

## Bob & Tina Henold - Romania

- *Is the will of God more like a location, a journey, or a maze?*

The will of God for us, is more like a journey..although we know where we will end up (GLORY TO GOD), we have no idea many times what lies ahead. You just have to pray and ask to help you see clearly what the path is that he would have you to take.

- *Did you experience any confusion in regards to the will of God (in regards to your spouse, job, area of service, etc.)?*

Funny you should ask that...as you may or may not know, we have been going through a difficult time with the people here. Many of them do not want to follow God, but follow the flesh instead. As a result, some of them are dabbling with the Pentacostal Church. There was a period (seemed very long, and yes, it was quite recent, when we both wondered if we were in the wrong place.

- *Did you have to wait on God for any length of time?*

We waited 1 1/2 years.

- *How did you know you were marrying the right person?*

Bob is still not sure.... 😊 We were married while we were unsaved...after we got saved, it was too late to analyze this.

- *How did you know you were supposed to go into full-time ministry?*

God gave Bob several verses. Psalm 37:5 is what gave him the courage to say yes, I'll go.

- *Did you ever feel that your will and God's will were at odds?*

You are kidding, right?? YES!

- *Did you ever think you were "going out on a limb" in regards to God's will?*

Many times. It seems that there are times when things are just not clear, but a decision has to be made. The best thing is to stay faithful reading the KJV, prayerfully asking for wisdom when decisions have to be made.

- *Did God use any special signs or supernatural revelations to confirm His will?*

NO, but there were circumstances that he showed, and these circumstances we are certain were from God.

- *Does God have one plan and only one plan for your life?*

hmmm..unless you count just general things. I mean, we are to love him with our whole existence, to serve him with all that we have and are. As for specifics, I am certain that he has a perfect plan for all of us, it is just that we mess thing up so bad at time through rebellion or stupidity, that things get changed. Maybe things end up as they should have been without us messing up, I don't know.

- *What things has God used to guide you in **specific** ways?*

He uses Pastor Sowell a lot. We will have a question and pray for a good while for God to give him wisdom to answer the question, and he always comes through. He uses circumstances in our lives quite often.

- *What would you say if an 18-year-old graduate of high school asked you, "How can I know God's will for my life?"*

We have been trying to figure that out since Bobby was 25...still have no good answer....we were kinda praying and hoping that you had an answer..... We tell him to be faithful in church, be faithful to the KJV, faithful to pray, and work hard.....

## Richard Weimar - Germany

- *Is the will of God more like a location, a journey, or a maze?*

The Will of God would be a location and a journey, where you are to be, and what you do when you are there.

- *Did you experience any confusion in regards to the will of God (in regards to your spouse, job, area of service, etc.)?*

No, I did not have any confusion in regards to the will of God in any of the matters.

Did you have to wait on God for any length of time?

Yes, I have, especially when it came to moving into East Germany. The forming of a church here in Dresden.

How did you know you were marrying the right person?

Two ways, I asked the LORD to give me a verse, (Pr. 19,14) that was where I was reading on that morning before going to work, it was the 19<sup>th</sup> of August 1983.

My Pastor, Bro. Jack Wood found her for me!

- *How did you know you were supposed to go into full-time ministry?*

As I was in the Army the LORD laid it on my heart and started to begin to deal with people during my service time. To come to East Germany the LORD gave me 2 Sam. 22,30.

- *Did you ever feel that your will and God's will were at odds?*

Maybe when I was in Houston, it was to hot there for me!

- *Did you ever think you were "going out on a limb" in regards to God's will?*

No

- *Did God use any special signs or supernatural revelations to confirm His will?*

Outside of the Bible Verses No.

- *Does God have one plan and only one plan for your life?*

I am not sure how to answer that question. A specific purpose, yes, like Samson, but sin can get in the way and maybe one can say that Plan B comes into effect.

As a young man I would have said only one plan, as I have watched men fall, I do

not say that any more. The reason being is this, a man falls, maybe he is no longer Pastor or Missionary, but he can be faithful in a local church.

- *What things has God used to guide you in **specific** ways?*

The Word of God, Prayer, the counsel of good Men, sometimes from Books.

- *What would you say if an 18-year-old graduate of high school asked you, "How can I know God's will for my life?"*
  - First of all, take a concordance or Bible program, put the word "will" in and look at what the specific will of God is and make sure you are doing it. I would then ask him later if he did it.
  - Second be faithful in that which is little, that which is another man's so to say.
  - Thirdly always be open for what the LORD would have you to do.
  - Fourthly always ask the LORD what he would have you to do, and do not make things hard, always in childlike faith, the Devil took Eve away from the simplicity that which is in Christ.
  - Fifthly always seek counsel from your Pastor!

## **Hugh Taylor – Asia Reach Ministries**

- *Is the will of God more like a location, a journey, or a maze?*

HT: More like a journey. I believe "that good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God" has room for us to exercise our will while in compliance with the various controlling parameters as spelled in the attached lesson.

- *Did you experience any confusion in regards to the will of God (in regards to your spouse, job, area of service, etc.)?*

HT: Yes, my limited and frail human understanding has, on occasion, not lived up to God's desire that I understand and remember His will on the larger/strategic level. I have tried too hard (impatiently) to force the issue(s) before me to get a specific direction or decision. Without *waiting* for further and fuller leading from the Lord, I've been perplexed with the incomplete and unclear situation before me. This has particularly happened in discerning direction with changes of ministry.

- *Did you have to wait on God for any length of time?*

HT: Yes, on more than one occasion. God's will is not a fast food drive-thru window. However, knowing that hasn't kept me from being impatient with God. I mean, who among us *likes* having unknowns in our lives? Actually, waiting is often part of God's will for us so we can learn valuable lessons in life while on our "journey."

