

God Just Tell Me

Discerning God's Will

Over the years, one of the most common questions I've been asked as a pastor sounds like this:

How do I discern God's will for my life?

Should I take this job offer or stay where I am?

Should I attend college, learn a trade, or go get a job and figure it out from there?

Do we buy this house or keep looking or stay in the home we're in?

Or.... I believe there's a call on my life to do more, but I don't know what's next.

I wish God would just tell me!

How many of you have wrestled with questions like those?

God knows I have and I know you have.

We all have.

In my early days as a Christian, I used to be so afraid of missing God's will.

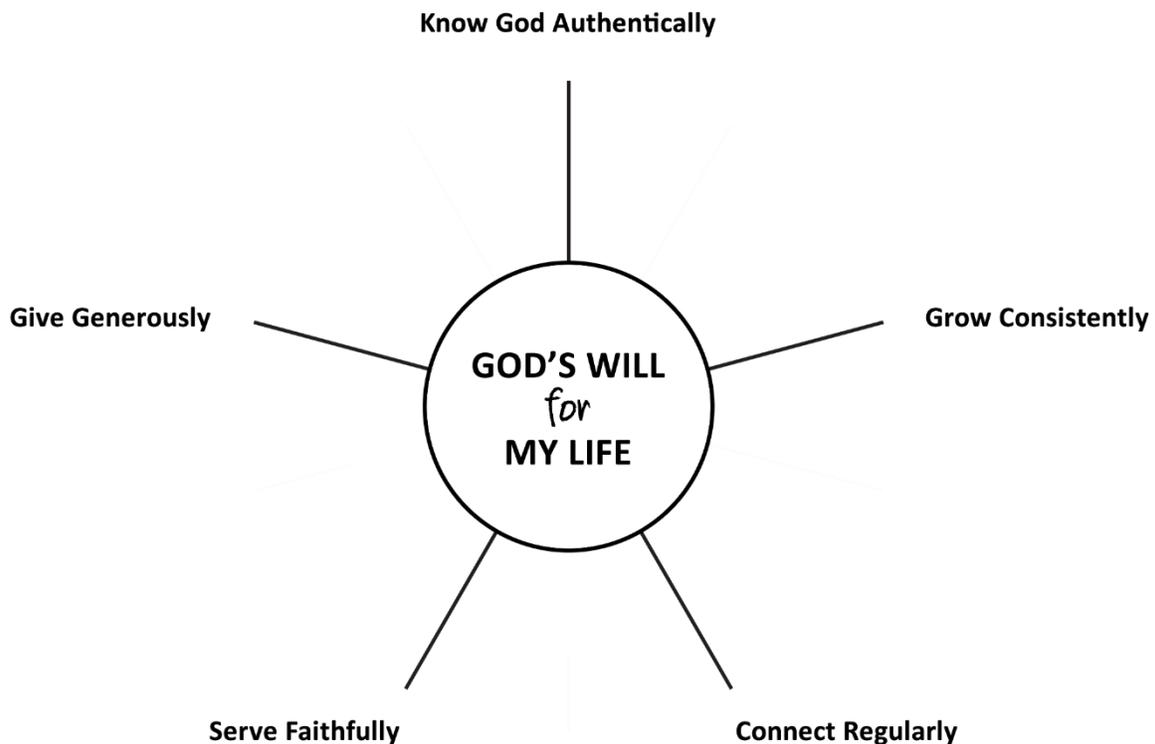
I sincerely believed that if I made one miss-step, that I would forfeit God's will for my life. And for that reason, I lived in constant fear. And it's for that reason, today we're kicking off a new series called *God Just Tell Me*. (Series Slide)

My goal over the next three weeks is to use God's word to put your heart at ease and to simplify *your search* for God's will.

I recently read a story about a pastor and someone from his church that had a conversation about God's will. The conversation began with a text that said, "Hey Pastor, I'm struggling to understand God's will for my life. Would you mind meeting with me and helping me figure it out?"

When the two of them met, the pastor drew a circle with five lines extending from the circle. He said, "The circle is like a hub, and the five lines are spokes. Then he labeled each spoke, he explained that God's will:

Show each image when prompted.



1. Know God Authentically

John 17:3

And this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.

It's God's will that you have a personal authentic relationship with Jesus.

2. Grow Consistently

2 Thessalonians 1:13

We ought always to thank God for you, brothers and sisters, and rightly so, because your faith is growing more and more, and the love all of you have for one another is increasing.

