

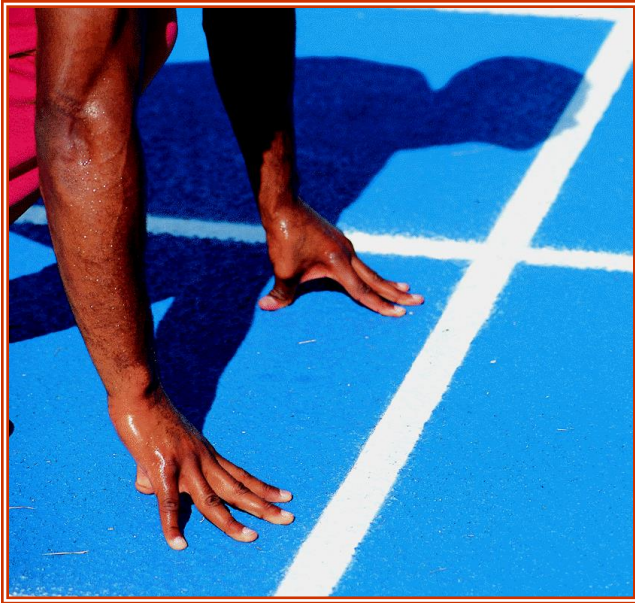
Walking in WISDOM

Making Wise Decisions



Confused?





Beginning Assumptions

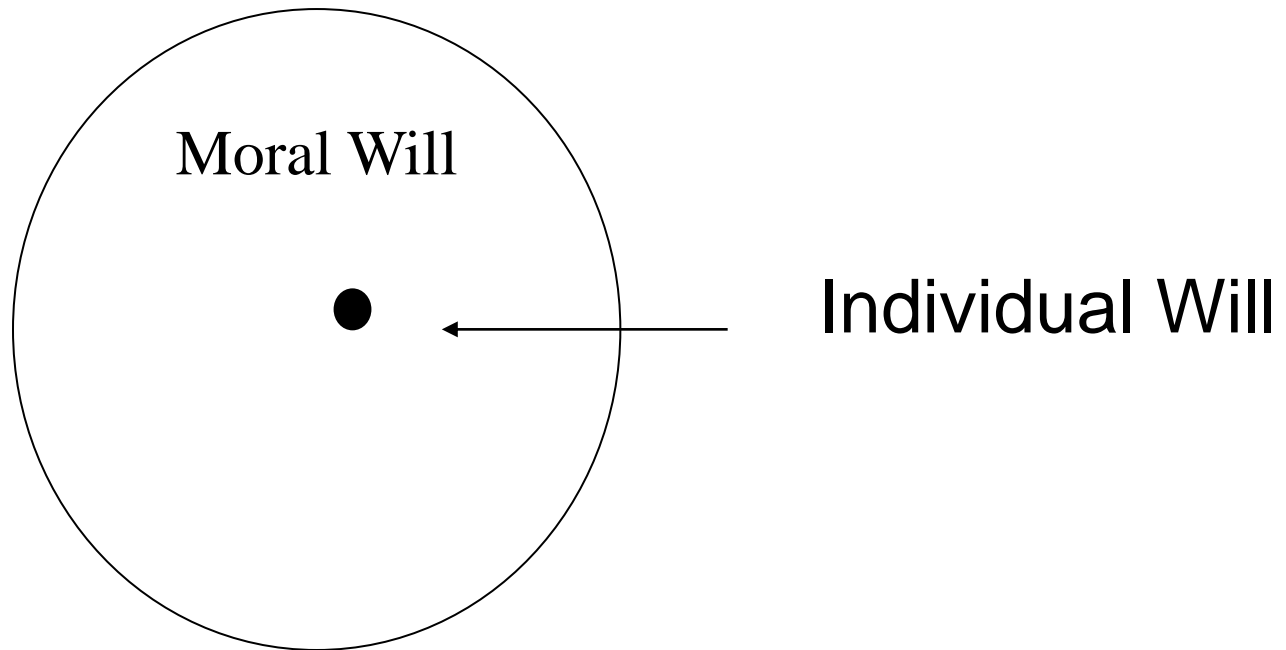
How do I find the will of God?

Or

How do I make good decisions?

