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Sun Worship Service: 10am, Sun School: 11.45am, Wed Prayer Meeting: 8pm
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Question on Knowing God's Will

Q. How does God guide His people today? For example, some say it is by dreams, or circumstances, or even our own feelings being 'led' to do something. Which is the right approach to knowing the will of God?

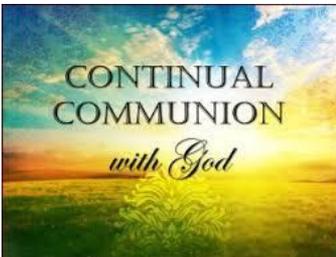
A. Good question. God does not speak to us through dreams and visions anymore. Heb 1:1-2 says, "*God who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds*". Since the Bible has been completed, **God speaks to us through the preaching or reading of His Word, by His answers to our prayer, through His covenant people especially those who are godly, in prevailing circumstances, and through peace in the heart**, but not in dreams and visions; which are not the mode of divine communication anymore for these have ceased. (Rev 22:1-20 and 1Cor 13:8)

Knowing **God's Will**

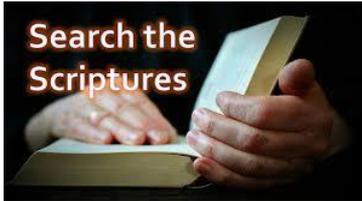


Consider the following practical precepts in discerning God's will:

Firstly, **it is Communion with God**. Knowing God's will is directly related to 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 can more or less know God's will, as a child knows the desires of his father. Should I go to a pub, marry a non-Christian or attend a cultic service, mix with ungodly company, watch this questionable movie or unedifying game or video, or join in this



uncouth conversation? When I was living with my parents, in my younger days, I used to buy breakfast for my parents every morning. Before asking them what they wanted to eat, we could often surmise correctly what they wanted to eat. Why? Because we are close as a family and we know one another well. **In the same way, when you are close or near to God, you will be sensitive to God's will for your life.**



Secondly, **it is the Consultation of the Word.** 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 what is therein. For example, two things are definitely God's will for our

lives. 1 Thessalonians 4:3 says, *"For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication."* 1 Thessalonians 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 the prayer meeting?" or "Should I go for worship 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 2 Corinthians 6:14–18. **One may not have to ask this 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 Communication with God.** Seeking God's will 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 Jeremiah 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

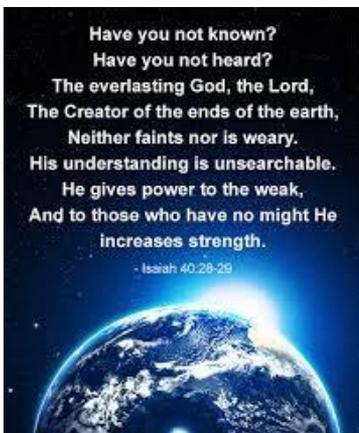
was seeking for a spouse for his master's son, Isaac. God answered his prayer and guided him and led him to Rebekah (Gen 24:14). Our Lord says, "And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart" (Jer 29:13). **You will not be cast away in the matter of guidance and counsel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

Fourthly, it is **Conferring with godly men (or women)**. We need to ask ourselves if we have consulted or spoken to someone who is a servant of God, who fears Him and who knows us fairly well? Have you discussed it with your Pastor or Elder or Deacon? 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 (2 Chr 18:7–17) asked Micaiah, God's servant; Samuel asked Eli when he was called of the Lord (1 Sam 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.

Christian Counseling from a Biblical Perspective



Fifthly, **we also need to consider 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 war or danger (ie Ukraine or North Korea) or a worsening Pandemic situation there or an earthquake or typhoon is coming to that place. 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 have to be careful that circumstances are not given undue emphasis. **Other factors are equally important and a consistent view of all of them put together and if they all agree, that is significant.**



Finally, **have you examined the inner Conviction and Condition of your heart?** We shared the Word of God on 2 Jan at the Sunday evening Chinese service where we considered Psa 37:3-5 which 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. Sometime ago, 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 Matthew 6:21, *“For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.”*



Conclusion:

In summary, if you don't know if something is right or wrong for you, ask yourself this: **“If Christ were to be present with me, would I be comfortable doing this thing in the presence of God?”** Read 1Cor 6:12:8:9 and 10:23,31. Does it glorify God and edify others and is it a good example? If you can say yes to all that with a clear conscience, go ahead and remember that God is always with us and He knows our hearts.

