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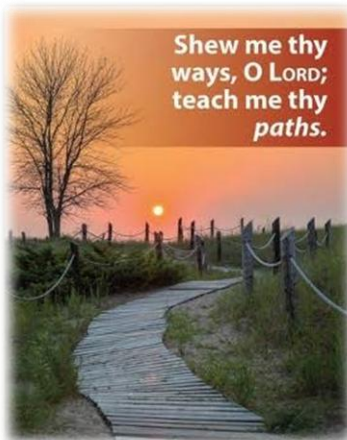
Discerning & Obeying God's Holy Will

We live in a world of consultancy, where corporate firms would seek advice from consultants as to how to manage the company. Many would seek worldly counsel and help in secular business, employment, financial and corporate planning. **But for the Christians, we have a heavenly omniscient consultant that is ever ready to help us and advise us when we call on Him.**

Paul said in Eph 5:15–16, “*See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, Redeeming the time, because the days are evil.*” Many have suffered and went through distressing experiences after learning that it is not God's will for them to do something.

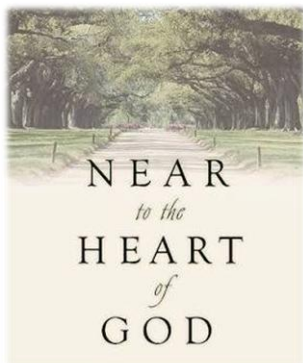
There was a couple who migrated to another country only to return in about 2 years' time and acknowledged that it was not the will of God. Another took up a MBA course and, after about less than a year, dropped the course altogether.

The psalmist expressed a universal sentiment of all sincere Christians in Psa 25:4, “*Shew me thy ways, O LORD; teach me thy paths.*” We are in dire need of divine guidance and direction every day. Life presents itself with so many problems, options, influences and we are often at a lost in decision-making. A young lady called and asked if it is God's will for her to go to a particular country for studies. Many have sought counsel concerning studies, career options, boy-girl relationships and a switching of jobs, migration, or shifting of residence. Where do we get the answers and how do we know? We will examine and investigate into this needful matter of divine guidance and counsel here.



Factors in the Quest for Divine Counsel

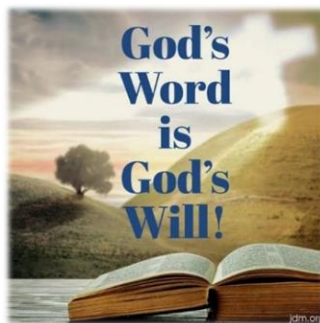
Before we go into details, firstly, we must understand that God is ever with us, willing to direct and lead our every step if only we allow Him to (Psa 32:8). The Holy Spirit is our Guide and Comforter. He will show us all things concerning Christ (John 16:14). However, there is a difference between one sincerely seeking heavenly advice and one who has already made his / her own decision and was just asking for a mere formal enforcement from heaven. We must not deceive ourselves for God is not mocked (Gal 6:7–9). **A sincere seeker will find God and His leadership real in his life and be blessed, but not an insincere hypocritical seeker. Check your motives first before the Lord. There are a few things that are needful in determining whether it is God's will for us in a certain matter.**



Firstly, it is the area of our intimacy in our personal relationship with God.

Are you in daily close communion with God, constantly reading the Word and praying? If you are, there is a sense in which you will know God's will, as a child knows the desires of his father. Should I go to a pub, disco, lounge, watch this questionable movie or unedifying video, or join in this uncouth conversation? When I was living with my parents in my younger days, I used to buy dinner for my parents. Sometimes before asking them what they wanted to eat, I could almost surmise correctly what they wanted to eat. Why? Because I am very close to them. To the extent that when you are close to God, you will be sensitive to God's will and leading for your life.

Secondly, there are certain things you do not ask God for because it is revealed in the Word of God. You need to study and read the Scriptures carefully and follow to do therein. For example, two things are definitely God's will for our lives. 1Thes 4:3 says, *"For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication."* 1Thes 5:18 says, *"In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you."* Any action or decision that is consistent with these two scriptural injunctions should be acted upon swiftly. For example, do you ask questions like, *"Is it God's will for me to go to prayer meeting?"* or *"Should I go for worship God on the Lord's Day?"* These are questions you do not ask at all! Why? Because they are perfectly consonant with God's will for our sanctification, and to give thanks at the prayer meeting is already stated clearly in Scriptures. There was a prophet in the Old Testament who was told by the Lord not to eat with any one on his mission. Later, an old "prophet" came and invited him to eat and he



did. He was later punished and was eaten up by a lion (1 Kgs 13:11–24). He had the clear expressed will of God, but he rebelled against it.

Or this question, “*Is it God’s will for me to marry this non-believer?*” Read 2Cor 6:14–18. You should never have asked in the first place because the biblical injunction is unequivocally clear. It is a question of obedience (or rebellion) not a question of guidance at all.

Thirdly, it is the matter of fervent prayer.

