

Preparing for the Year Ahead

Knowing God's Will



Do You Know His Will?

Possibly the most important thing we face day in and day out is 'knowing God's will.' The acronym P.E.A.C.E can help guide us through the process of discerning the will of God.

Introduction: There is seldom a single 'factor' that will ensure that we are in God's will. Here are five 'factors' to consider—there are many more.

P—Providence: *Is it providential?*

Patience is needed to walk in Providence

1. Providence refers to God's way of governing: His overruling, His going before us, His way of arranging circumstances—what the world might call 'coincidences.'
2. Samuel, Jesse and David *1 Sam 16-17*

E—The Enemy: *What would your enemy, the devil, want you to do?*

Discernment is needed to resist the enemy!

1. The enemy comes as a roaring lion and masquerades as an angel of light. *1 Pet 5:8; 2 Cor 11:14*
2. The enemy uses pride and desire to lure us into making wrong decisions. *1 John 2:13-17*

A—Authority—the Bible: *What does God's word say?*

Obedience is needed to walk in the Word

1. The Holy Spirit will NEVER lead us to do anything contrary to God's revealed will—the Bible.
2. However strong the impulse, however powerful the feeling, however clear the vision, do not listen to or obey any 'word' that doesn't affirm God's Word.
3. Affirming God's Word means the WHOLE Word—not one or two verses or situations.

C—Confidence: *Does it increase or diminish your confidence?*

Faith is needed to walk in Confidence Eph 3:12

1. Peter's confidence, boldness and assurance to preach on the Day of Pentecost came because of being filled with the Spirit and being obedient to the will of God. *Acts 2:14-36*

E—Ease: *Are you being true to yourself?*

Peace is needed to walk true to your Conscience

"Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord." *Heb 12:14*

1. Ease DOES NOT mean easy! Ease is what you feel in your heart of hearts. If it **does not** FEEL right—after you go through the first four questions—it's probably **not right!**
2. God will NEVER lead you in a way that will violate your own conscience or be untrue to yourself.

This study is adapted from "The Anointing, Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow" by R.T. Kendall.

P-Providence

1 Sa 16:1 Now the LORD said to Samuel, "How long will you mourn for Saul, seeing I have rejected him from reigning over Israel? Fill your horn with oil, and go; I am sending you to Jesse the Bethlehemite. For I have provided Myself a king among his sons."

E-The Enemy

1 Pet 5:8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.

2 Cor 11:14 For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light.

1 Kin 3:9 Give therefore thy servant an understanding heart to judge thy people, that I may discern between good and bad.

A-Authority

Psa 119:9 How can a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed according to Your word

Psa 119:11 Your word I have hidden in my heart, That I might not sin against You

Psa 119:17 Deal bountifully with Your servant, That I may live and keep Your word

C-Confidence

Eph 3:12 [*Jesus*] in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through faith in Him.

Act 2:29 "Men and brethren, let me speak freely [*Gk 'with confidence'*] to you of the patriarch David, that he is both dead and buried, and his tomb is with us to this day.

E-Ease

Act 24:16 This *being* so, I myself always strive to have a conscience without offense toward God and men.

Rom 9:1 I tell the truth in Christ, I am not lying, my conscience also bearing me witness in the Holy Spirit.