

Crucial Questions about the Will of God: Four Views of God's Will—Which is Right?

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I. Introduction.

A. Text: Psalm 33:11

B. Some are bored with the will of God, others are confused, still others are frightened and there are a few who are excited.

C. There are four approaches to the Word of God.

II. The mystical approach.

A. There is true mysticism in the Bible.

B. Feelings can be treacherous and Satan can counterfeit them.

C. God leads us by speaking to the mind. (Romans 12:2)

III. The mechanical approach.

A. The people who follow this approach say that we are part of a closed system--a machine.

B. The danger is that we turn out cookie cutter Christians.

C. We often adopt this attitude because we live in a mechanical world.

D. We have misinterpreted Scripture as well. Little children need mechanical things not mature Christians. (Galatians 4)

IV. The dictatorial approach.

A. This is about Jesus running our lives. (Romans 5:17)

B. Instead, we reign through Jesus Christ.

C. God does not work in spite of me--he works in and through me.

V. The whole approach (the Christian approach).

A. The Christian approach emphasizes emotions, mind and will without fragmenting them.

B. God guides our minds through the Word

C. God guides our emotions through a personal relationship.

D. We determine God's will by obeying. (John 7:17)

E. The believer must be involved in the whole Word of God in order determine his counsel.

F. This means spending time every day with God and consistently reading the Word.

Application questions:

1. When have you seen one of the models for determining God's will used to abuse?

2. Why is it important to have great familiarity with God's Word in order to have a good handle on God's Word? Explain.

3. What does it look like to discern God's will emotionally? Explain.
