

DISCERNING THE WILL OF GOD

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Dwelling Place Church Vision:
Manifesting Christ in
Many Ways to Many People

Psalm 40:1-8 NIV

How we tend to make decisions:

- 1) Always discerning but never deciding.
- 2) Always deciding but never discerning.
- 3) Deciding from a place of discernment.

"In God's will is our peace." – Gregory of Nazianzus

Discernment: To distinguish between things. To separate things according to their various natures.

Three Qualities to Keep in Mind When Discerning:

- 1) All options before you are good.
- 2) It is a choice of some significance.
- 3) You are free to choose either option.

Four Important Truths About Discernment:

- 1) God is actively engaged in our world. Therefore, our decisions matter.
- 2) Jesus teaches us to pray, "your will be done" which presupposes that we are discovering God's will for our lives.
- 3) We were made for a "communion of wills."
- 4) We grow in our life with God through discernment.

God is longing for relationship, not transaction. | Psalm 40:1-3

I delight to do your will > I delight to know your will

John 7:17 NIV – Anyone who chooses to do the will of God will find out whether my teaching comes from God or whether I speak on my own.

"God wants me to try harder."

"God blesses me when I'm good and punishes me when I'm bad."

"God is angry with me."

"God is disappointed with me."

"God wants me to suffer for my sins."

"God doesn't want to see me happy."

My fundamental job as a pastor is to show you who God is like. God is like Jesus.

The final chapter of your life has already been written? Its title? Resurrection.

Where in your life have you said in your words or actions, "I don't desire to do God's will"?

Philippians 2:12-13 NIV

- 1) What do you think Jesus is saying to you at this point in your life, in the context of the challenges and opportunities you are facing?
- 2) What indicators give you some measure of confidence that is indeed Jesus speaking to you rather than someone or something else?

We must learn to discern God's voice from the other competing voices around us.

To discern is to make a distinction between the voice of Jesus and those competing voices that invariably speak in our hearts and minds. – Gordon Smith

You are to work at it, being able to do so because God himself is at work.

Jeremiah 17:9 NIV – The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it?

Ezekiel 36:26 NIV – I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh.

"Love God and do whatever you please. For the soul trained in love to God will do nothing to offend the one who is beloved." – St. Augustine

Discernment of Spirits

- 1) Doctrinally – "Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world. (1 John 4:1)
- 2) Demonic Activity
- 3) Discernment in Decision Making

**WELCOME! OUR STRATEGY AT DPC: GATHER (GATHERINGS),
GROUP (CONNECT GROUPS), GROW (GROWTH PHASES),
GIVE (GIVING/GIFTING TEAMS), GO (OUTREACH)**

GATHER

**SUNDAYS IN MAY - 9A + 11A - IN MY OPINION:
BREAKING FREE FROM JUDGMENT**

If the world were to pick its favorite verse, it would probably be Matthew 7:1: "Do not judge." Not many people know their bibles, but it seems that everyone knows this verse. The problem is they don't know it in its context. It is not only one of the most frequently quoted verses today, but it is also one of the most misunderstood. In a world where everyone wants to shout their opinion, how do we break free from judgment? Join us all month long as we discuss how to correctly judge Jesus, ourselves, and others around us.

GROUP

SUNDAY, APRIL 30 - SPRING 2023 CONNECT GROUPS

Connect Group will be meeting all over the community this day! We would love for you to get plugged into a group and experience transformation through genuine relationships with other believers. Visit the Next Steps table for more information!

GROW

**THURSDAY, MAY 4 - 7P - 9P - NIGHT FOUR OF OUR SPRING
SESSION OF GROWTH PHASES**

Join us for the fourth night of our spring session of Growth Phases. We can't wait to see all the Lord will do in and through your life!

SUNDAY, APRIL 30 - 5P - 8P - WELCOME TO DP PARTY

Interested in becoming a member of Dwelling Place Church? Sign up at the Next Steps table to join us for our Welcome to DP Party where you can hear more about our church. We will have dinner, fellowship and answer any questions you may have! Childcare is provided.

GIVE

DID YOU KNOW YOU CAN GIVE VIA TEXT?

Just text any dollar amount to 84321 to give. You will follow a quick, self-guided setup process to tie your mobile phone to our church, your donor account, and a payment source. After that, donating is as easy as sending a text!

GO

**BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR MORE OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE OUR
COMMUNITY COMING UP IN THE NEXT FEW WEEKS!**



If you have questions, please stop by the Next Steps table in the foyer, or look for a team member. If we can help you in any way, please email us at dwellingplacemovement@gmail.com