your life, it multiplies the power of that prayer.

**Col 4:12**

*12 Epaphras, who is one of you, a servant of Christ, saluteth you, **always labouring fervently for you in prayers, that ye may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God.***

**Col 1:9**

*9 For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire **that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding;***

When Paul observed the church at Colosse, he saw their faith, he saw their love and their hope, yet he noted that they lacked in knowledge of what to do and how to move on in Christ. They were different than the church at Corinth who had a lot of talent and were enriched with knowledge. So Paul began to pray this prayer for them because he knew that ignorance of God's will is a constant source of error and heartache. If your mind is not full of God's will it could be that it is full of things not of God, it could be that there are empty places in your mind that would invite Satan to come and fill. Colosse would go through much tribulation without the knowledge of God's will in their minds, whether it be by their own thinking or by the attack of the enemy, Paul understood that he had to do something about this. He could not stay with them forever, so he did what he could; He prayed, and he invited others to pray with him! God is moved by intercessory prayer! When you find yourself surrounded on every side by the enemy, don't hesitate to ask those who really love you to pray for the knowledge of God's will in your life. God will reveal it to you.

It is one thing to have full knowledge of God's will and another to be filled with knowledge. The scripture gives us knowledge of God's will in a corporate fashion. We know what the will of God is for every man and woman. The scripture also states that God is able to do more than we can even think, therefore His will involves more than our minds can comprehend. Our finite minds cannot handle the full knowledge of God's

will, only God knows that. Still, God can fill our minds with enough knowledge of His will to do what He specifically desires each of us to do. Through intercessory prayer God can fill your mind with those specific tasks that He has called and enabled you to perform. I encourage you to find those men and women in your life who have your best interests at heart. Join together with them in intercession for God to saturate your mind with the knowledge of His perfect will.

## **Part Two: You will be uncomfortable and miserable doing anything else.**

The calling of God is precious and a serious thing. Some, who are unsure of their calling finally realize they are called because of the burden it places on them. Like Jonah of the Old Testament, some may try and run from their calling, yet they will not be able to hide from it. Jonah found out that it was a very miserable life indeed, to ignore the call of God. Until you begin to respond to the call of God on your life you will feel very, very, empty. Once you are called, you are forever called, your calling is without repentance. God will take your life before He removes the calling from your life.

### **Romans 11:29**

*29 For the gifts and calling of God are without repentance.*

Peter found this out. The calling on his life was very clear. Jesus spoke it directly to him. There was no confusion about it.

### **Matt 16:18-19**

*18 And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.*

*19 And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.*

It is difficult to walk in your calling when it seems like all of Hell is against you. Peter was totally committed to Jesus and to the calling on His life. He really didn't have any clue of how tough it was going to get. Jesus even tried to explain it to him...

### **Luke 22:31-34**

*31 And the Lord said, Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat:*

*32 But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren.*

*33 And he said unto him, Lord, I am ready to go with thee, both into prison, and to death.*

*34 And he said, I tell thee, Peter, the cock shall not crow this day, before that thou shalt thrice deny that thou knowest me.*

Peter was so sure of the will of God in his life that he told Jesus he was willing to die for Him. Little did he know that he would be tested on that statement within hours of making it. Beginning at the garden when the soldiers came to take Jesus away, Peter began to act differently. This wasn't supposed to happen, this wasn't what Peter had signed on for. This was the beginning of a very confusing time for Peter. The bible states that he began to follow them from afar off. Peter was not one to do that, he was the one who was always at the center of the action. As the day progresses, things go from bad to worse. In the space of about two hours, Peter denies the Lord three times. It was a horrible day for all of the disciples, but Peter reacted differently than some of the others.

After the crucifixion, Peter became more confused than ever. Jesus was dead, Peter had denied Him three times and he figured he was done with following Jesus. It seemed like all of Hell was against him. Peter began to run from God. He even gathered some of the disciples together and they went back to their old life, fishing. Peter was trying to find some comfort and peace in his life, so he went back to what he knew. You can find the story in John chapter 21, verse seven states that Peter was naked in the boat. This fact reveals to us his mental state. Things were not okay, Peter wasn't thinking rationally. Peter was miserable, he was not himself, in fact they fished all night and caught no fish. Going back to his old life was not the answer, Peter was called of God, and he would be miserable doing anything else.

Those who give up on the calling of God will live a life without comfort and without success. Peter's problem began in his own thinking, he talked himself out of his calling. Fortunately, Jesus found him, and taught Peter to trust in Him like he never had before. Jesus met Peter on the shores of Galilee and walked him back through his denials and Peter turned back to following Chris. A few weeks later Peter preached the first message of the Church at Pentecost. Had Peter continued running from God, he would

have lived a very miserable life. We must learn to trust in God and His call on our lives, despite our circumstances.