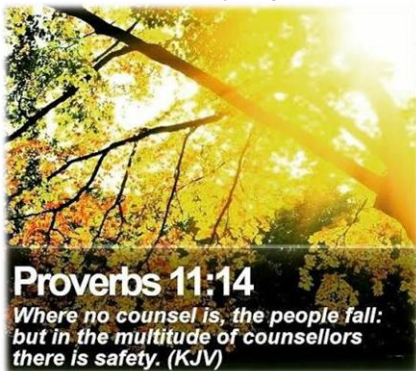
Have you been praying importunately to the Lord in seeking His will (John 14:14)? Do you cry out to Him daily in persevering incessant prayer? This is a sure mark that the Lord will answer and guide you. Read John 16:24 which says, “*Hitherto have ye asked nothing in my name: ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full,*” and Jer 33:3, “*Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and shew thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not.*” God rewards those who diligently seek Him with a sincere and faithful heart (Heb 11:6).

Abraham’s servant prayed when he was seeking for a spouse for his master’s son, Isaac. God answered his prayer and guided him and led him to Rebekah (Gen 24:14). Our Lord says, “*And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart*” (Jer 29:13). **You will not be cast away in the matter of guidance and counsel if you would zealously seek Him in private and public prayers. God will guide and lead us if we sincerely seek His will**



Fourthly, have you consulted or spoken to someone who is a servant of God, who fears Him and who knows you fairly well?

Have you discussed it with your Pastor or Elder? Did you get the opinion of your parents, especially if they are



believers who love the Lord? God used people, especially godly men, to help others along the way. Jehoshaphat (2Chr 18:7–17) asked Micaiah, God’s servant; Samuel asked Eli when he was called of the Lord (1Sam 3:9). Ask someone, a godly person (e.g., your pastor or elder or godly parents) for spiritual counsel and a word of advice. **While man’s words are not infallible (e.g., Nathan’s advice to David on building a temple for God), they are nevertheless useful especially when it is confirmed by the other factors mentioned here.**

Fifthly, what about the prevailing circumstances in life? God often uses events in our lives to awaken us to follow His will. You want to go to a particular country, but

an impending earthquake or typhoon is coming. What do you do? Wait upon the Lord for the right timing. However favourable circumstances do not always mean it is God's will, and unfavourable circumstances do not necessarily mean that it is not God's will. Jonah the prophet ran away from God and found a ship waiting for him at Joppa (Jonah 1:3) but he was defying the clear command of God. So, you must be careful that circumstances be not given undue emphasis. Other factors are equally important and a consistent view of all of them put together is a good sign.

Finally, what about the inner conviction and condition of your heart? Psa 37:3-

5 says, "Trust in the LORD, and do good; so shalt thou dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed. Delight thyself also in the LORD; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart. Commit thy way unto the LORD; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass."

Do you experience peace and serenity when you have made a particular decision? God speaks to our hearts directly. A brother called me concerning an offer he had from a certain company with an attractive salary and prospect. He was attracted to it and wanted to have a career switch. He passed the interview and was about to make that change, but he had no peace in his heart. **Circumstances were favourable. The money was good but there was one complication—no peace in the heart. That settled it finally.** Follow the way of the Lord and *"keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life"* (Prov 4:23). A heart of peace, joy and contentment in the Lord, and time to serve God is more valuable than a quantum increase in salaries and perks. Make the right decision to put God first (Col 3:2), and He will surely bless you. Remember Matt 6:21, *"For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also."*



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Conclusion

Prov 3:5-7 says *"Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. 6 In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths. Be not wise in thine own eyes: fear the LORD, and depart from evil. 8 It shall be health to thy navel, and marrow to thy bones."* Seeking and obeying God's will is of paramount importance. **The Lord wants the best for us and obeying God wholeheartedly is more than just doing it our way or for the sake of soothing our conscience. There is great joy and blessing when we are walking according to His sovereign will. Something to think about.**

Jack Sin

SHBPC Church Building Fund Update

We thank God for blessing the SHBPC ministry as we build up the church in the knowledge of the Lord and advance the gospel in missions in 4 countries to the saving of souls. We are presently renting this premise for the past 8 years and found it suitable for our ministry.

We are praying that God willing, on our 10th anniversary in 2028, we can have our own worship premises as He leads. We will need to raise about S\$1.5 million (we have raised about \$236,000 so far).



Let us pray to the Lord for the church in this matter as we look to the Lord for His divine provision in His sovereign good time as He leads and guides and moves His covenant people according to His will (1Cor 16:1-3. 2Cor 9:6-9)



Our Lord says in Luke 6:38, *"Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again."*

Pastoral Chat on 15 Jul 2026

- Insights from the 2025 Household Survey -

An important report was published in Straits Times on 30 June 2026 on the results of a survey in 2025 which can impact and affect our evangelism, missions and ministry.

There is a marked rise in atheism to almost 24 percent and one factor that leads to this. According to the report is the increase in intellectual achievement which sadly in a secular institution (dropped from 28% to 25% in Christianity) where evolution is taught, draws young people away from God in a quest for knowledge that ironically missed the God who gave them true knowledge.

Christianity dropped to 17.1% from 18.9% for the first time in many years.