- *How did you know you were marrying the right person?*

HT: Actually, I'm not the right guy to answer this question since I wasn't living for the Lord when I made that decision back in 1973. I praise God for His grace in protecting me in that, though. I did unknowingly apply some scriptural principles, but not enough of the ones I've since learned and taught to others (as presented in the compatibility lesson), including my own three grown children.

- *How did you know you were supposed to go into full-time ministry?*

HT: As I gained more experience in teaching, preaching, and ministering as an active and faithful church member, I realized it was something God had prepared me to do. Having a set of diverse experiences in my military career prepared me for the various diversities of mission ministry. I saw the need and saw the abilities that God had given me to be a part of meeting that need. It was a scriptural, logical, and emotional decision for me.

- *Did you ever feel that your will and God's will were at odds?*

HT: Yes, but more in retrospect or reflection after the fact than during it. But, hey, anytime that I've sinned in the past 30 years or so, I've known that my will at that moment and in that action was at odds with God's. In a couple of rather major decisions, I've done some "Monday morning quarterbacking" and think perhaps I blew it after all. Surely if I had decided and acted differently, the outcome, or at least the path to it, would have been different. In those cases, I've had to claim Romans 8:28 for the actual outcomes being "for good."

- *Did you ever think you were "going out on a limb" in regards to God's will?*

HT: Not really. I've pretty well pondered and prayed major things out. Usually if there was some consternation or discomfort with a decision that was to be made, after prayerfully asking for God's guidance, wisdom and strength to do the right thing and then deciding and doing what I believed to be right, that "peace which passeth all understanding" kicked in.

- *Did God use any special signs or supernatural revelations to confirm His will?*

HT: He has seemed to more use logic to me. Even in matters of faith, God has always seemed reasonable to me. Scriptural passages like “Come now, and let us reason together” (Is 1:18), “which is your reasonable service” (Rom 12:1), and “be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind” (Rom 12:2) have given me this view. Once while near the end of my military career, I was perplexed about a personnel action affecting me that initially caused some disappointment and confusion. Then early one morning in my devotion time as I was pondering that situation, it rather “dawned” on me that God had done this to me on more than one occasion before. I recalled numerous times over the years where I had asked for a particular assignment and was not given it, sometimes even after I thought that I had it. Each and every time that happened, the assignment that I actually received led to some major blessing that likely could not have happened had I been granted my desire. I realized that if I knocked on a door and it remained closed to me, then God had another, better, door to open for me instead. That gave me the peace to trust Him and, sure enough, the principle bore out in practice again and again then and in other cases since then. I often make a “logic table” of pros and cons and as I make the decision, I ask God to close the door for me if I’m doing it wrong and open it for me if I’m doing it right.

- *Does God have one plan and only one plan for your life?*

HT: I don’t believe so. As I said above, I believe “that good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God” has room for us to exercise our will while in compliance with the various controlling parameters as spelled in the attached lesson. I personally think that God delights in seeing us decide and act within the parameters of prescription *and* permission, much like I have enjoyed watching my children make their own choices consistent with Biblical criteria and values.

- *What things has God used to guide you in **specific** ways?*

HT: He used a former pastor’s short-term mission trip report to introduce to me the great need in Asia and eventually move me to devote myself to the meeting of that need. He used a set of tribulations and trials in our former church to move us to our present church after we scripturally tried to resolve those issues where we were. He has confirmed His will in these things over and over since leading me into them.

- *What would you say if an 18-year-old graduate of high school asked you, "How can I know God's will for my life?"*

HT: First, I would explain the importance of knowing God’s will for mankind in this age of grace and how it differs from other ages to put our particular individual case in proper scriptural context. (In other words, try to make sure the tactical scenario -

your personal part of God's will - is defined and understood in the proper strategic context - God's overarching will for all mankind.) Then I would endeavor to communicate how it is that God's will for our particular individual lives is 1) declared in His word, 2) decided by those whom He has duly placed in authority and who are acting consistent with His word, and/or 3) discerned by scriptural principles, providence, and peace.

## Rudiger Hemmer - Germany

- *Is the will of God more like a location, a journey, or a maze?*

For me, the will of God is a clear and unmistakable journey. Where God leads me, I must and will follow.

- *Did you experience any confusion in regards to the will of God (in regards to your spouse, job, area of service, etc.)?*

No, not really. The will of God for my life was always pretty easy to find and to see w/o any confusion. Confusion brought my intellect and my own will.

- *Did you have to wait on God for any length of time?*

Again: No. When there was the need of a decision, God always showed me what to do. No waiting, no delay.

- *How did you know you were marrying the right person?*

God gave me a verse of scripture and I had peace in my heart (while sitting under preaching, praying and Bible reading).

- *How did you know you were supposed to go into full-time ministry?*

There was a great need (and still is) of preachers in Germany. Not many preachers there for almost 80 million people. If I don't go, who will - and God let me go and confirmed my calling.

- *Did you ever feel that your will and God's will were at odds?*

Yes, when I took my eyes off the Lord and started looking at other things.

- *Did you ever think you were "going out on a limb" in regards to God's will?*

No.

- *Did God use any special signs or supernatural revelations to confirm His will?*  
No. Yet I was stupid enough to seek such revelations, even so He spoke through His word to me.
- *Does God have one plan and only one plan for your life?*  
Yes. There are many facets to a diamond, or many grapes to a vine; yet it is one diamond and one vine.
- *What things has God used to guide you in **specific** ways?*  
His word, counsel of mature brethren, open doors and peace of mind/heart.
- *What would you say if an 18-year-old graduate of high school asked you, "How can I know God's will for my life?"*  
Go to Church, listen to the preaching, read your bible, pray, pray, pray and be ready, even better, willing, to say Yes!