Jesus is not going to show up in person on the shores of your life, but we have something far better than that.

### **2 Peter 1:16-20**

*16 For we have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, **but were eyewitnesses of his majesty.***

*17 For he received from God the Father honour and glory, when there came such a voice to him from the excellent glory, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.*

*18 And this voice which came from heaven we heard, when we were with him in the holy mount.*

*19 We have also **a more sure word of prophecy;** whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts:*

*20 Knowing this first, that no **prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation.***

Peter was stating, "we were eyewitnesses of His majesty, we saw Him transfigured on the mountain, we saw Him raise the dead, we were with Him at Galilee, but we have something better than that, we have a sure word of prophecy."

It is very interesting to me that Peter was the one who wrote this because Peter did not turn back to Jesus until he saw Him in person on the shores of Galilee. Peter, better than anybody else, would understand how to know God's will while being attacked by the enemy. The scripture is our sure word of prophecy, it is better than what Peter had because we can read it every day of our lives, and we can be sure of what the Lord wants us to do.

## **Part Three: God may be renewing your thinking. God may be asking you to re-evaluate your priorities and motivations in life.**

There was a time in my life when I was struggling with the will of God for my life. I knew I was called, but I was confused and frustrated about my calling. What I didn't know at the time was that I had to learn the will of God. David said...

### **Psalms 143:10**

*10 Teach me to do thy will; for thou art my God: thy spirit is good; lead me into the land of uprightness.*

...to be in the will of God requires some learning. There are some things that have to be taught to you. There is a transformation that has to take place in the mind.

Paul stated in...

### **Romans 12:1-2**

*12 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye **present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God**, which is your reasonable service.*

*2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the **renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.***

I can really relate to this scripture. You cannot know the will of God if you are not first submitted to His plan and His will. You do that by presenting yourself and your life as a sacrifice to Him, ready and willing to do whatever He asks of you. Not everybody is willing to do that.

There was a time in my life when I was not ready to do so. Not that I wasn't serving God, I thought I was doing pretty well. I helped the ministry in our church whenever I could, I sacrificed to the Kingdom. I came to church all the time, I helped in outreach. Everything was going



along just fine, and then I got sick, not the flu, but a scary type of sickness. I was only thirty six years old, and I thought I was going to die. My heart wasn't working properly. Irregular heartbeats, chest pain, dizziness. I was put through a series of tests that lasted for about three months. When your heart starts messing up at the age of 36, you begin to question some things in your life. I thought I was in the will of God, but it was during this time I began to question my calling, and question if God was even with me.

I didn't understand it at the time, but God was causing me to re-evaluate my thinking, to re-evaluate my priorities. I thought I was one hundred percent committed to God, but I learned that I wasn't. There was still a little bit of the world in me that had to come out. God was teaching me His ways and His will, God was transforming my thinking. I had to learn to put God first in every part of my life. It wasn't until I presented myself totally to God as a living sacrifice that I began to see God's plan unfold for my life. It was a time of testing in my flesh, but it was also a time of learning in my spirit. It was a proving period in my life.

Some people want God to put the handwriting on the wall in black and white, and then they will say yes or no depending on whether or not they agree with Him. It doesn't work that way. (God actually did one better than that, He put His handwriting in a book called the Bible) When you present yourself to God as a living sacrifice ready to do His service whatever it might be, then God sees that and responds to that. There is a renewing of the mind that takes place. The things of this world are no longer important to you. You are primarily concerned about pleasing God and doing His will.

The more you sacrifice your life, the closer you become to God. Eventually you tune in to God's frequency, God begins to speak to you through His Spirit and His Word, and you can know and understand what He is saying to you. It becomes crystal clear.

It is easy to know you are in the will of God when He is blessing all of your efforts. But when the enemy has you surrounded on every side, it seems so much harder to see His will because you have become blinded by the enemy. David knew this better than anybody, he had a lot of enemies.

Don't be like Job and say that God has abandoned you, that is not the case. If you feel like the enemy is gaining the upper hand, read the 27th Psalm, it is an amazing proclamation of how God lifted David up above his enemies in the midst of the battle. One of the verses from this Psalm states...

**Psalms 27:11**

***11 Teach me thy way, O Lord, and lead me in a plain path, because of mine enemies.***

God will lead you down a path that is clear to you if you only ask Him to. It is a learning process, ask God to teach you His will, if you really want to know it, He will reveal it to you!

