

Study Guide for *Living the Life God Has Planned: A Guide to Knowing God's Will*

By Bill Thrasher

Foreword by Joseph M. Stowell

The pursuit of God's will should first of all be a pursuit of the Lord Himself. And any pursuit of Him is only a response to His pursuit of us. May this study guide aid you in responding to the Lord and finding and fulfilling His will which He describes as good, acceptable, and perfect (Romans 12:2)

This study guide is designed as an eight-week study. If you choose to take longer on any given week, it can easily be expanded into a longer study.

It is my joy to pray for the readers of *Living the Life God Has Planned* each day. May God meet you in a special way as you participate in this study.

God's richest blessings upon you.

Dr. Bill Thrasher

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STUDY GUIDE FOR

Living the Life God Has Planned

Week One

Day One: Read chapter 1 and respond to the following questions:

- ☐ On page eighteen Dr. Hendricks said that the most helpful insight to studying the Bible is to realize that this Book teaches us about a person. In one page, write down what the Bible has taught you about the person of God.

Day Two: Read chapter 1 and respond to the following questions:

What is the central theme of Scripture? (19-20) See John 5:39 and Luke 24:27, 44.

Who is Christ according to these verses?

Hebrews 1:2-3 _____

Colossians 1:15 _____

John 1:18 _____

John 14:9 _____

What does redeem mean? And what did Christ redeem us from according to I Peter 1:18? (20)

What is eternal life (John 17:3) and what is meant by spiritual death (Eph. 2:1)? (20)

What is the relationship between doing good works and abiding in the Lord? (22)

Day Three: Read chapter two and respond to the following questions.

Have you ever felt a "false burden" like the illustration on pages 25-26? Describe your experience.

What is the most basic scheme of Satan? (26-27)

Explain how you see this scheme in operation in Genesis 3:1-5. (27)

Day Four: Review Chapter 2 and respond to the following questions:

What does it mean to give God only external service? (28-29)

Read and prayerfully meditate on I John 5:3 and Matthew 11:28-30. Write down any insights that come to your mind as well as your prayer response to those verses.

Day Five: Review Chapter 2 and respond to the following questions:

What makes God's commandments seem burdensome and His load heavy? (29-30)

Read and prayerfully meditate on I Peter 5:1-2 and write down any insights as well as your prayer response to these verses.

How do the truths of Romans 15:5, Philippians 2:13; and I Corinthians 15:10 relate to the idea of living with a light load? (30-31)

Week Two

Day One: Review Chapter 2 and respond to the following questions:

- Read and prayerfully meditate on I Corinthians 9:14. Write down any insight as well as your prayer response to this verse.

- What does it mean to be "free from man?" (32-33)

- Read and prayerfully meditate on Mark 14:3-9. Write down any insights as well as your prayer response to those verses. (33-34)

- Read and pray the prayer on page 34 from your heart.

Day Two: Review Chapter Two and respond to the following questions:

Has there ever been a disappointment to you that made you question the goodness of the Lord? (34-35) Describe your experience.

Read I Peter 4:1-2. Write down the definition of disappointments on page 36 as well as any experiences in your life that has confirmed this definition.

Day Three: Review Chapter 2 and respond to the following questions:

Read Genesis 22:1-19 and Hebrews 11:17-19. What is the "Isaac" in your life? (The person or thing that is the most precious to you and the hardest thing with which to trust God)

What does James mean when he writes that Abraham's "faith was perfected" when he offered up Isaac? (37-38)

Day Four: Review Chapter 2 and respond to the following questions:

Review your day in light of the truth of James 1:17. Write down the gifts of God that you experienced today. (38-39)

Go back and look at each of the six symptoms discussed on pages 28-39. With which ones can you most readily identify?

From your heart pray the prayer on the bottom of page 39 and top of page 40.

