

**Unhindered
The Book of Acts
Discerning the Will of God
Acts 21:1-14**

- **Introduction**
 - “Life is full of so many decisions. How do I know I am doing the right thing?”
 - One of the questions about the Christian life that is most often asked is, “How do I know God’s will for my life?”
 - We should be able to walk so closely with God that we can discern His will for our lives as we obey His word and depend on the power of the Holy Spirit in us.
- **If you want to discern the will of God, you have to give God a “blank check” for your life.**
 - There is no need to speculate about God’s will for your life if you do not intend on being 100 percent committed to obeying it.
 - Romans 12:1–2
 - Giving God a “blank check” may strike you as scary, but He is your loving Father. He is all knowing and all wise and His purpose is to be glorified through your life. Trust Him!
- **If you want to discern the will of God, you must grow in your intimacy with God through His word and His Spirit.**
 - Philippians 3:9–10; Galatians 5:16
 - There are NO shortcuts or easy formulas. Nothing replaces time, prayer, and the Bible to discern His will for your life.
- **If you want to discern the will of God, you must act on biblical principles and not human wisdom.**
 - God’s ways and wisdom are often opposed to the ways of man and the world.
 - Isaiah 55:8–9
 - You and I need to live on the basis of biblical principles, not human wisdom. Human wisdom often conflicts with God’s plans.
- **If you want to discern the will of God, you must examine your gifts, motives, and desires in light of God’s sovereign purpose.**
 - Questions to consider:
 - Where can I be most effective in light of my gifts?
 - Am I interested in God’s glory or mine?
 - What do I enjoy doing?
 - Psalm 37:4
- **If you want to discern the will of God, you must listen and evaluate the advice of godly believers.**
 - Sometimes it is hard to discern what is right. Some would say Paul was wrong for going to Jerusalem in spite of the warning from his friends. On the other hand, Paul may have had a strong inclination and resolve because he was convinced it was God’s will.
 - Proverbs 19:20–21
- **If you want to discern the will of God, you must pray to evaluate the circumstance that God has brought into your life.**
 - It is important to remember that the same set of circumstances can be interpreted in a number of ways. So, you need to be careful how you interpret them.
 - God brought repeated warnings to Paul from many different sources. Should he have taken these to mean “don’t go”? Or were they a test of his obedience to what he knew God’s will to be? Maybe the warnings were for the purpose of strengthening both Paul and the others so that they can stand firm knowing God’s will in advance. Sometimes admittedly it is hard!
- **If you want to discern the will of God, you must depend on God and make a decision and live with the consequences.**
 - Ultimately you must determine God’s will for yourself. You cannot blame others nor God for that matter.
 - Romans 15:30–32
- **Conclusion**
 - What if you make a mistake discerning the will of God? Confess it and ask God to overrule your mistake.
 - Paul probably did not sin going to Jerusalem, but he also did not probably make the wisest decision.
 - Discerning God’s will is a process that requires submission, obedience and maturity. Ultimately, it involves trust. Start there.