Fallen men are generally indifferent to God and true faith as distraction and deception abound to draw men away from the living and true way and is the church effective in its faithful preaching of the Word to bring men back to Christ?

It is a wake-up call for all churches here in Singapore. While we can have large numbers in mega churches, do we really have regeneration of hearts and true repentance of sin in our congregation? The rise in large numbers in attendance in many charismatic and mega, traditional and some independent churches over the past 5 years did not necessarily translate in genuine conversions and we can see from these statistics of 2025.

Some churches may boast of big expansion plans and interesting programmes and huge budgets but are souls saved in your ministry?

Do we really give of ourselves to effective evangelism and missions and discipleship?

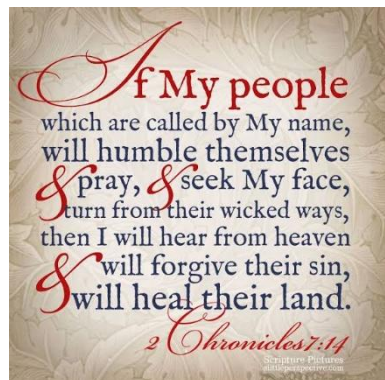
Do we need to re-examine our direction and ministry approach.

Does loud jarring music and contemporary worship really transform lives or merely provide a worldly platform for people to feel good in churches without being saved. Is there holiness and the fear of God in our congregation and do people take the Word of God and pray seriously?

Ultimately it is the work of the Holy Spirit that transform lives, but we must be responsible vessels too to herald the truth, and men may know God and be truly converted.

We need to humbly pray and seek the Lord for his divine guidance in our church ministries including evangelism and outreach as he leads us and be prepared to let Him transform our lives and churches to be what it ought to be.

May the Lord be merciful to Singapore even as we commemorate our 61st year of nation building and pray for revival for our nation.



***Mark Your Calendar
for this Special Event!***

***Mon 10 Aug 2026 (PH)
Bring your Family & Friends!
Registration is required.***



Enjoy a relaxing ferry ride from Marina South Pier to the Southern Islands of Singapore with family and friends! Big Sister's Island is open and has both leisurely and adventurous nature walks

to cater for all. it features **Singapore's first floating boardwalk for observing marine life** and an **easy trail around the island**, and a reasonable 230-meter Coastal Forest Trail to the



panoramic Hilltop View Deck and a lagoon tidal pool for intertidal walks.

There are shelters with seats to enjoy the sea views and toilet facilities are new, clean and convenient.



See this video for more information: https://youtu.be/t_SliVxKPqk

Memory Verse

Deut 5:1 And Moses called all Israel, and said unto them, Hear, O Israel, the statutes and judgments which I speak in your ears this day, that ye may learn them, and keep, and do them.

Announcements

1. Welcome to our Worship Service! If you are here for the first time, do leave us your contact numbers in our guest book before you leave. Those who share the church vision to acquire a place of worship in due time, may designate your offerings to the SHBPC Church Building Fund.
2. Pastor brings us God's Word this morning on "***The Moral Law Revisited [Deut 5:1-21]***", continuing the quarterly series on "***Precious Insights from a Veteran Prophet - the Book of Deuteronomy***".
3. Next Sunday Pastor will preach on "***Secret to a Healthy Covenant Family [Deut 6:1-17]***".
4. Sunday School classes after the worship service are:
 - Walk Thru the Old Testament (Pastor)
 - Studies in Revelation (Dr Kwong Leen)
5. Chinese Fellowship meets every Sunday night at 7pm via Zoom. **[Zoom ID:883 9662 4157 Passcode: 218178]**. Join us for time of learning on the Book of Samuel and Heroes of the Faith.
6. Do send your prayer items to Pastor and join us for Church Prayer Meeting on Wed at 8pm via Zoom. The prayer list is available in church. **[Zoom ID:863 7527 5431 Passcode: 625551]**.
7. Pray for:
 - **Travels: Pastor & Angie** [Jeu, 20-24 Jul]
 - **SHBPC Annual Family Day Outing on 10 Aug**
 - **Mission Trip Planning for Nov 2026.**
 - **Gospel Peace Station:** Joseph & Rachel Wee
 - **Medical:** Kin Hoong's daughter **Joyce** [chemotherapy], **Sharon** [recovery from viral infection], **Kim Meng's mother** [heart condition], **Agnes' parents** [medical conditions & salvation], **Joseph & Lilian's Dil Annabelle Chan** [knee injury],
 - **Dr Jason & Bee Leng** (Taiwan Attachment, 26May – 23Dec), **Dr Sam** [Transition to new appointment in Ningbo], **Yusong** [Scholarship for King's College, London]
 - **Lily Almon** [citizenship application]
8. Love gifts, Offering and Tithes to the Lord can be given in the following ways:
 - **Cheque** payable to **Sovereign Hope Bible Presbyterian Church** and mail to church address. (Kindly write the full name of the church as indicated.)
 - **Fund transfer** to Church **UOB** Account **392-308-825-1**
 - **PayNow** to Church **UEN: T19SS0116FSOV**

Kindly indicate "**Church Building Fund**" if you would like to designate towards this cause.