3 Views of “God’s Will”

Sovereign Will



Sovereign Will	Individual Will	Moral Will
Detailed, specific	Detailed, specific	General, principles
Unknown to us	We must find & do	We must find & do
Will happen	May not happen	May not happen
Revealed afterwards	Revealed in hearts	Revealed in Bible
All that happens	Unique for each believer	Principles for all

Confusing Language



Three Meanings of "God's Will"

Sovereign	Moral	Individual
"God's secret plan that determines everything that happens in the universe."	"God's revealed commands in the Bible that teach how men ought to believe and live."	"God's ideal, detailed life-plan uniquely designed for each person."
Daniel 4:35 Proverbs 21:1 Revelation 4:11 Ephesians 1:11 Proverbs 16:33 Romans 9:19 Acts 2:23 Acts 4:27-28 Romans 11:33-36	Romans 2:18 1 Thessalonians 5:18 1 Thessalonians 4:3 2 Corinthians 6:14 plus all other commands in Scripture	 Colossians 1:9 Colossians 4:12 Romans 12:2 Ephesians 3:17 Ephesians 6:6 Proverbs 3:5-6 Psalm 32:8 Proverbs 16:9 Genesis 24

Garry Friesen,
Decision Making and the Will of God, p. 35

Problems with the individual-will approach



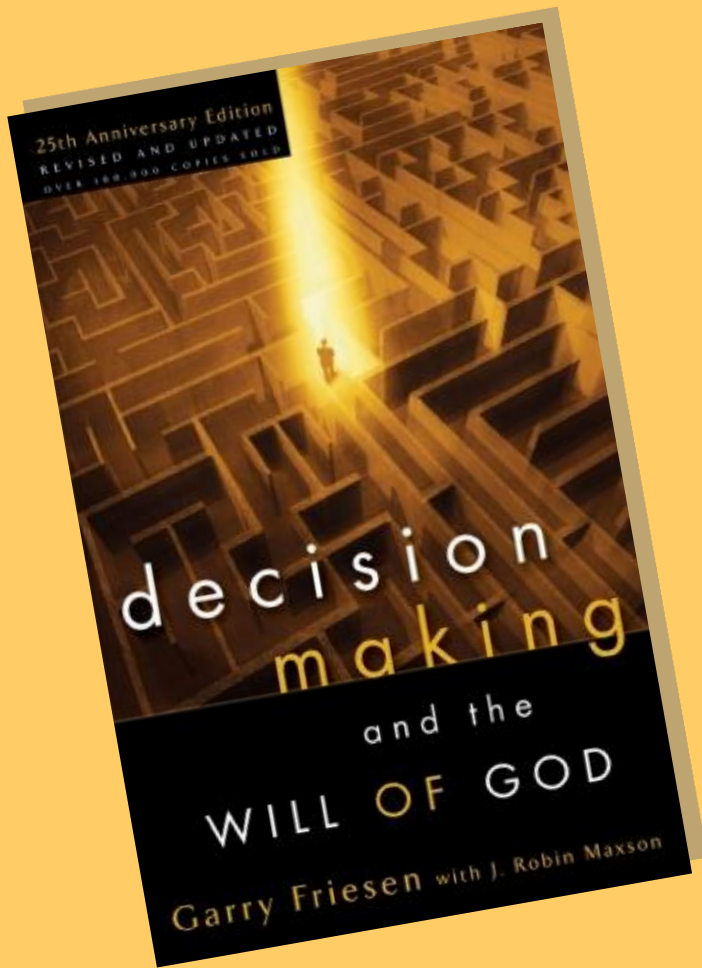
- It makes some of us arrogant.
- It makes some of us passive.
- It makes some of us fearful.
- It makes some of us foolish.
- It makes some of us rebellious.



I married the
wrong person!!!