## **Dennis Anderson - Africa**

- *Is the will of God more like a location, a journey, or a maze?*  
I believe the will of God is very clear in the scriptures and is the same for everyone. However, God's plan for each individual is different and is like a journey and at times appears to be unclear due to the circumstances we allow in our own lives. Examples of the will of God can be found in Romans 12:2 and II Peter 3:9.
- *Did you experience any confusion in regards to the will of God (in regards to your spouse, job, area of service, etc.)?*  
No! Just in the plan.
- *Did you have to wait on God for any length of time?*  
No figuring out the total plan was a process that took a few years from the time of calling until the time of going.
- *How did you know you were marrying the right person?*  
Was married prior to salvation so really did not look at it from a spiritual point, but know now that it was God. Praise the Lord we are going on 40 years of marriage.

- *How did you know you were supposed to go into full-time ministry?*

Holy Spirit spoke to my heart during a mission conference and I didn't really understand it but told the Lord I would go through the doors that opened. Many doors have been opened and closed but praise the Lord after 20 years I am still serving him.

- *Did you ever feel that your will and God's will were at odds?*

Yes, because there are times when my desires are not His!

- *Did you ever think you were "going out on a limb" in regards to God's will?*

No! but there have been times when I have questioned Him

- *Did God use any special signs or supernatural revelations to confirm His will?*

No!

- *Does God have one plan and only one plan for your life?*

God has a plan for each of us but is made up of many parts

- *What things has God used to guide you in **specific** ways?*

God has used many circumstances to direct us one way or another. It may have been people in need of a certain thing, it may have been provided land in a specific area to, start a work. Crossing paths with a specific person from another country and the list can go on.

- *What would you say if an 18-year-old graduate of high school asked you, "How can I know God's will for my life?"*

I would tell them to search the scriptures in references to verses referring to the will of God or ones saying God is willing or not willing and then obey those verses immediately. As we do those things that God says for us to do and we are faithful in doing so, then I believe God will start revealing to us His specific plan for our life. In addition as the doors open go through them. To many times as doors open we sit and think about them first. If we are seeking God's plan for our life then we need to trust Him and not question the open door.

## Kevin Beier - Australia

- *Is the will of God more like a location, a journey, or a maze?*

A location.

- *Did you experience any confusion in regards to the will of God (in regards to your spouse, job, area of service, etc.)?*

Yes.

- *Did you have to wait on God for any length of time?*

Yes and No. In some areas of life I've waited a long time and in other areas, I knew God's will almost the moment I began to seek it.

- *How did you know you were marrying the right person?*

There was unity on it with myself, my wife, her father, and the Scriptures. I did not have to "break stride" as I followed God in my life. In other words, marrying Shiloh was as natural as taking my next step and we continued to move forward without be distracted from serving God.

- *How did you know you were supposed to go into full-time ministry?*

Circumstances and Scripture lined-up. I also had a burning desire (given by the Holy Spirit) to serve God in that way.

- *Did you ever feel that your will and God's will were at odds?*

Yes. My will and God's will were almost always at odds. When I died to my will, God placed His desire in my heart (Psalm 37:4) and there was peace that passed understanding. Then it was only God's will that seemed to bring me any joy at all. I could not wait to fulfil it. The same principle remains true today in my life.

- *Did you ever think you were "going out on a limb" in regards to God's will?*

No.

- *Did God use any special signs or supernatural revelations to confirm His will?*

Not really. He revealed, for example, where He wanted me to be in Bible School several years before I made the decision even though I did not know it at the time. When that time came, the decision (God's will) seemed perfectly natural and once again was "in stride."

- *Does God have one plan and only one plan for your life?*

If I understand Scripture right, God has a perfect plan for each life. There is also a permissive plan for each person. Operating within the permissive plan of God does not so much put us out of "God's will" as much as it does not bring the level of contentment, peace, joy, etc. in life. My opinion is still being formed on that, but at this stage I THINK that many people who lose joy and contentment and then bail out on God may have been operating with His permissive will. They were not out of fellowship with the LORD, but were not as close as they could have been. Having said that, I also do not see that one "out of God's will" decision then places us permanently out of His will. He works all things together for good to them that love Him.

- *What things has God used to guide you in **specific** ways?*

Always by His voice (the Holy Spirit) in unity with Scripture. Always.

- *What would you say if an 18-year-old graduate of high school asked you, "How can I know God's will for my life?"*

Search the Scriptures. Ask God what His will is, then forget about it. Read your Bible regularly. Do the basic things that are God's will for everyone (Bible reading, church attendance, prayer, witness, etc.). Do not worry about it. Set your heart on the LORD. He wants you to know His will more than you want to know it. God is not in a hurry, so neither should you be in a hurry. Serve God in whatever capacity you are able to serve Him right now. Do not break your stride in serving Him unless He specifically says to do so from the Spirit of God leading you through His Word. Proverbs 3:5-6 and Romans 8:28 indicate that you cannot miss God's will when you are trying to determine what it is. So rest in the LORD. He may be preparing you to receive His will; i.e., you may not be ready to receive it yet. When He is ready to reveal it to you, while it may be overwhelming at first glance, it will be as natural as the next step.

## **Thomas Castellaw – Germany**

- *Is the will of God more like a location, a journey, or a maze?*

I don't know that I understand the question exactly. I'll skip this one.