It's God's will that you grow spiritually. We do that through personal and corporate worship and prayer. We do that through spending time studying God's word.

3. Connect Regularly

Hebrews 10:24-25 ESV

And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

It's God's will that you connect with other believers. Life is better with friends. This is why we do connect groups. Make some noise if you're in a connect group.

4. Serve Faithfully

1 Peter 4:10 NIV

Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms.

It's God's will that you become a part of something bigger than yourself. It's God's will for you and I to make an eternal impact in the lives of others. That's why we do GT. We believe that God has gifted each of us to make a difference and that's why more than half the people at ACCH serve on our Home Team.

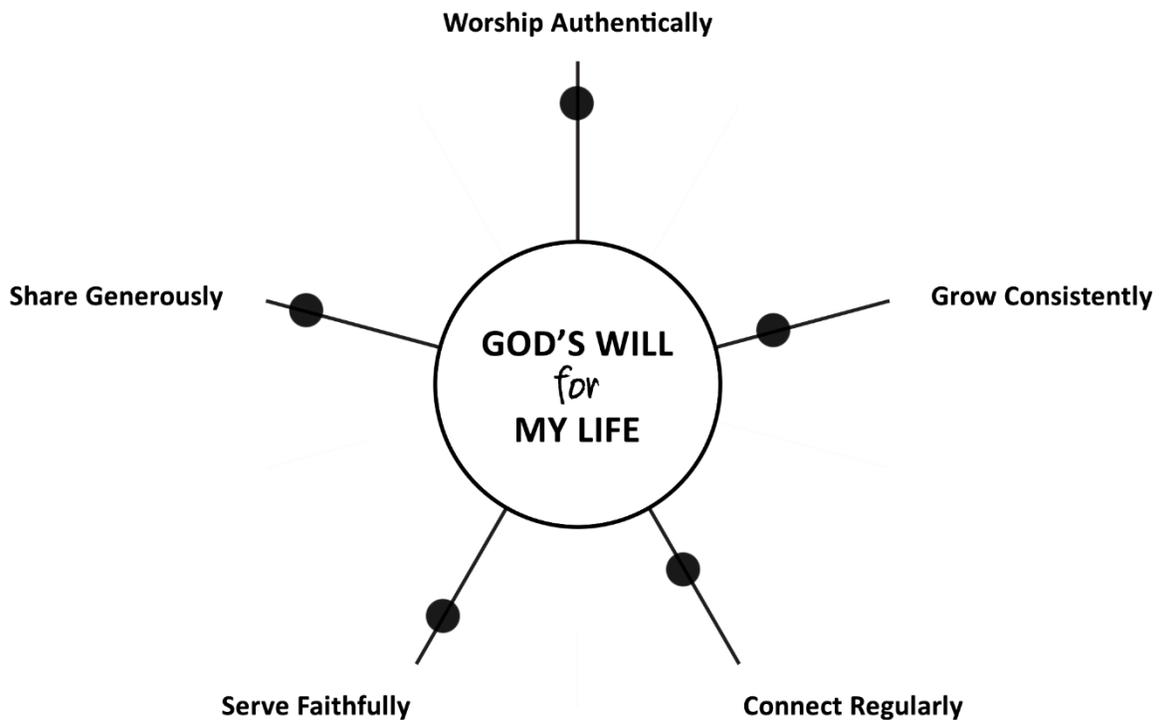
Growth Track takes place...