Deuteronomy 29.29

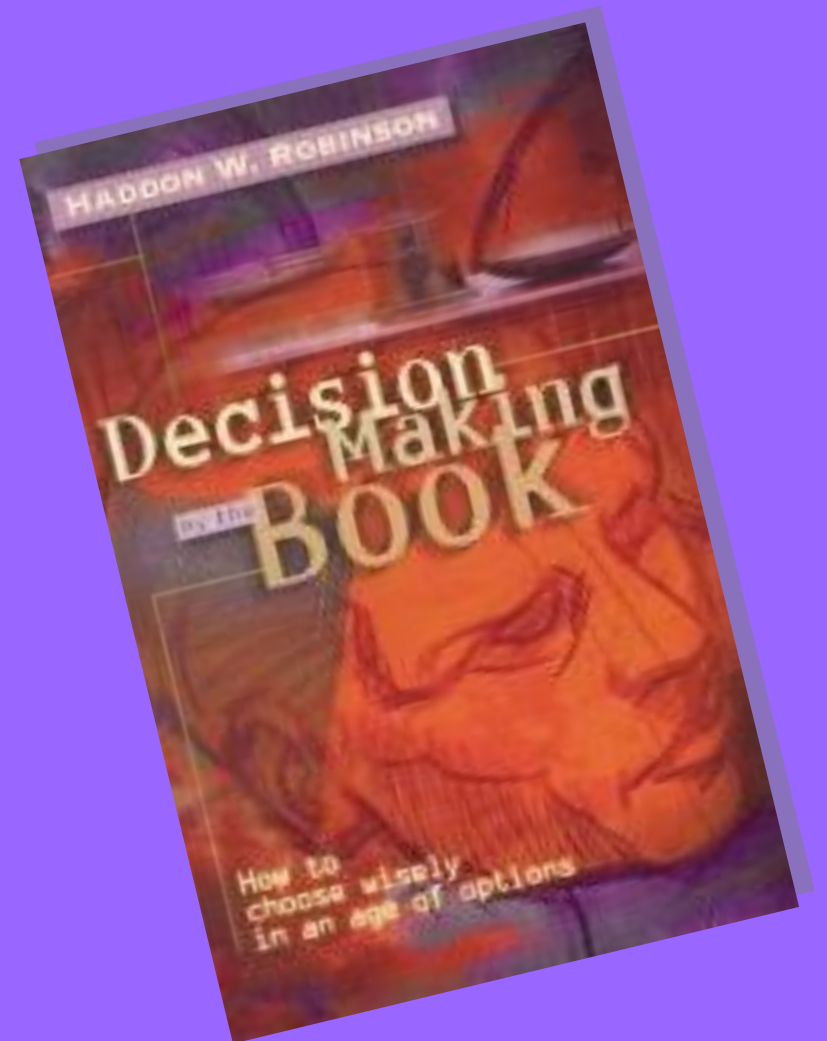
Just Do Something by Kevin DeYoung



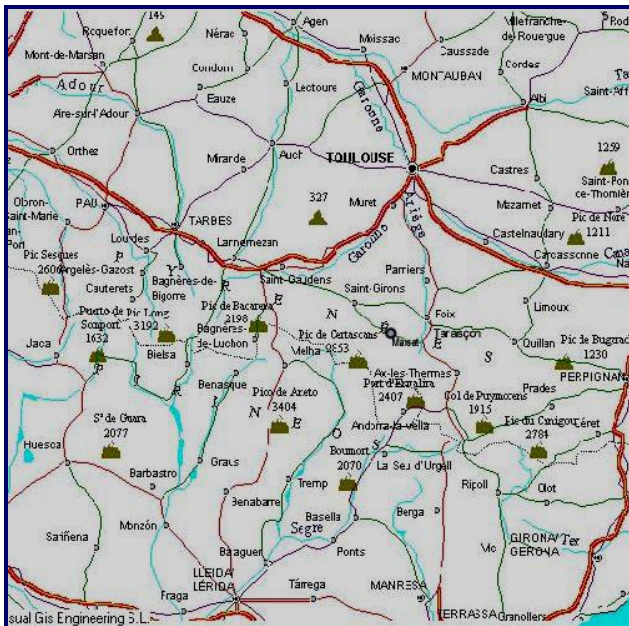
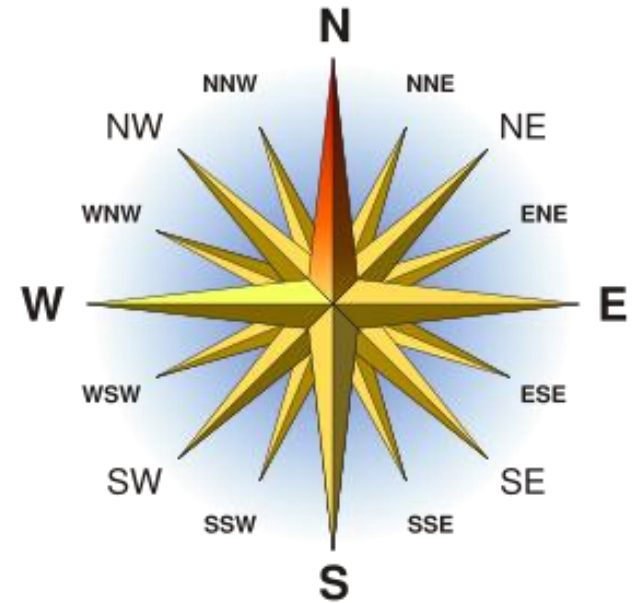
It is our contention . . . that the idea of an individual will for every detail of a person's life is not found in Scripture. If we are right, the most startling ramification is that many believers are investing a great deal of time and energy searching for something that is nonexistent. (pages 82-83)