- *Did you experience any confusion in regards to the will of God (in regards to your spouse, job, area of service, etc.)?*

Absolutely. I found myself needing a pragmatic way of putting God in a "pickle". I traffic in the real, not the ethereal. And occasionally when under time constraints, I've said, Lord, this is the only light I have and I'm going this direction unless you give

me more light or a different way. Sometimes he has, sometimes he's not. Confusion is what makes finding the will of God difficult. Many times, it's been an unwillingness to be brutally honest with myself. Why do you want to do what you're asking for permission on? When one tarries there for a while, it puts difficult decisions in a purer light.

- *Did you have to wait on God for any length of time?*

Yes, I waited three years on my wife, nine years on my own pulpit, 10 years on my own Bible Institute, 9 years on my degree, months on my first soul, and many years sometimes upwards of 17 on some pointed doctrinal questions. Frankly, I'm still waiting on some things. I've gotten two "no, just wait's" this year alone. 14 years ago, I asked the Lord if we can have kids. I got a distinct NO all three times I've asked. Maybe when I'm 100...

- *How did you know you were marrying the right person?*

I was fasting and the Lord gave me THREE specific scriptures many days into the fast. Besides this, opportunity and peace. Only the combination of these three make for the perfect will of God. Peace Opportunity and Scripture. When dealing with such a powerful drive as testosterone and estrogen, fasting is the only solution. The flesh needs to be beat back so that the spirit can show a clear course. Don't marry for looks. Marry for what's on the inside. If you can have both – hal la lu yer!

- *How did you know you were supposed to go into full-time ministry?*

Could not see myself doing anything else. There was a horrific need. Still see it this way. PS. I volunteered. The call of God is often seen as a Calvinistic perseverance of the called. The idea that once called, all will go well is tripe. The called have as many problems as the volunteers. The important thing is to be accepted into the ministry. Happy is the man that finds the will of God and does it. Miserable is that man/woman who is not.

- *Did you ever feel that your will and God's will were at odds?*

Not in big things: Marriage, field, call, salvation. But certainly in some smaller things. When this happens, just change them or pray for help until you can. Essentially it's because you don't have any peace. Wiggle, move and adjust until you find peace.

- *Did you ever think you were "going out on a limb" in regards to God's will?*

Yes. The "well, here goes" is the faith aspect of it. Otherwise it would be easy and not "by faith". To do only the safe and well calculated is a boring life. There's a fine line between faith and foolishness. Only the one on the limb can know the difference. I know that when I get home, I'd rather have tried something for the Lord and it not work than to have been calculating all my life and never try anything.

- *Did God use any special signs or supernatural revelations to confirm His will?*

Just timing in his word. Time and space wouldn't afford to tell of the details of how his word has stuck me on certain days. But other than that, no, I think of many Christian's experiences, mine have been relatively plain and unexciting in this regard. No lightning, voices, accidents, etc... Just Scripture.

- *Does God have one plan and only one plan for your life?*

Only ONE that is his best. All others are second best, but it's all better than burning in a lake of fire. If you've made a mistake or cut yourself off from some higher ground, praise God that your saved and do what he asks. It's all going to be all right. Moses couldn't go into the promised land, Jesus had to go to the cross, Paul couldn't go to his brethren, etc...

- *What things has God used to guide you in **specific** ways?*

Again, his word. I don't trust my emotions at all. I try not to pay attention to my mood. It's fickle. Only the word and some circumstances.

- *What would you say if an 18-year-old graduate of high school asked you, "How can I know God's will for my life?"*

See attached discipleship lesson on the will of God. I wrote it about 7 years ago. This is what I'd give him/her.

## **Wayne Mund – Fishers of Men Ministries**

- *Is the will of God more like a location, a journey, or a maze?*

A journey

- *Did you experience any confusion in regards to the will of God (in regards to your spouse, job, area of service, etc.)?*

Yes

- *Did you have to wait on God for any length of time?*

Yes

- *How did you know you were marrying the right person?*

I was lost at the time but God still brought the right person.

- *How did you know you were supposed to go into full-time ministry?*

Direction fro the Word, circumstances, wisdom of other men, peace in heart, trust in God.

- *Did you ever feel that your will and God's will were at odds?*

Yes

- *Did you ever think you were "going out on a limb" in regards to God's will?*

Yes

- *Did God use any special signs or supernatural revelations to confirm His will?*

Only once

- *Does God have one plan and only one plan for your life?*

No

- *What things has God used to guide you in **specific** ways?*

Word of God, circumstances, council of others, prayer

- *What would you say if an 18-year-old graduate of high school asked you, "How can I know God's will for my life?"*

I would suggest he identify with the above question and commend him for the desire to know such.

When the channel is found (deep water) stay in it for life's duration. Anything to the starboard or port is rocks, shoals, shallows (trouble).

## **Matt Leathley – The Congo**

- *Is the will of God more like a location, a journey, or a maze?*

A journey: with the Bible as your map.

- *Did you experience any confusion in regards to the will of God (in regards to your spouse, job, area of service, etc.)?*

I experienced uncertainty, which drove me to seek His will more fervently.

- *Did you have to wait on God for any length of time?*

Yes, in regards to my wife. I waited several weeks, praying and considering.

- *How did you know you were marrying the right person?*

The Lord gave me peace about it. I found a lady that was already busy serving the Lord.

- *How did you know you were supposed to go into full-time ministry?*

I surrendered my life at the age of fifteen at a youth camp. While at the altar, the Lord impressed upon my heart to surrender to be a missionary to Congo. It was very real and specific. I realize God does not do this with everyone, but I suppose the Lord knew he had to be real obvious with me. Some people are just more "hard-headed" than others.