## Part Four: Listen to the still small voice of God.

I recall the story of the most famous of all the prophets. Elijah was one of the most powerful prophets of God. Nobody doubted his calling, his prayers brought results. When Elijah prayed, fire fell from heaven. When Elijah prayed, rain fell from the sky. Through his prayers, Elijah altered the course of an entire nation. He was one of only two men in scripture who did not see death. There is no doubt that Elijah was in the perfect will of God.

Having said that, the book of 1 Kings reveals a time in Elijah's life when it seemed like all of Hell was rising up against him. Israel had forsaken the ways of God, the altars had been destroyed, the prophets of God had been slaughtered. Elijah found himself all alone and began to wonder if God was still with him. He decided to run for his life, in fact, it got so bad, he asked the Lord to take his life.

### 1 Kings 19:1-4

*19 And Ahab told Jezebel all that Elijah had done, and withal how he had slain all the prophets with the sword.*

*2 Then Jezebel sent a messenger unto Elijah, saying, So let the gods do to me, and more also, **if I make not thy life as the life of one of them by to morrow about this time.***

*3 And when he saw that, he arose, **and went for his life,** and came to Beer-sheba, which belongeth to Judah, and left his servant there.*

*4 But he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a juniper tree: and he requested for himself that he might die; and said, **It is enough; now, O Lord, take away my life; for I am not better than my fathers.***

The wicked queen Jezebel had been threatening Elijah's life for some time. Now it was heating up. Jezebel had just informed Elijah by way of messenger that he would be dead by the same time tomorrow! This was a man hunt, she had people looking for him everywhere, he was a wanted man, dead or alive. Elijah could feel the heat and he couldn't take it anymore.

It is hard to picture the most powerful of all of the prophets backed into a corner by the enemy and running for his life. Often times that is where we find ourselves. Yet, in the midst of running, God sends an angel to feed him. "That ought to be enough to confirm that God is with you Elijah." I know if an angel visited me, I would be ready to do whatever God asked of me. Still, Elijah kept running.

The meat the angel brought to Elijah sustained his life for forty days and nights. That might be a hint that God is with you. Finally he finds a cave to hide in and the Word of God came to him there, "What are you doing here, Elijah?"

God wasn't asking about Elijah's physical location, He was asking about Elijah's spiritual condition. God wanted to know why Elijah had given up. Listen to Elijah's response...

### **1 Kings 19:10-12**

*10 And he said, I have been very jealous for the Lord God of hosts: for the children of Israel have forsaken thy covenant, thrown down thine altars, and slain thy prophets with the sword; and I, even I only, am left; and they seek my life, to take it away.*

God responded by asking Elijah to go out and stand on the mountain. God wanted to teach Elijah a powerful lesson that we all need to understand.

### **1 Kings 19:11-12**

*11 And he said, Go forth, and stand upon the mount before the Lord. And, behold, the Lord passed by, and a great and strong wind rent the mountains, and brake in pieces the rocks before the Lord; but the Lord was not in the wind: and after the wind an earthquake; but the Lord was not in the earthquake:*

*12 And after the earthquake a fire; but the Lord was not in the fire: **and after the fire a still small voice.***

In each of these spectacular displays, I am sure that Elijah felt God would reveal Himself to him, but God was not in any of them. Finally, after the fire there comes a still small voice, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" Elijah repeats his previous answer, "God everybody else has forsaken you, they

have destroyed the altars and killed your prophets, I am the only one left, surely you don't want me to minister to these people now?"

God responds...

**1 Kings 19:15-16**

*15 And the Lord said unto him, **Go, return on thy way** to the wilderness of Damascus: and when thou comest, anoint Hazael to be king over Syria:*

*16 And Jehu the son of Nimshi shalt thou anoint to be king over Israel: and Elisha the son of Shaphat of Abel-meholah shalt thou anoint to be prophet in thy room.*

God's response was simple, "**Return to what I have called you to do!**" The still small voice of God was all that was needed to confirm to Elijah that he was still called of God and he still had a work to do.

If you find yourself surrounded by the enemy, and you feel like throwing in the towel, don't wait for an angel, and don't wait for some spectacular sign from heaven. God has given you His Word and His Spirit. Get rooted in the Word of God and stay in tune with His Spirit so you can hear the still small voice of God. His plan will become perfectly clear to you. When you stay in the will of God, what you fear the most will likely never come to pass. God has already defeated your enemy. Jezebel never succeeded in taking the life of Elijah, God took care of her, and God took care of Elijah. God will surely take care of your life as well.

## **Part Five: We know we are called by the feelings that God places in our hearts and minds through His Spirit.**

The story of Nehemiah illustrates this very effectively. After Israel was taken captive by Babylon, the Persian Empire defeated the Babylonians and a Jewish man named Nehemiah became the cupbearer of the King of Persia. This was a high ranking position to hold in the ancient courts of kings. This person had to be regarded as very trustworthy to hold this position. He was guarding the life of the king, and his close proximity to the king endeared him to a very close relationship with the king and all of the high ranking officials of the king's court.