Day Five: Review Chapter 2 and respond to the following questions:

Read pages 40-41. Pray over the Scripture on page 41. Write down any thoughts that come to your mind in your prayer.

Write down the two evidences of pride that you find on pages 41-42.

Ask God to show you any point of pride in your life as you ponder these questions:

- Is there any pursuit in your life that has not been initiated by the Lord?
- Is there any task that you are doing independently of the Lord?
- Is there any relationship in which God is not the center?

Week Three

Day One: Review Chapter 2 and respond to the following questions:

Why does pride always lead to idolatry? (43)

What is idolatry? (43)

Into what four categories does idolatry fall? (44)

Prayerfully read Psalm 16:4 and Romans 10:11. Write down any insight and your prayer response.

What idol are you most tempted to look to in order to meet the desires and thirsts of your heart?

Day Two: Review Chapter 2 and respond to the following questions:

☐ What is the result of following Satan's plan and living in pride and idolatry? (45-48)

☐ Prayerfully read I Samuel 12:20-21; Psalm 127:1-2 and John 15:5. Write down any insight as well as your prayer response to these verses.

Day Three: Read Chapter 3 and respond to the following questions:

Why is a knowledge of God's character foundational to the Christian life? (52-53)

How does each of the following verses contribute to the importance of knowing God? (53-54)

Psalm 9:10 _____

Proverbs 2:5 _____

Romans 12:1-2 _____

2 Corinthians 3:18 _____

I John 4:19 _____

How do these verses spell out "success" in God's eyes?

2 Timothy 4:7 _____

John 17:4 _____

What do each of these verses contribute to having a correct mindset in pursuing God's will?

John 4:34 _____

Acts 20:24 _____

Philippians 3:10 _____

John 5:19 _____

Write out in your own words how the focus of Philippians 3:10 and Jer. 9:23-24 relate to your daily responsibilities? In other words how can you get to know God in your daily routines? (55-56)

Day Four: Review Chapter 3 and respond to the following questions:

Prayerfully read and write out foundational principles you observe to living a life of faith. (57-58)

Mark 10:27 _____

Psalm 18:19 _____

Hebrews 11:6 _____

"God's will is exactly what you would desire if you knew all the facts." (58) How does this truth liberate you in your pursuit of God's will? (58-59)

What lesson do you learn from 2 Corinthians 12:7-10 in trusting your desires to God? (59)

Day Five: Review Chapter 3 and respond to the following questions:

☐ Evaluate your life of faith today by the three evidences of living by faith listed on pages 60-61. Write down your evaluation of your life today.

Speech:

Obedience:

Facing Fears and Anxieties:

Week Four

Day One: Review Chapter 3 and respond to the following questions:

How are our responsibilities confused with God's role? (63)

How does James 4:1-2 note an attitude that violates the command of Psalm 37:4? (63)

Explain from your life how you have found delight in God according to the five ideas on pages 63-64? Personalize each of these with your experience.

His presence

His conversation

His accomplishments

His desires

His delight in us

Day Two: Read Chapter 4 and respond to the following questions:

What affects our view of ourselves more than anything else? (69-70)

Look through the ten Scriptural points on pages 70-71 and write out a prayer of praise for these truths.

Day Three: Review Chapter 4 and respond to the following questions:

☐ Why is a right relationship with God the key to having meaning and purpose in your life? (Colossians 1:16) (72)

☐ How can one find meaning and purpose in the routine of life? (72-73) Explain I Corinthians 10:31.

☐ Explain how obedience to Romans 6:13 and Romans 12:1-2 enable one to overcome boredom. (73-74)

Day Four: Review Chapter 4 and respond to the following questions:

Define contentment. (74)

What is the secret to contentment? (Philippians 4:13) (75)

Meditate on the statement: "When you long for another person, position, or possession, you are experiencing the same yearning that God has toward you at that moment" (75) and the statement "He sent His Son to die for you in your rebellious, godless, and helpless state in order to give you every spiritual blessing in Christ. (Romans 5:6-8; Ephesians 1:3). Why would you not desire to allow such a loving Person to control your life?" (76) Write out your responses to these statements.