- *Did you ever feel that your will and God's will were at odds?*

For a time. When in my last two years of high school, I knew I was called to preach, but felt like I wanted to "sow my wild oats" for a while. It was only by God's grace, that I was able to get right. Some make this same decision and never come back to God.

- *Did you ever think you were "going out on a limb" in regards to God's will?*

Only in the sense that it seemed humanly impractical. But I simply stepped out trusting that it was His will, and He would take care of me.

- *Did God use any special signs or supernatural revelations to confirm His will?*

Not signs or revelations. But He has used circumstances to give guidance and assurance that I am in His will.

- *Does God have one plan and only one plan for your life?*

Honestly, I am not sure. If he wants me to serve in Congo for the rest of my life, I will. However, if He ever chooses to lead me elsewhere, I will do my best to follow His leading. Right now, I know I am in the center of His will, and that's the best place to be. As for the call to preach, it is a lifetime calling.

- *What things has God used to guide you in **specific** ways?*

The Bible more than anything else.

- *What would you say if an 18-year-old graduate of high school asked you, "How can I know God's will for my life?"*

Follow Gods revealed will given in His word, (1 Thess. 4:3 & 5:18 come to mind). And seek God more fervently than you ever have in your life. If you're sincere about knowing God's will, He will bless you for it. He's not hiding His will for the fun of it. Though He may hide it for a time in order to motivate us to make more of an effort to seek after Him.

## **Lionel Smith – Ireland**

- *Is the will of God more like a location, a journey, or a maze?*

I believe that most of the will of God is simple obedience. When you obey what you know God wants you to do He will show you what you are to do next.

- *Did you experience any confusion in regards to the will of God (in regards to your spouse, job, area of service, etc.)?*

I have never had confusion in regards to the will of God when I was following His will. The confusion would come when I was out of His will and I knew it or I did not want to surrender to God's will.

- *Did you have to wait on God for any length of time?*

I believe that God lets you know what He wants for you now. He does not always tell you what He wants from you tomorrow or next year. In fact rarely does He do that He lets us know in the right time not ahead of time. I waited for the right woman to marry until I was 28 until He showed me who He wanted me to marry when the time was correct. I actually did not have to wait for the will of God I just had to continue in the will of God until He had another plan for me. I believe that that is what has always happened in my life.

- *How did you know you were marrying the right person?*

I had the peace of God and the witness of the Holy Spirit in me.

- *How did you know you were supposed to go into full-time ministry?*

First God gave me a burden and then later a direct call.

- *Did you ever feel that your will and God's will were at odds?*

Only when I was out of His will.

- *Did you ever think you were "going out on a limb" in regards to God's will?*

I do not understand the question.

- *Did God use any special signs or supernatural revelations to confirm His will?*

God led me to passages in the Bible that directly related to what I was praying about.

- *Does God have one plan and only one plan for your life?*

I can not really answer this question as I do not know the answer.

- *What things has God used to guide you in **specific** ways?*

The Bible and Godly counsel.

- *What would you say if an 18-year-old graduate of high school asked you, "How can I know God's will for my life?"*

I would ask the person if they in the will of God now? Are they faithfully reading their Bible? Are they faithfully praying? Are they faithfully witnessing? Are they faithful to church? Are they faithfully serving God? I would try to find out what areas of God's will they were not in and direct them to get those things right. Only after those things were right would I discuss how they can know the will of God for their life. I would then determine what specific area they are looking for direction in. Different areas would have different answers but basically I would encourage them to see if God has the direction for them in the Bible. God never gives direction against His revealed will. It is never God's will to go against His Word. I would then encourage them to seek God's specific will by praying for the area they are asking about and then encourage them not to rush into anything. God will make His will plain in His time.

## Mike Wolski – Poland

- *Is the will of God more like a location, a journey, or a maze?*

1st and foremost it is scriptural. We have the revealed will of God in print for us to apply to our lives. We have verses which tell us specifically the revealed will of God for us. Then 2nd it is personal. What God wants for you individually which includes location, occupation, spouse, area of service, etc...

- *Did you experience any confusion in regards to the will of God (in regards to your spouse, job, area of service, etc.)?*

If someone answers in the negative, let me talk with them! Regarding the personal will of God there will always be times when one must take a step of faith. I have made several choices where I was not sure of God's direction at the time I made the decision, but it was made by faith and each time God confirmed that I made the right choice in time (choice of ministries after graduation from Bible school, call to the mission field).

- *Did you have to wait on God for any length of time?*

In the two instances mentioned the first was a few weeks, the second three and a half months.

- *How did you know you were marrying the right person?*

Single-mindedness regarding serving the Lord, peace from the Lord, counsel, comfort and circumstances.

- *How did you know you were supposed to go into full-time ministry?*

Scriptural admonition, Holy Spirit conviction, personal desire.

- *Did you ever feel that your will and God's will were at odds?*

Not so much at odds as lacking direction to discern His leading in specific areas or times.

- *Did you ever think you were "going out on a limb" in regards to God's will?*

If you think leaving a ministry you are at for 19 years, selling a home, leaving your children behind ( all out of high school, though not settled in life ) and going to a foreign mission field is 'going out on a limb', then yes.

- *Did God use any special signs or supernatural revelations to confirm His will?*

God has used scripture to direct me and/or confirm His will as well as specific answers to prayer. I call that supernatural.

- *Does God have one plan and only one plan for your life?*

In any situation God can have a will for you regarding a choice, but based on your decision God may have to modify His will i.e. if you don't do what He has in mind for you then He will

adjust His will for the next step in your life. If God didn't want Paul to go to Jerusalem, He adjusted His will for Paul based on the fact that Paul went. So it is throughout our lives.

