

Wednesday, December 16

Just as Jesus sought God's will and direction in his life by regular communication with God, you as a believer need to do the same. Prayer is the vital key, not only to knowing God but also in receiving God's guidance for daily living. King David was known as a man after God's heart because he habitually inquired of God before making decisions and taking action, as he explained in a number of Psalms he wrote. You, too, have this same "open door" to God's wisdom and guidance through prayer.

Psalm 27 and Matthew 6:5-15

How specific were David's inquiries of God in Psalm 27? What were his expectations of God's response?

In the Lord's Prayer that Jesus taught his followers (Matthew 6:9-13), what did he include about praying for God's will?

Thursday, December 17

If you live your life by the principles and truths taught in the Bible, you will be following the will of God. In fact, most of the daily decisions you face can be guided by those principles, especially as taught and lived by Christ himself. However, the Bible is not just philosophy and life teachings. It is a living word that will speak to you in your spirit, where you are, about the unique issues and choices you are living and making each day.

Psalm 19:7-14 and Proverbs 2:1-11

What are the ways the psalmist described the statues and precepts (truths) of God? According to Proverbs, what is promised to the person who accepts God's words and wisdom?

How much time to you spend every day reading the Bible? Does it need to increase?

Friday, December 18

One of the main purposes of the Holy Spirit is to help lead you in your Christian walk and give you power to live faithfully every day. The Holy Spirit works in a variety of ways. Whether you're being prompted to some kind of action, convicted of a wrongdoing, being led to help someone, or sensing God's presence, the Holy Spirit will guide you if you openly listen for direction. Scripture shows how the Holy Spirit guided Paul in his ministry.

Acts 16:6-10 and Colossians 1:9-14

How do you gain knowledge of God's will, according to Colossians 1:9? In what ways did the Holy Spirit work in the Acts passage?

Has the Holy Spirit ever moved you to action? Explain.

Saturday, December 19

God's passion is for the love, wholeness, and welfare of all people. God's will for you is to be the hands and feet of Jesus, bringing good news to the poor, freedom for the prisoner, recovery of the sick, and peace to the oppressed. By serving others in these ways you are fully investing in doing the will of God.

Matthew 25:31-36

From Matthew 25, list what Jesus described as the work his followers are to do for those in need.

How have you been the "hands and feet" of Jesus this week?

This month?

This year?