The canon is complete and we have the whole Bible of 66 books inspired by God. There is no necessity nor basis for additional supernatural revelations (Rev 22:18--20). Read Prov 3:5-7 and Psa 37:1-7 and Eph 5:15-17 for a better understanding of biblical guidance. **We need to humbly wait upon and submit to the Lord too in the new year and always.**

Jack Sin

CHRIST CENTRED

PRINCIPLES FOR THE LOCAL CHURCH

LORD'S DAY PROGRAMME FOR JANUARY - MARCH 2022

JANUARY		COLOSSIANS
2	APOSTOLIC CONCERNS FOR THE CHURCH	1:1-8
9	THE FERVENT INTERCESSION FOR THE SAINTS	1:9-18
16	THE CROSSWORK OF CHRIST	1:19-27
23	THE EQUIPPING TOWARDS MATURITY IN CHRIST	1:28-29
30	THE FOUNDATION OF OUR PRE-EMINENT CHRIST	2:1-13

FEBRUARY		COLOSSIANS
6	4TH CHURCH ANNIVERSARY THE VIGILANT GROWING CHURCH IN END TIMES	2 PETER 3:9-14
13	THE PERILS THE CHURCH FACES TODAY	2:16-23
20	HEAVENLY PRECEPTS FOR DAILY LIVING	3:1-11
27	CHRISTIAN VIRTUES TO PUT ON	3:12-17

MARCH		COLOSSIANS
6	BIBLICAL RULES FOR DOMESTIC LIFE	3:18-25
13	SOUND PRINCIPLES FOR SECULAR LIFE	4:1-6
20	BEING A FAITHFUL CO-LABOURER IN THE MINISTRY	4:7-18
27	GOSPEL SUNDAY PROBING HEAVEN AND HELL	REVELATION 20:1-15

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GAES GLOBAL ASSEMBLY ENGLISH SERVICE

G.A.E.S ONLINE

Speaker:
Dr. Jack Sin

7 Things a Christian should do in the New Year
(Psalm 37:3-11)

Sunday **09th January 2022**
4 PM, Jakarta

You are Invited!

Sun 9 Jan 2022
5pm (SGT)

ZOOM ID : 891 5079 3793
PASSCODE : GAES

CALL US NOW!
+62 812-7090-2092

Greetings from
Gilead Balm
Children's Home,
Yangon.
Praise God for His
provision and
care under the
management of
Elder Habakkuk
& his wife.



**Lord's Day
Worship Service,
2 Jan 2022
Sovereign Hope
BPC with
dedication of
stewards
(standing)**



Thank God for the Lai family from Hope BPC, Adelaide together with their parents George & Grace Lai.

The Burmese Sunday School class on the Book of Ruth led by Bro James.



With our Chinese Fellowship brethren Amber (centre) and Sean (left) at Watchnight Service on 31 Dec 2021.

Memory Verse

Col 1:10 That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God;

Announcements

1. Welcome to our Worship Service! For our visitors, do leave us your contact numbers in our guest book before you leave. The Lord's Supper is served this morning.
2. Pastor speaks today on “***The Fervent Intercession for the Saints (Col 1:9-18)***”, starting a quarterly theme of “Christ-Centred Principles for the Local Church”, a study on the Epistle to the Colossians.
3. Pastor speaks next Sunday on “***The Cross Work of Christ (Col 1:19-27)***”.
4. Pastor speaks this evening 5pm at the GAES Zoom Meeting on “***7 Things a Christian Should Do in the New Year***”. All are welcome.
5. Sunday School classes continues after worship service:
 - WCF Shorter Catechism Class – Pastor Jack
 - Understanding Biblical Eschatology & related Topics – Joseph
 - Studies in Numbers – Dn Kwong Leen
 - Burmese Bible Class - James
6. Chinese Fellowship meets on Sunday night at 7pm via Zoom with both local and overseas brethren. Included in the programme is a study on Church History in China on alternate Sundays. Join us for a time of profitable learning.
7. 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.
8. Monthly Neighbourhood Bible Class meets on the first Friday of the month on the study of 2 Samuel. Come and join us!
9. Those who wish to bring a new friend to the worship service, kindly inform the safety officer Dn Yue Kay or Pastor at least a day in advance.
10. The Pandemic book can be purchased through Dn Yue Kay (Hp: +65 97450311) or via email at sovereignhopebpc@gmail.com.
11. Do kindly observe the safety measures of the church and assist with the weekly cleaning of the premises.
12. 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**
