

K W D P K B V S C I A M Z R R X K
 L I L O F C E F C H F B Y V O U L
 I N I H P Q U I H D K A N H D G X
 N N X W D R H O A E H A R E G Z R
 O R S X L U U T N W P S S T D P G
 N N I O J X C I D P G Q W K W W A
 F R N R X U F B F A O H A H P E K
 P G I X S E K U U O E U H G U A I
 K C R U U V Q C L N E R N R R D U
 U T H M T P F N G B C T B D U R O
 T S Y U N H R M N G A S J D I C I
 U U T J P D F M C N C T E O N B G
 Z W U Q V A S M S A D X H G M A T
 L U I M I B H A D P B D F P B E H
 Q M N V Y T P R V U A D W I L N R
 P B E K A H R D R I I N S X P I E
 H S S G W V G B N H T A L E N T V

- | | | |
|-----------------------|--------|---------|
| Words to Find: | omer | pound |
| handbreadth | ephah | bekah |
| span | hin | gerah |
| cubit | bath | handful |
| furlong | talent | |
| cab | dram | |

Answers can be found at: <http://www.openthoumineeyes.com/Puzzle/Measure.htm>

A Father's Prayer

Author Unknown

Dear God, my little boy of three
 Has said his nightly prayer to Thee,
 Before his eyes were closed
 in sleep,
 He asked that Thou his soul
 would keep,
 And I, still kneeling at his bed,
 My hand upon his tousled head,
 Do ask, with deep humility,
 That Thou, dear Lord,

remember me.
 Make me kind, Lord, a worthy Dad,
 That I may lead this little lad
 In pathways ever fair and bright,
 That I may keep his steps aright,
 O God, his trust must never be
 Destroyed or even marred by me.
 So, for the simple things he prayed
 With childish voice so unafraid,
 I, trembling, ask the same
 from Thee.
 Dear Lord, kind Lord,
 remember me.

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Knowing God's Will

Bill Brinkworth

Gideon had a problem in his land that had to be dealt with. His country was overrun with Midianites, Amalekites, and the children of the east. He was willing to battle the enemies that took from his land and his people, but he wanted to know for sure that God was leading him.

Desiring to make a decision, only if God was in it, was a wise goal. A move without God could not have His blessing and surely could lead to defeat, or trouble. Godly people of all ages have sought God's will in many of the decisions they have had to make. Man constantly makes the wrong choices and certainly pays for it. God is perfect; anything He is directing will be successful.

How can a person know, if he is doing what God wants them to do or not? Is it possible to have his direction? Gideon is like many of us. He wanted a clear sign from God. After he got the sign, he would know God was directing him, and he would lead

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Whose Fault?

Author Unknown

A young married couple were contacted and invited to the services of the church. This is their record of the visits to them:

First visit: "We are going to start as soon as the baby gets old enough to come."



Second visit: "Yes, we promised, but the baby's in that stage where she cries a lot. I don't get anything out of the services, and I know she disturbs other people. When she gets older ..."

Third visit: "I know you think we are awful, but we're not coming to church because Julie does not want to go. Why do you think she is different from the other children her age?"

Eleven years later: "I'm so glad you called. I want you or

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Knowing God's Will

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an army against the enemies. He asked God to do something supernatural that would prove it was God answering his prayer. The Israelite leader put out a fleece of wool on the ground, and asked for a sign. If God wanted him to lead the battle, Gideon asked that God make the fleece wet from the dew and the ground dry. The next morning an unnatural thing occurred, the fleece was soaked, but the nearby ground was dry. Still doubting that it may have just been a coincidence, as can happen when people request "signs" from God, Gideon requested more proof. He asked God once more to prove His intervention by doing the impossible. This time he requested that the fleece be dry and the ground was wet. The next morning the miracle was performed. He knew God's direction, and he did successfully battle the enemy.

"Well, Gideon sought proof of direction, can I too?" many ask. I have asked for similar proofs in my past and have gotten direction by God's answer. He does hear the prayers and requests of His own. However, that was when I

"There is but one question, and that is the will of God. That settles all other questions." — W. Gladstone

was a younger Christian. I soon learned that we are to live by faith, and not sight. Proof by sight does not necessarily make one a stronger or more trusting Christian. Gideon did ask twice, because the first sign was not enough. God desires us to trust Him unconditionally without doubt, or lack of trust. Trusting Him to supply without proof is the faith He desires.

"Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you." John 15:16

Sometimes He will honor our request for a miracle to discern His leadership. Much of the time, when He knows our faith should be more mature and trusting, He expects us to discern His will other ways. Some of the biblical principles in knowing His will and way include:

- ? Does what we desire line up with the teachings of His Word, the Bible? Is it something He would approve of? I have known folks that have asked God to provide His direction in a matter that was very sinful. They should have known better than to expect God to approve of their iniquity.
- ? Are there open doors of opportunity for the direction you are seeking? If you really want

"O father and mother, the ruin of your children or their salvation, will, under God, very much depend on you." — Spurgeon

God's will you should allow Him to stop you from doing or going where you desire. If your idea is not possible, accept that as His will. If you misread His direction, He can always create the opportunity again.

- ? Has He already closed the door, and perhaps you are prying open the door; so you can have your way rather than His?
- ? Do you believe it is God leading you to do the idea or change what is on your heart?
- ? Do people, more spiritual and/or experienced than you, discern it could be God's will for your life.

"Where no counsel is, the people fall; but in the multitude of counselors there is safety."

Proverbs 11:14

- ? Have you asked God before about direction in the matter, and does it seem to be answered prayer?
- ? If you do not know what to do, or the matter is not totally clear, continue to do what God has already showed you to do!

God does not desire to play guessing games with those that desire to follow His leading. He will make it clear. Will you let Him say "no" to your request if God so desires, and will you obey His direction if He shows you? If

so, God will lead you in a plain path.

Whose Fault?

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some of the elders to see if you can talk to Julie. She is running around with the wrong crowd. Perhaps if the church would provide some kind of entertainment for the young people, she might get interested."

Two more years later: "Yes, Julie is married. They were awfully young, and he is not a member of the church, but we hope it works out."

Ten years later: "Well, Julie has finally married a man who can give her the better things in life. This is her third husband, but she couldn't get along with the others. I had hopes that this one would become a member of the church, but the preacher preached a sermon on marriage and divorce, and he says he will never attend that church again. There must be something wrong with that church, or else it would have had a better influence on Julie. Maybe they need to change preachers."

Parents, make the correct decisions now in training and rearing your children, and you will less likely reap sorrowful consequences later.

"Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it."

Proverbs 22:6