

Discerning God's will

David has been anointed as the future King of Israel (1Sam 16:13). He has worked directly for Saul in the seat of government (1Sam 16:21-23). He now has been sent back to his father and is working in his old job as a shepherd and delivery boy (1Sam 17:15). He is sent to the battle with food for his brothers. He arrives at the battle scene and there he is faced with a situation that requires him to discern God's will and act.

1Sam 20-22	Battle beginning - time to take cover? Time for David to run to the front - courage
1Sam 23-24	Goliath - the armies of God run in great fear - fear hinders discerning God's will
1Sam 25-27, 30	Reward - finances, marriage, exemption from taxes
1Sam 26	Perspective - remove this disgrace; who is this uncircumcised Philistine?
1Sam 28-29	Jealousy - Eliab passed over as king - takes his anger and guilt out on David

Personality

1. Conscientious – delivered the groceries as directed; left them with supply – did his job
2. Courageous – ran to the front line – wanted the action even at personal risk
3. Curious – who is this unbeliever who defies God? What is the reward?
4. Convictions – undaunted by the extreme criticism of his brother

Perceptions/Perspective

1. David recognizes that there is a problem – Armies of God are running in fear
2. David recognizes that the military problem is rooted in spiritual issues
 - Uncircumcised – unbeliever
 - Defy armies of God – nothing can defy the armies of God
3. David is spiritually in tune with how the spiritual relates to the physical
4. David recognizes that there is a spiritual solution to the physical problem
5. The rest of Israel is overwhelmed by fear of overwhelming circumstances
6. David knows that God is bigger than any overwhelming circumstances.

Promise

1. David is curious about the reward offered to the man who solved the problem
2. 3 times the issue of reward is raised in the passage.
3. David having heard it, asks for more clarification.
4. David is not motivated by the financial or marital reward – refuses – 18:17-19
5. David is motivated by concern for the army (vs 32) and intends to promote the name of God (vs 47).

Discerning God's will

1. **God's will is discerned by using biblical principles to understand physical situations.**
 - Every circumstance has a spiritual issue tied to it.
 - Every problem has a spiritual solution
2. **Circumstances hold a number of puzzle pieces that are understood and assembled through application of biblical principles.**
 - David expected to see men of faith fighting with courage (16:19)
 - David expected to see the armies of God victorious – vs 18 – sign of victory

- David knew and believed the armies of God could always be victorious – vs 26
- David saw Goliath; his defiance; fear of the army – overwhelming problem
- David saw the men had lost heart – caved in - failed to believe God
- Options: retreat, hold fast, attack
- Only option compatible with armies of God: move ahead, confident of victory
- Only option: God will give victory regardless of the size of the obstacle
- God's will: attack and kill Goliath

3. **Biblical promises and principles forbid retreat and guaranteed victory.**

- God loves you; is with you; He will fight for you; always give you victory
- Mt 16:18 – gates of hell cannot defeat the church – ever and forever

4. **With victory guaranteed, we must examine the puzzle to find the way of victory.**

- Retreat/defeat are not God's will – no need for it
- Retreat/defeat result from man's failure to understand, trust & obey God
- Surrendered heart is willing to do the necessary to achieve spiritual victory.

5. **God's system for determining His will**

- Relationship and surrendered sensitivity to GHS Eph 1:18-19
- Wisdom based on scripture revealed by GHS Eph 1:17
- Willingness to lay aside personal agendas and accept God's will Eph 6:6
- Counsel from wise, spiritual and gifted Bel's Prov 11:14
- Prayer for wisdom and understanding Jam 1:5
- All situations are known and allowed by God for a loving purpose Rom 8:28
- All situations have a spiritual perspective and solution

Principles: Base everything on your knowledge of scripture; seek all known principles that apply; never violate a known biblical principle – never God's will; consider the big picture of God's plan – A/C; fit specific principles that apply into the bigger picture. **Ex:** David knew God intended victory; He knew God didn't intend the army to quake in fear; He knew that big problems were no match for God (lion/bear); He decided God would enable him to defeat Goliath.

Premise: God always makes a way for victory regardless of the problem.

1 Cor 10:13 No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, that you may be able to endure it.

- Retreat, defeat or surrender to the forces of evil is never God's will
- We have the power to win!!

Plan: God has laid out a situation intended for you to trust Him, apply His word and come out the winner; look for the only or most likely way you can achieve what God wants in the situation; stay surrendered to GHS; apply virtue – love, kindness, forgiveness, forbearance; focus on relationships rather than circumstances; be willing to take radical action.

Procedure: Take appropriate action; look for & evaluate results; be willing to adjust your view based on changes in the people or situation; be prepared to endure until victory is achieved.