

## **We Should Not Look to Circumstances to Find What God Has Revealed**

God criticized Job for only one thing — looking to his circumstances to find out what God was doing (Job 38:2; 42:3).

David refused to decide God's will for his life through circumstances (1 Samuel 24:4-17; 26:8-10; 2 Samuel 10-15). When David followed the circumstance and the advice of his friends, he repented of it. We read:

- 1 Samuel 24:4 *The men of David said to him, "Behold, this is the day of which the LORD said to you, 'Behold; I am about to give your enemy into your hand, and you shall do to him as it seems good to you.'" Then David arose and cut off the edge of Saul's robe secretly.*
- 1 Samuel 24:5 *It came about afterward that David's conscience bothered him because he had cut off the edge of Saul's robe.*
- 1 Samuel 24:6 *So he said to his men, "Far be it from me because of the LORD that I should do this thing to my lord, the LORD'S anointed, to stretch out my hand against him, since he is the LORD'S anointed."*

The Apostle Paul followed direct verbal revelation from God (Acts 9:1-6; 16:16; 18:9-10), not the circumstances of his life (Acts 21:4, 10-14). If Paul had determined God's will through circumstances, he certainly would not have gone on missionary journeys, preached in synagogues, and revisited cities where his life was threatened.

How should Peter and John discern the will of God through circumstances when they were arrested and imprisoned for preaching the Gospel (Acts 4:1-20)? Should they have concluded that God was telling them not to preach the Gospel? Should they conclude that God was testing them to see if they would continue to preach the Gospel? Should they conclude that God is telling them not to preach in Jerusalem? Should they conclude that God is telling them to continue to preach the Gospel in Jerusalem as an example? Which is it? By circumstances there is no way to know. It was revelation from God, not circumstances, that guided the apostles.

## **We Should Look to the Bible to Determine God's Revealed Directive Will**

Our task is handling accurately the word of truth, not pursuing an individual circumstantial will of God (2 Timothy 2:15, also see Hebrews 4:12 and 2 Timothy 3:16-17). Traditional "God's will" passages refer to following God's biblically revealed directive will, not looking for an individual circumstantial will (Psalm 32:8-9; 119:101-104; Proverbs 3:1, 5-6; Colossians 1:9).

- Psalm 32:8 *I will instruct you and teach you in the way which you should go; I will counsel you with My eye upon you.*
- Psalm 32:9 *Do not be as the horse or as the mule which have no understanding, Whose trappings include bit and bridle to hold them in check, Otherwise they will not come near to you.*
- Psalm 119:101 *I have restrained my feet from every evil way, That I may keep Your word.*
- Psalm 119:102 *I have not turned aside from Your ordinances, For You Yourself have taught me.*
- Psalm 119:103 *How sweet are Your words to my taste! Yes, sweeter than honey to my mouth!*
- Psalm 119:104 *From Your precepts I get understanding; Therefore I hate every false way.*
- Proverbs 3:1 *My son, do not forget my teaching, But let your heart keep my commandments;*
- Proverbs 3:5 *Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And do not lean on your own understanding.*
- Proverbs 3:6 *In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He will make your paths straight.*
- Proverbs 3:7 *Do not be wise in your own eyes; Fear the LORD and turn away from evil.*

Notice there is nothing here about using our circumstances as a leading from God for decision-making.

*For more information see study paper [The Will of God and the Call of God](#) on Relational Concepts web page: <https://relationalconcepts.org/>*