

“Life is not a journey to the grave with intentions of arriving safely in a pretty well-preserved body, but rather to skid in broadside, thoroughly used up, totally worn out and loudly proclaiming ... WOW! What a ride!”

Why is God silent when I need an answer?

I sometimes stress that I don't know what God's will for my life really is.

Acts 7:2–3 (NIV84)

2 To this he replied: “Brothers and fathers, listen to me! The God of glory appeared to our father Abraham while he was still in Mesopotamia, before he lived in Haran.

Genesis 12:1–3 (NIV84)

1 The LORD had said to Abram, “Leave your country, your people and your father’s household and go to the land I will show you.

2 “I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing.

3 I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.”

**He steps out.
He trusts God.
He has no idea where he is supposed to go but he goes anyway.**

He is prepared at all times to let us know what to do.

Do you really think there is only one perfect mate?

How can you be certain to find them and if you do find them are they really the one for you or do you only

think they are?

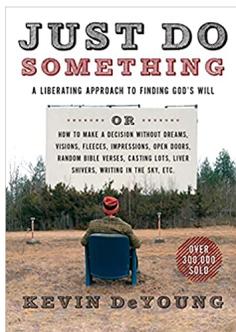
But then what happens if the one you are supposed to be with appears but you don't pay attention?

Then let's say God put two people on earth and they are lucky enough to find one another but one of them gets hit by lightning –

is that it or by chance you meet someone new and marry all over again – is that the lady you are supposed to be with or was it the first?

If so when the two of them were walking side by side were they both the one for you and you just happened to see the first one first or was the second one supposed to be first?

Is everything just chance or are some things meant to be?



God's will of decree.

God is sovereign – what He decrees will always come to pass.

We are part of something in this world way bigger than us.

Proverbs 21:1 (NIV84)

1 The king's heart is in the hand of the LORD; he directs it like a watercourse wherever he pleases.

We can make decisions knowing that God can stop us anytime He wants.

Step out. Go do it. You have that freedom.

Sometimes we are so paralyzed that we will make the wrong decision so we make NO decision at all.

God's desired will.

To love Him and love others.

Matthew 22:37-39 (NKJV)

37 Jesus said to him, " 'You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.'

38 This is the first and great commandment.

39 And the second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'

We don't know if Abraham going to Egypt was a part of God's "decreed will" but we do know how Abraham acted was clearly NOT God's desired "will"

God's "DESIRED" will is not so much a place or a person - God's "DESIRED" will is how we act in that place or with that person.

God's desired will.

To seek His Kingdom first.

Matthew 6:33 (NKJV)

33 But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.

You have a lot of freedom beyond that.

God can use you anywhere.

Scripture gives us all the general, moral guidance that we need in order to make wise decisions that are pleasing to God.

Scripture does not tell us who to marry and thus may not give us all the guidance that we *want*. But it does give us all the guidance that we *need* concerning marriage. For example, Scripture says that marriage is good (but so is singleness), that marriage is between one man and one woman, that marriage is a life-long covenant bond, and that we should not marry a non-believer.

The same is true for other major decisions. Scripture does not tell us which career to choose but Scripture does say that we should work hard, that we should provide for ourselves and for others, and that we should

use the gifts and talents that God has given to us. Any decision made within these boundaries is pleasing to God.

But this implies one other point...

Scripture has left us with a great deal of freedom. Where Scripture has not spoken clearly and precisely - we have freedom. In Genesis 2 God told Adam that he could eat from any fruit of any tree in the garden except one. This is a picture of amazing freedom. Adam had hundreds of good decisions he could have made and all of them were within the will of God for Adam. The same is true for us today. Because God has not clearly revealed who we should marry or what career we should choose we have the freedom to choose - so long as our choice concords with the things that God has made clear.

But this means that in order to embrace our freedom we've got to know God's word very well. Paradoxically, the better we know God's word and the more we submit ourselves to the word of God, the more we understand our freedom. If you don't know God's word or don't submit to it then you'll end up stumbling around in a fog of confusion in decision making.

1 Thessalonians 4:3-7 (ESV)

3 For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you abstain from sexual immorality;

4 that each one of you know how to control his own body in holiness and honor,

5 not in the passion of lust like the Gentiles who do not know God;

7 For God has not called us for impurity, but in holiness.

**DO
WHAT
YOU
WANT.**

**I gave you My
Word - HERE
ARE THE
PRINCIPLES -
NOW GO STEP
OUT IN FAITH
AND DO IT.**

Mark 6:30–32 (NKJV)

**31 And He said to them, "Come aside by yourselves to a deserted place and rest a while." For there were many coming and going, and they did not even have time to eat.
32 So they departed to a deserted place in the boat by themselves.**

Matthew 14:13 (NKJV)

13 When Jesus heard it, He departed from there by boat to a deserted place by Himself...

Acts 16:7 (NKJV)

7 After they had come to Mysia, they tried to go into Bithynia, but the Spirit did not permit them.

**I don't think He
is a
micromanager.**

**They kept God in
the center. They
prayed and kept
walking until
God moved
them in a
different
direction.**

**God gives
us a brain
and expects
us to use it.**

**God gives
us His Word
and expects
us to read
it.**

**The more you
know God's
Word you will
instinctively
know what the
right path is.**

"Lord, I have this decision to make, and I have done my best to listen to You and figure it out in every possible way, and I've taken good counsel and I've prayed about it and now, God, this is what I think I am going to do. But God – I know I am a sheep and sheep are idiots so I have no confidence in my ability to make this decision. But I do have confidence in Your competence and compassion as my Good Shepherd to guide me. So, if this is not the right decision, I'm asking You to take Your rod and Your staff and stop me going that way and to get me where I need to go."