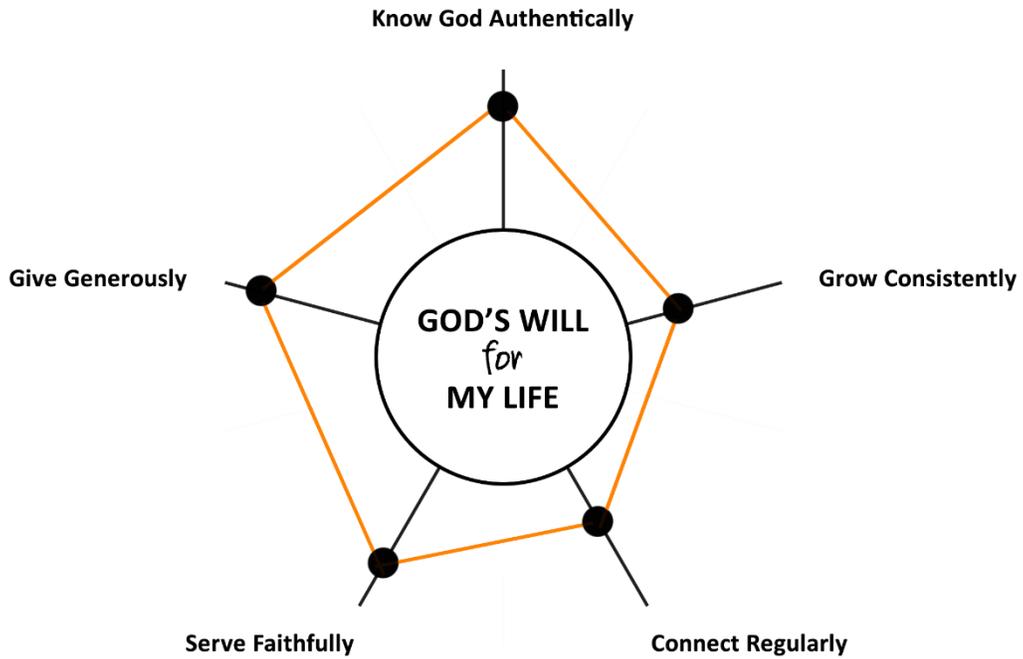
5. Give Generously

Proverbs 3:9

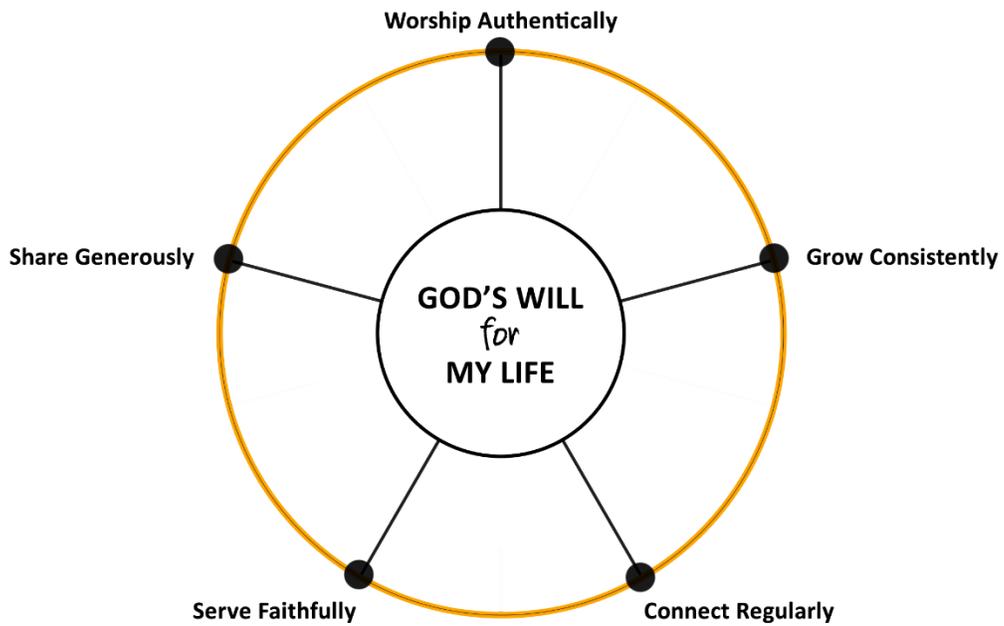
Honor the Lord with your wealth, with the first fruits of all your crops.

After labeling each spoke, the pastor asked his friend to rate his progress in each area by putting a dot on each spoke. If he was doing well, put a dot on the end of the spoke, if he was struggling, put a dot near the center hub.





The pastor drew a line to connect the dots and said, "This looks like a bumpy ride."



Then the pastor asked, "Based on what you see here, what would you say your next step is to grow spiritually? That is God's will for your life."

Several years ago, a young man came to me frustrated over God's will. He believed that God had called him to travel the world preaching the Gospel, and I also believed that. But this young man was frustrated because he wasn't getting the opportunity to preach anywhere, much less travel the world to do it.

So, I said, "Tell me about your prayer life, your time with Jesus."

I spend time in prayer daily, he said.

I said, "Tell me about your time at church. Do you show up for prayer? Do you show up on the weekends?"

Most of the time, he said.

I asked, "Have you opened your Bible this week?"

No, he said.

"This month?" I asked.

No.

I asked, "Are you in a connect group and serving on a team?"

Listen very carefully: Knowing God's will starts with following God's heart.

His heart is that you and I, know Him authentically, grow consistently, connect regularly, serve faithfully, and give generously.

I promise you, if you will work on that, God will work on the rest.