Author Wayne Grudem Instructs Christians on What the Bible Says about How to Know God's Will

WHEATON, Ill.—At some point, every Christian wonders, What is God’s will for me in this situation? Whether the decision is big—like a potential job change or who to marry—or small, it can be difficult to know how to make the best decision. And there are many circumstances for which Scripture doesn’t provide a black-and-white answer. Especially in those cases, how should Christians go about making a decision?

In his new book, *What the Bible Says about How to Know God’s Will* (Crossway, April 2020), Dr. Wayne Grudem provides helpful guidelines for Christians who desire to know God’s will for them in specific situations. He focuses primarily on “four dimensions of every action and nine sources of information that should be considered in any moral decision.”

“Human actions have at least four dimensions that need to be considered when decisions need to be made,” Grudem writes. These dimensions include:

- The action itself
- The person’s attitudes about the action
- The person’s motives for doing the action (the reason why the person does something)
- The results of the action

“An action that is pleasing to God will follow the teachings of Scripture in all four of these areas,” affirms Grudem.

Grudem then provides nine additional pieces of information for those who have more time to ponder their decision. These nine things include information from the Bible, advice from others, one’s conscience, and guidance from the Holy Spirit.

While this might seem like a large number of steps to think through in order to make a decision, Grudem ends his book by reminding the reader to not get bogged down by the process: “I have gone into such great detail because it is helpful for Christians to have a more extensive understanding of the individual factors that form our decision-making process as we seek to know God’s will for our individual situations. However, I do not think that God wants this decision-making process to seem impossible for Christians to follow regularly or so complicated that they are discouraged by it. God wants us to be able to have wisdom to make right decisions.”

Grudem ends the book by reminding readers of the importance of biblical wisdom in decision making and discusses the source of wisdom and the personal character traits that accompany wisdom.
What the Bible Says about How to Know God’s Will is published in conjunction with What the Bible Says about Abortion, Euthanasia, and End-of-Life Medical Decisions (April 2020), and both are adapted from Grudem’s book Christian Ethics: An Introduction to Biblical Moral Reasoning.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Wayne Grudem (PhD, University of Cambridge; DD, Westminster Theological Seminary) is Distinguished Research Professor of Theology and Biblical Studies at Phoenix Seminary, having previously taught for twenty years at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School. He is a former president of the Evangelical Theological Society, a member of the Translation Oversight Committee for the English Standard Version of the Bible, the general editor of the ESV Study Bible, and has published over twenty-five books.

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