- *What are the guidelines to determining God's will for your life?*

Does it match scripture? Does it match the Holy Spirit's leading in my life? Does it match desires that God has allowed to develop in me? Do circumstances confirm it? Does it - the decision to do such a thing- give peace?

- *What would you say if an 18-year-old graduate of high school asked you, "How can I know God's will for my life?"*

Read the Bible to know the revealed will of God. And do what the book says. If you don't do that sincerely why should God reveal anything else? Seek counsel of Godly people in your life- not necessarily peers. Pray, pray, pray. Be sensitive to the Holy Spirit's leading. Be alert to circumstances. Coincidences may be God's leading. Be sure you are looking for God's will and not a confirmation of your own will.

## **Edwin Duke – Germany**

- *Is the will of God more like a location, a journey, or a maze?*

Is what God wants a location? A journey? A maze?

- *Did you experience any confusion in regards to the will of God (in regards to your spouse, job, area of service, etc.)?*

Confusion, no! But if you ask if I have doubts, yes!

- *Did you have to wait on God for any length of time?*

Did I have to wait on God for any length of time? I am still waiting.

- *How did you know you were marrying the right person?*

She said yes. Just kidding. I had prayed and asked the Lord to give me a wife, and when she came along, by faith, I knew God had heard my prayer.

- *How did you know you were supposed to go into full-time ministry?*

I surrendered my life and the Lord opened the door.

- *Did you ever feel that your will and God's will were at odds?*

Yes

- *Did you ever think you were "going out on a limb" in regards to God's will?*

I am a seaman, I never went out on a limb, but launched out into the deep.

- *Did God use any special signs or supernatural revelations to confirm His will?*

In regards to my call, to Germany, I prayed the Lord to give me a contract so that I would know, and he did indirectly through Isaiah 50.4,5, which supernaturally led me to Exodus 4.11, via Scofield's reference.

- *Does God have one plan and only one plan for your life?*

Not sure to be quite honest; could I answer many plans, one purpose?

- *What are the guidelines to determining God's will for your life?*

Is it faith in God according to the Bible?

- *What would you say if an 18-year-old graduate of high school asked you, "How can I know God's will for my life?"*

Trust God and live your life in accordance with the Bible.

## **Nick Serino - Alaska**

- *Is the will of God more like a location, a journey, or a maze?*

The will of God is for me to minister to people in a place where they live.

- *Did you experience any confusion in regards to the will of God (in regards to your spouse, job, area of service, etc.)?*

No – When God is in it HE works out all the details.

- *Did you have to wait on God for any length of time?*

Only in regards to training, deputation and getting to the field.

- *How did you know you were marrying the right person?*

Answer to specific prayer.

- *How did you know you were supposed to go into full-time ministry?*

God put into my heart the desire for Missions and to go to the Arctic; If you can be happy doing anything else but preaching full time – DO IT!

- *Did you ever feel that your will and God's will were at odds?*

Never – I may not understand what is going on but I never question His doings.

- *Did you ever think you were "going out on a limb" in regards to God's will?*

God went out on a limb in calling ME to the Mission field.

- *Did God use any special signs or supernatural revelations to confirm His will?*

Just His word and the peace of God in my heart.

- *Does God have one plan and only one plan for your life?*

Yes – to glorify HIM. Directions can change but I don't believe God changes the call every other week.

- *What are the guidelines to determining God's will for your life?*

Be faithful in that which is least. JER 12:5 If you can't be faithful in the infantry battles; what will you do when the Cavalry comes?

- *What would you say if an 18-year-old graduate of high school asked you, "How can I know God's will for my life?"*

Read the Bible –Pray- Live Holy- be Faithful - be open to the preaching of God's Word and his Men

## **Yvonne Geoffrion – Quebec, Canada**

- *Is the will of God more like a location, a journey, or a maze?*

The will of God is a clear map, or else how could we possibly do the works prepared beforehand if they are not clear for us?

- *Did you experience any confusion in regards to the will of God (in regards to your spouse, job, area of service, etc.)?*

No

- *Did you have to wait on God for any length of time?*

Yes

- *How did you know you were marrying the right person?*

An inward conviction and love.

- *How did you know you were supposed to go into full-time ministry?*

An inward conviction that I could not resist.

- *Did you ever feel that your will and God's will were at odds?*

His will always became my will.

- *Did you ever think you were "going out on a limb" in regards to God's will?*

No

- *Did God use any special signs or supernatural revelations to confirm His will?*

No--the just shall live by faith.

- *Does God have one plan and only one plan for your life?*

I don't know God's side of things, completely, or how He works things out. But, I do believe on the on-set He has one plan.

- *What are the guidelines to determining God's will for your life?*

The Bible, inward conviction, circumstances, Godly advice, and time.

- *What would you say if an 18-year-old graduate of high school asked you, "How can I know God's will for my life?"*

Get moving, do now what you know is biblically right. God sometimes leads in increments.

## Mike Varney – Philippines

- *Is the will of God more like a location, a journey, or a maze?*

More like a journey, because life itself is a journey. At times, I have stopped to re-evaluate where I am in life, and what I have accomplished, so I have checked up on myself to be sure I was in the will of God.

- *Did you experience any confusion in regards to the will of God (in regards to your spouse, job, area of service, etc.)?*

Yes....and looking back, confusion stemmed from these things:

(1) Not understanding the timetable of God

(2) Not understanding how God would make my experiences valuable to me later in life.

