

Fourth. A most important step if you are going to learn to know the will of God for your life and have God's guidance for your life: Fill your mind and soul with God's word. God gave us the Bible as a lamp to our feet and a light to our path. The Bible is the means through which God guides us. That does not mean we can find a verse here and quote it and that tells us what to do now. It does not mean that.

It means that in this Book God has put the principles that should determine our lives. That God has put in it material of many types to draw us closer to Himself. God promised that He would guide us, that He would lead us. He said we should not be like the horse or mule that have to be held in with bit and bridle, but we should be able to sense His will for us. The way we learn to do that is by getting our minds filled with the teachings of His Holy Word. It is not the teaching of one part; not the teachings of one book, but the teachings of all of the Word of God. You are here to learn to interpret the Bible to present God's truth and give God's messages. But even more importantly you should be learning God's truth so that God can use it in your own heart and life. If your mind is filled with the teaching of God's Word, you ~~are~~ have made a big step in knowing God's will in every situation in which you will find yourself.

The more we bring our lives into conformity with God's will as we find it expressed in His Word, the more likely it will be that the impulses and ideas that come into our minds are from God rather than from Satan because Satan can put thoughts into your mind just as well as God can and Satan is ever on the outlook to do so. Fill your mind and soul with God's Word. Nothing is more important in learning to be guided by God in your decisions.

Fifth. Pray definitely that God will lead you. This is rather obvious. Begin your consideration of any problem with definitely looking to God to give you guidance. This does not mean looking to God to give you a voice ~~form~~ from heaven saying, Do this, or do that. I want you in Brazil, and I want you in Afghanistan. He does not promise that. But He does say he will definitely lead us step by step, and as we ~~we~~ He wants us definitely to pray to Him about it. God does not desire automatons. He desires people who are able to know His will because they love Him so much and are able to follow Him as He leads without in most cases a definite command.

Why did God make human beings? Did he want automatons so that if he pushed a button they would go this way or that way? It's mighty easy when you have a difficult decision to make to say, Oh, I wish there were some buttons on my back so I will press this one and I'll know this is where He wants me to go, and I'll press that one and know that is where He wants me to go and do. But that is not what God ~~xxx~~ wants. God could make all the automatons he might desire but God wants creatures with a capacity to think things through with the ability to think, to reason, to consider, but creatures who would desire to bring their will into conformity with His will. He does not want automatons. He wants us to pray that He will lead or- thinking, that He will help us to step forward to make our lives count for him.

Sixth. List all the known facts. This is important. We are all too ready to jump from little elementary points, a little feeling, a little desire this way or that way to a conclusion. If we are to really know God's will we are faced with an important decision, it is a mighty good idea to take a piece of paper and to list all the facts that might be relevant in relation to two questions: (1) The first question is about the particular situation or type of work. List all the facts that you know about it. As you list them think how much you know about this aspect. Is there something you need to inquire about or to look up in a book or