

# Lifelines

---

© 2025 by Dr. Ed Jordan

Pastor, Gwynn's Island Baptist Church, Gwynn, VA

March 13, 2025

Topic: Discerning God's Will

## A GPS for Navigating God's Will

© 2025 by Dr. Ed Jordan

One of the great things about being a Christian is that we each have a mission to accomplish each day. God uses us to touch the lives of others as we navigate through our daily routines, or venture out into new places and encountering new people. Jesus set the major guideline for every Christian to live by when in Luke 22:42 (NJB) He prayed: " 'Father,' He said, 'if you are willing, take this cup away from me. Nevertheless, let your will be done, not mine.'" It was on the eve of His crucifixion, and the human part of Him asked for God to consider removing the cup of the grueling crucifixion He faced. Nevertheless, He prayed, let Your will be done.

GPS navigation uses a triangulation of satellite signals interacting with the GPS device in your car to give you your current location, and the roads to take to get you to your desired destination. So it uses fixed, known, verified points of reference to guide you turn by turn to arrive at your desired destination.

Spiritually, as a Christian, we are following Jesus, and trying to be where He wants us to be, becoming the person He wants us to become, and letting Jesus guide us to live in the manner He wants us to live. One spiritual GPS fixed coordinate used to discern God's will for us is the nature and character of God. We find God's values and character traits in the information recorded in the Bible. The will of God for your life is to understand God's overall will for all Christians.

God wants us to live a life that aligns with His values. So if you are trying to determine God's will about doing something or not, examine if doing this is something that aligns with His values. He won't ask you to do something that is against His own character. So understanding God's character is a key positional point in actually doing God's will.

A second point of reference is the truth of God's Word in the Bible. God speaks to us through the Bible, so as you daily read your Bible, listen to a message that seems to pop into your mind regardless of the verses you are reading. Is there a repeated theme coming into your mind as you read? Does it align with what God tells us to do? God does not lead us to do things that are blatant contradictions to His nature and purposes as revealed in the Bible. This is where taking notes on what God is saying to you through various days of Bible readings can be helpful. Write down the date, the scripture verse read, and "what is God saying to me today through that passage about my life and what He wants me to do, become, or learn." After several weeks, go back and read your notes. Is there one or two themes that kept resurfacing in your notes? That might be God's message to you about His will for your life at this point in time.

A third point of reference is the opportunities that open up to you during the day. Since God is often involved in who we meet, or bump into, on any particular day or in time,

these open doors of opportunity might be God's showing you the way forward. Again, the open door should align with God's character, purposes, and His truth in the Bible, or it is not likely God opening the door. It could be temptation.

A fourth factor in staying on the path of God's will for your life is timing. I will give you a summarized example.

When we sensed God calling us to move to Hungary to become missionaries there, Hungary was still under the control of the Soviet Union. We saw a missionary job assignment to live in Vienna, and travel into the Soviet Union countries to network with Christians and offer assistance. We looked into it. The agency said we would have to go through the entire missionary appointment process, which took almost two years. Upon completing that process, they offered us multiple opportunities to serve in the Caribbean, the Bahamas, and South America. We said, "No, God is calling us to Hungary." They explained that Hungary was a Communist-controlled nation, therefore it was closed to missionaries. They tried to redirect us. We persisted, saying: "No, we are supposed to go to Hungary." A short time later, the Iron Curtain Fell, Hungary wanted missionaries, and we were appointed to move and serve there. Timing is crucial. When it is God's will, and God's timing, the doors open.

*Award-winning columnist Dr. Ed Jordan is pastor of Gwynn's Island Baptist Church, Gwynn, VA. He can be reached at [szent.edward@gmail.com](mailto:szent.edward@gmail.com)*