

Decision Making and the Will of God

Lesson 2: Is It Biblical? When God Has Already Spoken -- Deuteronomy

29:29 (with 2 Timothy 3:16-17)

Imagine a young man who comes to his preacher in real distress. He has been praying for weeks about whether to leave his wife for a coworker he has fallen for. He is waiting, he says, for God to show him what to do. He has been reading his Bible, watching for a sign, listening for peace in his heart, and so far heaven has been quiet. Can you help me, he asks, to discern God's will? You can feel the tragedy in the scene, and also the strange thing at the heart of it. This man is searching the skies for a secret message about a question God answered plainly and publicly thousands of years ago. He does not have a guidance problem. He has an obedience problem. God has already spoken.

We smile at the obvious case, but the same mistake hides in a hundred quieter forms. We agonize and wait and look for signs about whether to forgive someone, when Scripture has commanded us to forgive. We pray for a feeling about whether to be generous, when the Lord has already told us to give. We ask God to reveal whether we should gossip, cut a corner at work, or nurse a grudge, as though these were open questions. A surprising amount of what we call seeking God's will is really just hesitating to do what He has clearly told us to do.

This is why the very first question in wise decision making is also the simplest: Is it biblical? Before we look at our motives, weigh the impact, examine our desires, or count the cost, we ask whether God has already spoken to this matter in His Word. Moses put it in words that have steadied God's people ever since: "The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but the things that are revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law." There are secret things, yes, things God keeps to Himself. But there are revealed things, and those belong to us. They are not riddles to be cracked. They are a gift to be obeyed.

Here is the freeing truth this lesson presses on the heart. God has not left His children fumbling in the dark, hoping to catch a faint signal. He has spoken, fully and finally, in the Scriptures, and in them He has given us everything we need for life and godliness. The complete New Testament is our authority. So a great many decisions are already settled before we ever start to deliberate. The wise believer does not begin by asking what feels right or what a sign might mean. He begins with an open Bible and a simple, humble question: Lord, what have You already said?

Group Discussion: Think about the things we sometimes pray over and agonize about as though they were open questions, when Scripture has already addressed them plainly. Why do you think it is often easier to wait for a sign than to simply obey what God has clearly said? As a group, talk about what it would mean to treat the Bible as the first place we go in a decision rather than the last.

Personal Reflection: Be honest about a decision in your own life, past or present, where you found yourself looking for special guidance about something Scripture had already settled. What were you really doing in that season? What would it look like this week to stop waiting for a sign and simply do the next clear thing God has revealed?

Read Deuteronomy 29:29 and 2 Timothy 3:16–17

Study Questions

1. Moses says, “The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but the things that are revealed belong to us and to our children forever” (Deut. 29:29). What is the difference between the secret things and the revealed things, and why is it so important to keep them straight when we are trying to make a decision?
2. Can you think of a time when you treated something God had clearly commanded as if it were still an open question, waiting for a sign before you obeyed? Be honest about what was really going on in your heart during that delay.
3. The verse ends with a purpose: the revealed things belong to us “that we may do all the words of this law.” Why does God reveal His will to us, according to this verse? How does that purpose reshape the way we should approach the Bible when we are facing a choice?
4. Is there a plain command of Scripture that you have quietly downgraded into a personal preference or an open question, perhaps about honesty, forgiveness, purity, generosity, or how you treat someone? What would obedience actually look like there this week?
5. Paul writes that “all Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness” (2 Tim. 3:16). What does it mean that Scripture is “breathed out by God,” and how do those four uses, teaching, reproof, correction, and training, equip us to make God-honoring decisions?
6. When you face a real decision, where does the Bible actually fall in your process, first, last, or somewhere it never quite makes it? What would change if Scripture became the very first place you looked?
7. Paul says the goal of God-breathed Scripture is “that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work” (2 Tim. 3:17). What does it tell us that Scripture claims to equip us for every good work? How does this speak to the worry that the Bible does not say enough to guide our real, specific choices?
8. How well do you actually know what God has revealed? Many believers wait for special guidance partly because they are unfamiliar with the guidance already given. What is one practical step you could take to know the Scriptures well enough to obey them?
9. Some teach that God still guides His people today through new revelations, private messages, inner voices, or continuing inspiration beyond the Bible. In light of Deuteronomy 29:29 and 2 Timothy 3:16–17, how should a Christian respond to that idea? If the complete New Testament is now our authority, how does God guide His people today?
10. Look back across Deuteronomy 29:29 and 2 Timothy 3:16–17. God has spoken, fully and finally, and what He has revealed belongs to us. Name one specific way you sense Jesus

forming you through these verses. What is the single truth here that you most need to carry into your next decision?

Digging Deeper

Reflect on these passages: Psalm 19:7–11, the law of the Lord as perfect, sure, and more to be desired than gold; Psalm 119:105, God's word as a lamp to our feet and a light to our path; 2 Peter 1:3, God's divine power has granted us all things that pertain to life and godliness; Hebrews 1:1–2, God has spoken to us in these last days by His Son; Jude 3, the faith once for all delivered to the saints

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