Nehemiah was visited by his brother Hanani who told him that the city of Jerusalem was nothing but heaps of stones. This upset Nehemiah so much that he sat down and wept. He began to pray and fast before God about this news. There were people who had survived the exile who didn't have a place to live, and the city of Jerusalem was their home.

Nehemiah didn't know what the will of God was for his life, all he knew was that Jerusalem was still in ruins and was surrounded by enemies on every side. Yet he saw that he was in a very unique position of power where he could do something to help. He began to pray and fast and seek God's will. Listen to what happened;

### **Nehemiah 2:12**

*12 And I arose in the night, I and some few men with me; **neither told I any man what my God had put in my heart to do at Jerusalem:** neither was there any beast with me, save the beast that I rode upon.*

God placed a desire and a burden in Nehemiah's heart to rebuild the walls of the city of Jerusalem. Once the desire was there, Nehemiah began to see and understand that he was in the unique position to accomplish it. He had the King of Persia's support. At that time the king of Persia was the most powerful man in the world. Nehemiah might have been the only person in the world at this time who could have accomplished this great feat. Nehemiah recognized that he had an open door. He had the burden, he

had the desire, and when the door opened he went. He didn't have to tell anybody, he didn't need anybody to confirm it to him, he just knew in his heart that it was right.

### Nehemiah 2:16

*16 And the rulers knew not whither I went, or what I did; neither had I as yet told it to the Jews, nor to the priests, nor to the nobles, nor to the rulers, nor to the rest that did the work.*

### Nehemiah 7:5

*5 And my God put into mine heart to gather together the nobles, and the rulers, and the people, that they might be reckoned by genealogy. And I found a register of the genealogy of them which came up at the first, and found written therein,*

Sometimes you just know beyond a shadow of a doubt what God wants. God puts it in your heart and in your mind! I don't know how to describe it other than to say you just know it is right in your heart, the Spirit confirms it.

Paul somehow knew that he had to go to Jerusalem...

### Acts 20:22-23

*22 And now, behold, I go bound in the spirit unto Jerusalem, not knowing the things that shall befall me there:*

*23 Save that the Holy Ghost witnesseth in every city, saying that **bonds and afflictions abide me.***

Paul didn't know why he was to go, he just felt compelled to go. Not only did he go, but he knew that he would face some very hard times when he got there. He knew they would throw him in prison, but he still went. How many of us would do that?

To compound the situation, along his journey Paul met several disciples who told him not to go to Jerusalem.

### Acts 21:5

*4 And finding disciples, we tarried there seven days: **who said to Paul through the Spirit, that he should not go up to Jerusalem.***

They were in the Spirit when they told him, still Paul continued on to Jerusalem. He knew in his heart it was right.

**Acts 21:10-12**

*10 And as we tarried there many days, there came down from Judaea a certain prophet, named Agabus.*

*11 And when he was come unto us, he took Paul's girdle, and bound his own hands and feet, and said, **Thus saith the Holy Ghost**, So shall the Jews at Jerusalem bind the man that owneth this girdle, and shall deliver him into the hands of the Gentiles.*

*12 And when we heard these things, both we, and they of that place, **besought him not to go up to Jerusalem.***

It got to the point that in every town Paul stopped, there were disciples and all kinds of people begging him not to go to Jerusalem. On two occasions, prophets came and spoke to him. One prophet even bound his own hands and feet with Paul's belt, and said, "this is what the Jews are going to do to you in Jerusalem. When the people heard the prophet Agabus say that, they all began to plead and beg Paul to stay with them. Still Paul knew that it was right to go;

**Acts 21:13-14**

*13 Then Paul answered, **What mean ye to weep and to break mine heart? for I am ready not to be bound only, but also to die at Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus.***

*14 And when he would not be persuaded, we ceased, saying, **The will of the Lord be done.***

Finally when they see the resolve in Paul, they could see that it was God's will for him to go, and they relented in their efforts to stop him. When you know it is right, not even prophets can persuade you otherwise.

Paul knew when it was right, he had that feeling in his heart. It came from being sensitive to the Holy Ghost. The Spirit will either give you rest or it



will cause you to move on. Make sure you stay sensitive to the Holy Ghost. The Holy Ghost will place that feeling in your heart and you will know beyond a shadow of a doubt what you need to do.

### **2 Corinthians 2:13**

*13 I had no rest in my spirit, because I found not Titus my brother: but taking my leave of them, I went from thence into Macedonia.*

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