



soulmind

Connecting you with God's heart

Choose Your Own Adventure

Proverbs 3:5-12

Welcome to **Soulmind**.

We are taking our time to work our way through a book by Dallas Willard, *Hearing God: Developing a Conversational Relationship With God*. I have to say, I feel a bit overwhelmed by the hugeness of this topic. The more I study, think, and pray about this material, the more I see how our understanding of and ability to hear God's voice is absolutely foundational to our actual experience of a true relationship with God. This really matters!



Enjoying the adventure,

~Jeannie

[LISTEN TO THE DEVOTIONAL](#)

Be sure to check out the **SOUL PRACTICE** suggestion for this week (*see below*).

Topic Overview

I remember hearing this phrase as a young Christian: God loves you and has a wonderful plan for your life. I think this is a true statement. But, sometimes I felt that discovering God's plan and finding His will for my life was like trying to hit the bull's eye in a dartboard game where I couldn't actually see the target. "Oops, you were waaay off! Sorry, game over!"

A big part of why we would even want to hear from God is that we do want to live in His will, and we do want and need guidance. But, maybe His guidance is more like a "Choose Your Own Adventure" storybook instead of a win-lose dartboard game. Yes, God is very interested in us becoming and doing all that He created us to be and do—but remember, He invites us into a relationship that is not coercive or controlling. He respects and takes delight in our individual uniqueness, and gives us all kind of freedom to take the initiative. It's been so fun to learn that being guided by God is a cool interactive adventure, where the journey and the results are really a combination of my choices and actions and God's guidance and actions.

We have the freedom to make decisions about what job we might take, where we might live, whom we will marry, or how we might spend our time today. Our part is to take on the

responsibility of getting to know what God wants, understanding what He is up to so well that we know what He is thinking and intending. Over time, through His written Word, through Jesus (the living Word), and through the Spirit who speaks into our thoughts and minds, we develop a close friendship that grows to the point where we generally know His mind.

God, for His part, will graciously and creatively find a way to give input and direction into anything that we are facing. The best part is that even when we mess up and really get lost, He is right there to guide us to another pathway that will help us get to the ending that He promises will be very good.

Daily Scriptures

MONDAY

Proverbs 3:5-6

Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to Him and He will make your paths straight.

TUESDAY

Colossians 3:1-2 (NLT)

Since you have been raised to new life with Christ, set your sights on the realities of heaven, where Christ sits in the place of honor at God's right hand. Think about the things of heaven, not the things of earth.

WEDNESDAY

Galatians 5:13-15 (NIV)

You, my brothers, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature; rather, serve one another in love. The entire law is summed up in a single command: "Love your neighbor as yourself."

THURSDAY

Philippians 1:9-11(NLT)

I pray that your love will overflow more and more, and that you will keep on growing in knowledge and understanding. For I want you to understand what really matters, so that you may live pure and blameless lives until the day of Christ's return. May you always be filled with the fruit of your salvation—the righteous character produced in your life by Jesus Christ—for this will bring much glory and praise to God.

FRIDAY

Isaiah 58:9,11

Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer; you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am... The Lord will guide you continually, and satisfy your needs in parched places, and make your bones strong; and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water, whose waters never fail

Doing Your Part

SOUL PRACTICE

Learning the Mind of Christ

God's will is always going to include specifics about how we treat other people. This week, read through **Colossians 3:12-17** several times. Filter a situation you are facing through these verses; remember, these are the words of God speaking clearly about His will.

Wise Words

God's world is an arena in which we have an indispensable role to play. The issue is not simply what God wants but also what we want and will...with respect to many events in our future, God's will is that WE should determine what will happen

Dallas Willard, *Hearing God*

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