*We must face the fact:
“How do you know the
will of God in making
life’s decisions?” is not
a biblical question. The
Bible never tells us
to ask it.*

(p. 61)



The Bible gives us a **COMPASS**



Not a detailed
ROADMAP

SOVEREIGN WILL



MORAL WILL

Area of freedom

A. Way of Wisdom

1. In areas where Bible speaks directly, the revealed commands and principles of God (Moral Will) are to be obeyed.
2. Areas where Bible gives no specific command (non-moral decisions), believer is free and responsible to choose own actions. Any decision within moral will of God is acceptable.
3. In non-moral decisions, goal of the Christian is to make wise decisions based on Scripture and good counsel.
4. In all decisions, believer must humbly submit to God's sovereign will as it touches each decision.
5. The New Testament believer is Spirit-filled. This is both a blessing and a responsibility;

God's Moral Will

1. Expresses in behavioral terms, the character/nature of God.
2. Touches every aspect and moment of life: goals, attitudes, means.
3. It is fully revealed in Bible.
4. Able to equip believers for every good work.

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”

(Jeremiah 29:11)

***CONTEXT: This is what the Lord says:
“When seventy years are completed for
Babylon, I will come to you and fulfill
my gracious promise to bring you back
to this place.***

***“For I know the plans I have for you,”
declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you
and not to harm you, plans to give you
hope and a future.”***

(Jeremiah 29:11)

	Moral Guidance	Sovereign Guidance	Special Guidance
Sphere	Moral Conduct	In all things	In Unique cases
Nature	God directly guides believers	God secretly guides believers	God supernaturally guides people
Means	Scripture	Sovereign control of whole world	Angels, dreams, visions, miracles
Governing Principle	According to Scripture	According to Scripture	According to Scripture

Example of Apostle Paul

1. Purposes:

Paul adopted spiritual goals based on divine revelation

Acts 9:15,16 Lord said to him, “Go, for he is a chosen instrument of mine to carry my name before the Gentiles and kings and the children of Israel. For I will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name.”

2. Priorities:

He arranged his goals wisely by their importance

2 Corinthians 10:16 Our hope is that, as your faith continues to grow, our area of activity among you will greatly expand, so that we can preach the gospel in the regions beyond you. For we do not want to boast about work already done in another man's territory.

3. Plans:

He devised plans as strategy to accomplish his goals

Romans 1:13 I do not want you to be unaware, brothers, that I planned many times to come to you (but have been prevented from doing so until now) in order that I might have a harvest among you, just as I have had among the other Gentiles.

4. Prayer:

Submitting all plans into sovereign hands of Heavenly Father

Romans 1:9-10 God, whom I serve with my whole heart in preaching the gospel of his Son, is my witness how constantly I remember you in my prayers at all times; and I pray that now at last by God's will the way may be opened for me to come to you.

5. Perseverance:

When God hindered him from accomplishing plans, he received delays as God's sovereign will. Thus, he was not discouraged, he merely adjusted his timetable

Acts 17:10-17 As soon as it was night, the brothers sent Paul and Silas away to Berea. On arriving there, they went to the Jewish synagogue. The brothers immediately sent Paul to the coast, but Silas and Timothy stayed at Berea. The men who escorted Paul brought him to Athens and then left with instructions for Silas and Timothy to join him as soon as possible. While Paul was waiting for them in Athens, he was greatly distressed to see that the city was full of idols. So he reasoned in the synagogue with the Jews and the God-fearing Greeks, as well as in the marketplace day by day with those who happened to be there.

6. Presentation:

Paul explained his actions in the light of God's moral will

1 Thessalonians 3:1,2 So when we could stand it no longer, we thought it best to be left by ourselves in Athens. We sent Timothy, who is our brother and God's fellow worker in spreading the gospel of Christ, to strengthen and encourage you in your faith

Marriage: A case study



- God has clearly expressed his moral will for marriage:
 - “In the Lord” (1 Cor. 7:39)
 - Faithful to a lifelong commitment (Mt. 19:1-9)
 - Serve your mate (Eph. 5:22-33)
- God allows a great deal of freedom in the selection of a mate (1 Cor. 7:39)

Plan of Action

- Take up your cross.
- Seek the will of God in your life.
- Examine the Scriptures.
- Take stock of your talents.
- Pray for wisdom.
- Seek counsel from others.
- Allow for God's sovereign will.
- Choose freely and live boldly.