- *Did you have to wait on God for any length of time?*

Yes, and several times the waiting was accompanied with a heavy burden until the waiting was finished.

- *How did you know you were marrying the right person?*

(1) Because I had acknowledged the Lord in that search, (Prov.3:6) and trusted that He would direct my path.

(2) Because she was already headed toward full-time ministry, like myself.

By the way, it also meant a lot to hear a gracious compliment from her Pastor; he said, "Brother, she is a **GOOD** Christian. Too many Christians haven't even figured out that they are supposed to be good, but she is GOOD. ***If it is in the will of God for you to marry her,*** you couldn't marry a better person." He said those words more than 16 years ago, but I can still hear them like they were spoken yesterday.

- *How did you know you were supposed to go into full-time ministry?*
  - (1) Because I enjoyed part-time ministry more than anything else, and had given all of my free time to it.
  - (2) Because I had a desire that would not be fulfilled with anything less.
  - (3) A lifetime of service seemed the appropriate response to the Lord Jesus who had done so much for me.
  
- *Did you ever feel that your will and God's will were at odds?*

Yes.....and still do at times... especially whenever I hear the song: ***I Surrender All***. Surrender to the will of God has to be a daily thing for it to be most effective.
  
- *Did you ever think you were "going out on a limb" in regards to God's will?*

A few times...yes! There have been times where we believed strongly that it was time to TRUST God, and TAKE action. In all such cases, I think that following the principles of Prov. 3:5-6 prepared us for those "limb-walking" occasions.
  
- *Did God use any special signs or supernatural revelations to confirm His will?*

No....for me it has been the Scripture, Prayer, Circumstances, and the Counsel of God's people.
  
- *Does God have one plan and only one plan for your life?*

I'm sure that God knows the end from the beginning, but still I know that I miss His will when I make wrong choices, so I suspect that the Lord has all the options covered. Thank God that He forgives us and still uses us!
  
- *What things has God used to guide you in **specific** ways?*
  - (1) A passage of Scripture
  - (2) An automobile accident
  - (3) The testimony of a friend
  - (4) The rebuke of a friend
  - (5) An overnight stay in a hospital
  
- *What would you say if an 18-year-old graduate of high school asked you, "How can I know God's will for my life?"*
  - (1) Do serve Him now, and keep your conscience clear,

(2) Read your Bible, read your Bible, and Read your Bible,

(3) Obey Prov. 3:5-6, and Romans 12:1-2

## Marco Perez – Columbia

- *Is the will of God more like a location, a journey, or a maze?*

I think it is a location. Because once you are in the will of God there is peace and comfort.

- *Did you experience any confusion in regards to the will of God (in regards to your spouse, job, area of service, etc.)?*

No I knew God called me to be a missionary to Colombia all I had to do was except the calling

- *Did you have to wait on God for any length of time?*

No but I did have to prepare God is of God of "order"

- *How did you know you were marrying the right person?*

I not married YET. But God has shown me who the wrong person has been many times.

- *How did you know you were supposed to go into full-time ministry?*

It's just a "feeling" you get and then you have to prepare and then you have to find the location.

- *Did you ever feel that your will and God's will were at odds?*

Sure.....I really never wanted to go to Colombia or except the calling I wanted to stay in the states and work.

- *Did you ever think you were "going out on a limb" in regards to God's will?*

No because what ever "I" wanted to do God closed the Doors and did not let me go through them

- *Did God use any special signs or supernatural revelations to confirm His will?*

His "Word" my calling verse to Colombia is Mark 5:19 and the peace I got when I took my survey trip.

- *Does God have one plan and only one plan for your life?*

No I don't believe so. God can use a man at any time in the situation he wants. I could be in china next year if that what he wanted to do

- *What are the guidelines to determining God's will for your life?*

Well like it says in Rom. 12:2 finding it "good" "acceptable" and perfect.

- *What would you say if an 18-year-old graduate of high school asked you, "How can I know God's will for my life?"*

I wouldn't be able to answer his question because no one could know the will of one's life only the person himself. If they don't know how can I know? I could give them counsel on what "I think" is best for them but that's all I can do for them.

## **Don Hinds – Guatemala**

- *Is the will of God more like a location, a journey, or a maze?*

I found this question interesting as I see all three participating in God's will. Location is probably the most important because you need to be willing to be used of God wherever you are.

I see the journey as all of life's lessons that God brings to you to prepare you for how He wants to use you. That includes the good Bible teaching at church or any further studies taken to be better prepared. I believe a College and Career age person can identify with that well as they try to prepare themselves to be of the best value to someone in some profession. I believe it is wise for us to be prepared for whatever God may want to use us for.

The maze was very true in my life as I know I seemed to run into blocked doors and detours as God guided and prepared me.

- *Did you experience any confusion in regards to the will of God (in regards to your spouse, job, area of service, etc.)?*

One thing that seemed like confusion at the time was how God led me to be preaching and teaching the Word of God to the people of Guatemala. I was a Process Engineer in a factory and in regards to ability, I personally felt stronger in that area. We took our son, Jeff to Bearing Precious Seed in El Paso, Texas where he was going to work for the summer. Our family stayed the week. While there, the machinery and equipment had problems and the person who normally repaired them was out of town. I was able to keep the equipment in service and it seemed more than coincidence that as I fixed one, a different machine would have a problem or a setup needed to be changed. The message I received was that God could use the abilities I saw only for industry. As a family we prayed that God would show us if that was what He wanted.

At that time we saw a path to work in that Ministry with Bearing Precious Seed.

We ran into a wall and while you can always look for a way to climb over it, we decided it was better to pray and ask God to show us what He was doing. Within two days we heard of a need to do a similar ministry in Guatemala.

