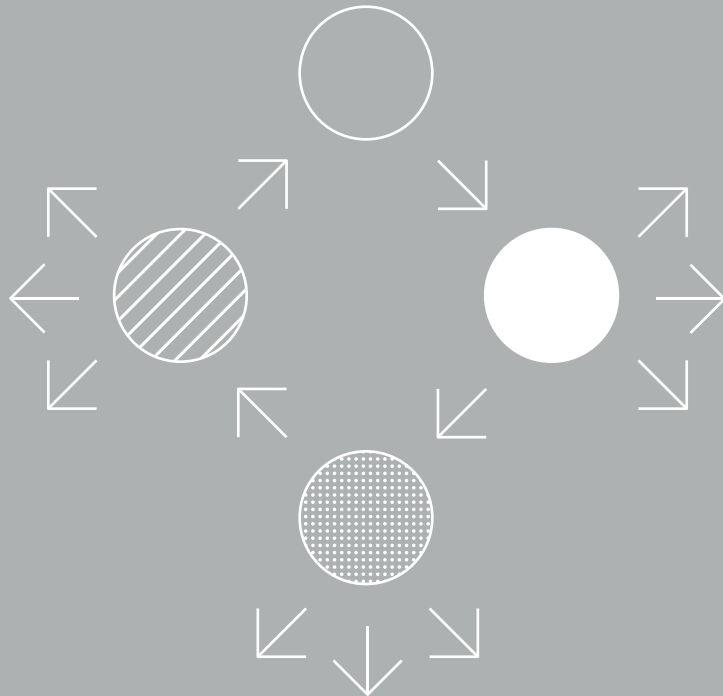


WHICH WAY SHOULD I CHOOSE?



INTRODUCTION

Looking for Answers

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**God isn't hiding his will from
us until we perform the right
religious ritual.**

...

When I was a kid I had one of those old-school Magic 8-Ball toys. You could ask it important questions like if that girl in homeroom liked you or if you would grow up to be a millionaire. Then you'd shake the ball and wait for the little plastic die to float into view with the response. The answers came in the form of tongue-in-cheek statements like "Without a doubt," "My sources say no," "Most likely," and the frustratingly noncommittal "Ask again later." Unfortunately, many people consider finding God's will a bit like using a Magic

8-Ball. But instead of jokingly asking inconsequential questions (“Am I cool?”), they’re looking for answers about significant life choices:

Who should I marry?

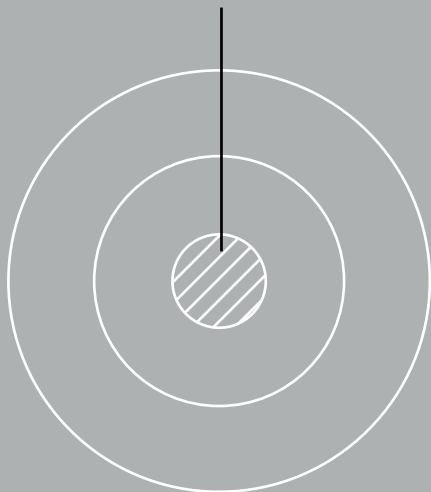
What should I do for work?

Where should I live?

Thankfully, there’s a better way to find guidance for these kinds of decisions. God doesn’t work like a toy, nor is he hiding his will from us until we perform the right religious ritual. Before we turn to Scripture for wisdom, however, we need to first dispel some faulty understandings of finding God’s will.

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GOD'S WILL?



PART 01

The Typical View of God's Will

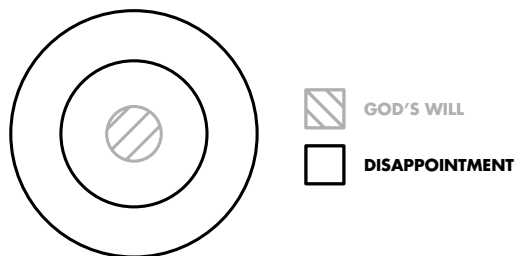
...

**This view of “finding God’s will”
usually ends up feeling like a
divine game of hide-and-seek.**

...

Many of us have absorbed a view of “finding God’s will” that primarily leads us to a place of frustration. According to this widespread view, God has a singular plan for each of our lives, but he hides that plan from us. In order to receive God’s blessings, we have to find out what his secret plan is and follow it like a hidden map of sorts. In this view, God’s plan for our life is very narrow and specific, like the bullseye of a target:

In this view, only if we hit the very center are we in God’s



Sadly, this conventional view of “finding God’s will” usually ends up feeling like a divine game of hide-and-seek, producing an unhealthy preoccupation with the future and paralysis in the present. We need to have a better understanding of God’s will than this. Thankfully, there’s a better way forward. It’s time to put down the Magic 8-Ball and pick up the Bible.

will. Anything outside that is not God’s will, which means if we don’t marry the one specific spouse God has chosen for us, or land the one perfect job, we are doomed to miss out and the best we can hope for is some kind of divine “Plan B.” And every time we make any choice out of line with this hidden plan, we wind up farther and farther from the life God intended for us.

Thinking of God’s will this way usually leads to seeing our lives as a series of forking paths, where every decision makes it harder and harder to be in the perfect will of God. We can end up obsessing over every choice out of the fear we’ll miss out on God’s perfect will. We can become daunted by small decisions because, in our minds, these choices might have potentially devastating consequences (“If only I’d taken the 405 instead of the 5 I wouldn’t have arrived at the party five minutes late and missed the chance to meet the girl or guy of my dreams!”).