

Seeking God's Will

The Bible has several suggestions on how to seek confirmation of God's will, the most straight-forward way being to ask God in prayer. But sometimes we are worried that the answer won't be what we want it to be and we need to be careful not to twist God's Word to fit with our own desires. *Judges 6: 36-40 (Gideon and the wool fleece); Joshua 18: 8-10 and Acts 1: 23-26 (drawing lots); 1Samuel 23: 9-12 ("bring the ephod"); Ezekiel 18: 30-32 ("Repent and live!"); Jeremiah 16: 10-15 ("such a great disaster"); James 1:5 ("he should ask God"); 2Timothy 3: 16 ("All Scripture is God-breathed"); Philippians 4: 8 ("whatever is true..")*

Michelle: Does that feel damp to you? *[holding out a fleece jacket]*

Mark: No, not really

Michelle: You're saying "no"?

Mark: Yes, no

Michelle: You're sure?

Mark: Yes, it's a no – why?

Michelle: Damp means yes, dry means no

Mark: Does it?

Michelle: Yes, the first time you do it. But the second time damp means no and dry means yes

Geof: Yes or no to what?

Michelle: I'm trying to determine God's will

Geof: Isn't there another way you could do that?

Michelle: Yes. We can draw lots. *[picks up 2 long sticks and one short, hides in hand]*
Pick a stick, any stick

[Geof and Mark take a stick each]

Michelle: Bother. I've got the short stick. Short stick means no *[looks discouraged]*

Geof: I think it's going to rain...

Michelle: Aha! You could be a prophet!

Geof: I could?

Michelle: Yes! Mr Prophet, does God say yes or no?

Geof: If I'm a prophet my line must be "Repent! Turn from your evil ways and commit yourself to the Lord or disaster will befall you!"

Michelle: Oh, you're no help! *[taking ipod out of pocket and talking to it]* What about you? Do you say yes or no?

Mark: What are you doing now?

Michelle: I'm consulting an ipod. *[blank looks from Geof and Mark]* What? It's Biblical! Look, 1 Samuel 23, from verse 9: When David learned that Saul was plotting against him, he said to Abiathar the priest, "Bring the ipod", and then David asks his question, and the Lord replies through the ipod ...

Mark: What does your ipod say?

Michelle: It's giving me a choice of "Best Worship Songs Ever" and "Kylie Minogue Greatest Hits". It's not really the answer I'm looking for...

Geof: Have you read the Bible to see if there's an answer to your dilemma in there?

Michelle: Where do you think I got all these ideas from?

Geof: No, I mean a direct answer to your question

Michelle: I know it's a big book, but it hasn't got a specific answer for every specific question

Mark: Have you thought about whether your "yes" or "no" best fits with God's character? Which is the most true, noble, right, pure, lovely and admirable?

Michelle: Um...

Geof: Have you simply asked God in prayer whether it's a yes or a no?

Michelle: Oh, I don't want to do that. What if he says no?

Geof: So you're trying to seek God's will, but only if God's will is yes?

Michelle: Yes, that's right. It's hard work.

Mark: And what's your question?

Michelle: *[mumbling]* Is it God's will that I marry Brad Pitt...

Mark: What was that?

Michelle: *[loudly and clearly]* Is it God's will that I marry Brad Pitt!