On our survey trip, the person that met us at the airport had recently arrived in Guatemala and was doing what I thought God was calling me to do. I again asked God what He was doing.

During that trip I saw again what I had seen while serving in the navy in Spain and that is a lack of knowing God's Word even in the midst of a lot of religion. I also saw again what we witnessed in Mexico during a trip with Bearing Precious Seed and that was in several different towns men told us they were not going to accept what we said in one day of preaching or a movie but that they needed someone to come, spend time with them, and teach them the Truth. I honestly preferred fixing machines than people's lives but God knew that then I was submitted to whatever He wanted.

- *Did you have to wait on God for any length of time?*

I had already graduated from the Bible Institute years earlier so perhaps the waiting was more on God's part for me to untie the bonds of owning a home, resigning from work, etc.

Since then, there have many times when I needed to wait on God to be careful I wasn't running ahead of Him.

- *How did you know you were marrying the right person?*

We were married before attending a good Bible preaching church. I give our young people here a list of things to consider when considering who they will marry. I know that Cathy is who I married and therefore is the right person. She is definitely a help in the ministry and to me.

- *How did you know you were supposed to go into full-time ministry?*

God wanted to use me that way.

- *Did you ever feel that your will and God's will were at odds?*

I'd like to think I'd never feel my will was better than God's so when I sense or feel a division with God, I look for what He wants even if I don't understand it.

- *Did you ever think you were "going out on a limb" in regards to God's will?*

Just before I was led and called to Full Time Ministry, a very close and good friend of mine had stopped along the road on his way home from work. A drunk driver passed by and hit him. He was killed instantly. When I was in Mexico contemplating what God may want us to do or where He may want us to go, immediately the thought of my friend came to mind and that we are only safe when we are where God wants. That "fear" never returned.

- *Did God use any special signs or supernatural revelations to confirm His will?*

I have already mentioned the maze that God took me through but I praise God for His constant “signs” of His presence and His work. It’s always amazing what He does and we just happen to be there.

- *Does God have one plan and only one plan for your life?*

I see the answer in God’s relationship with Israel. He had and has a plan for Israel. They didn’t always follow His desire or will but He already knew what they would do. God continues to have a plan knowing what they will do. The trip isn’t as direct or with as many souls as God desired. I pray my life will be closer to the route God desires to fulfill His desire.

- *What are the guidelines to determining God's will for your life?*

To know God’s Word and His Desire

To examine my life that I am doing what He wants

To be open to how He may desire to use me to fulfill His Desire

- *What would you say if an 18-year-old graduate of high school asked you, "How can I know God's will for my life?"*

To do what he already knows God wants him to do in his daily walk.

Guard his testimony.

Look to how he may make himself more “marketable” to God through Discipleship, being under the Preaching of God’s Word, Reading God’s Word, and perhaps a Bible Institute.

Be willing to be used of God even if it’s in the work place.

Volunteer in different ministries of the church.

Leave the door opening and guiding to God.

## **Tim Searles – Thailand**

- *Is the will of God more like a location, a journey, or a maze?*

All of the above For the Jews – the Promised Land, – Paul Macedonia, etc., Abraham a journey and a land, The Jews in the wilderness

\* A fantastic adventure!

- *Did you experience any confusion in regards to the will of God (in regards to your spouse, job, area of service, etc.)?*

Not confusion but introspection, -- after 17 years in the same small city with a congregation of 10 no national pastor -- How does that correlate to be fruitful and multiply. As far as a wife, as an unsaved kid I asked for the perfect match after 2 girls turned me down was I confused? hurt?angry? Probably but I was confident the Lord was directing. The Lord did give me the perfect match. So the answer is I was confused in one area but confident in another the two had to be reconciled.

- *Did you have to wait on God for any length of time?*

7 years to see our first church started, We've been working on the 2nd one now for 17 years. You could say -- a length of time

- *How did you know you were marrying the right person?*

The Lord brought Adam his wife -- not much courtship or confusion  
Abrahams eldest servant brought Isaac his -- not much courtship or confusion  
It was definitely by the grace of God Maureen was given to me BUT a far far bigger grace came when she was willing to stay. Me being very single minded made it extremely difficult on her. After 35 years we probably have proof that it was the Lords will but initially I would say it was by faith + circumstances

- *How did you know you were supposed to go into full-time ministry?*

I knew. -- a small still voice--

- *Did you ever feel that your will and God's will were at odds?*

Not so much at odds but I tend to run past His will -- not intentionally but --  
The Bible says Ec 9:10 Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might;  
When from the start you throw a punch at full speed it is very hard to stop half way.

- *Did you ever think you were "going out on a limb" in regards to God's will?*

That is exactly what it is! You are out there swinging in the breeze with nothing between you and absolute disaster but Him. What a fantastic safety net!

- *Did God use any special signs or supernatural revelations to confirm His will?*

God many times has made miraculous ways for us to keep going ---They are very special to us. They are landmarks that help us justify where we are when we can absolutely see not future.

- *Does God have one plan and only one plan for your life?*

Jas 1.8 -- A river has one plan to get from high to low. It may bend around, be fast or slow but there is one plan.

- *What are the guidelines to determining God's will for your life?*

Mat 28.19-20 Ec 9:10 Job 38.3 for starters

- *What would you say if an 18-year-old graduate of high school asked you, "How can I know God's will for my life?"*

Be quiet and listen.

1Ki 19:12 And after the earthquake a fire; *but* the LORD *was* not in the fire: and after the fire a still small voice.

Pr 3:6 In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.

Josh 1:8