Write out your prayer response to the following verses: (75)

Psalm 73:25

John 7:37-39

Day Five: Review Chapter 4 and respond to the following questions:

What is the key to experiencing security? (76)

Write out a personalized paraphrase of Romans 8:28. (Put the verses into your own words as if it was written directly to you.)

If the "good" in Romans 8:28 is defined by Romans 8:29, "conformed to the image of His Son," how would you explain some of the specific characteristics of Christlikeness to someone? (You may use such verses as John 14:27; 15:10-11; and 17:4)

Week Five

Day One: Review Chapter 4 and respond to the following questions:

Summarize your understanding of the teaching of these verses:

John 4:34 _____

John 5:30 _____

John 6:38 _____

John 7:18 _____

John 8:50 _____

John 9:4 _____

John 12:49-50 _____

John
14:31 _____

Ponder and pray the prayer at the bottom of page 79.

Day Two: Read Chapter 5 and answer the following questions:

What is the one reason why there is confusion in the matter of God's will? (84)

What happens when we lose sight of knowing God as our personal heavenly Father? (85)

What does "Abba" mean? (Romans 8:14-15) (85)

Prayerfully read John 15:14-15 and write out the responsibility and privilege of being Christ's friend. (85-86)

Day Three: Review Chapter 5 and answer the following questions:

Prayerfully meditate on I Corinthians 3:21-23 and write out your understanding of what I Corinthians 3:21 means. (86)

Read the illustration on pages 86-89. How is God like the athlete's fathers?

How does the truth that God is Spirit help one in regard to experiencing God's will? (89-90)

What does it mean to worship God in spirit and in truth? (90-91)

Day Four: Review Chapter 5 and respond to the following questions:

How does the truth of God's immutability declare His perfection? (91)

How does God's unchanging nature help you not to be anxious for tomorrow? (93)

In your own words write out why you believe Exodus 20:3: "You shall have no other gods before Me" to be a kind command? (94)

How can we imitate an immutable God? (94)

Day Five: Review Chapter 5 and respond to the following questions:

Note the five things that God says are incorruptible? (95) How do these five things help you develop a philosophy of life? (96)

Write out the insights that you gain from these verses.

Matthew 6:19-20_____

Matthew 5:29-30_____

Matthew 19:29-30_____

John 15:5_____

How does the eternity of God give you a perspective of who you are on this earth? (97)

Number your days according to the formula on page 98 and note how many days you have left until you are 70 years old.

Week Six

Day One: Review Chapter 5 and respond to the following questions:

What have you learned from having to wait on the Lord? (99)

How does God's eternal nature give us a perspective on our trials? (100)

What four things can you anticipate experiencing for all eternity? (101-02)

Day Two: Read Chapter 6 and respond to the following questions:

How does the truth of God's omniscience comfort you? (105-07)

What are the four ways that Scripture speaks of God's presence? (108-09)

Read Psalm 16:8 and make this truth your goal for today. Write down the times you were conscious of God's presence.

How does cultivating a conscious enjoyment of God's presence honor Him? (110)

Day Three: Review Chapter 6 and respond to the following questions:

Read the following verses and write down what they teach you about God's presence:

Genesis 39:1-3, 21-23 _____

Exodus 33:9-11 _____

2 Samuel 6:11 _____

Psalms 16:8-9 _____

Psalms 65:4 _____

Psalms 73:17 _____

Psalms 96:6 _____

Acts 3:19 _____

Give three definitions of God's gift of wisdom. (113-14)

Prayerfully meditate on Proverbs 3:15 and ask God to teach you the value of God's wisdom. Write out your prayer.

Pray through the list of Scriptural principles on how to gain God's wisdom. (115-17)
Write out your prayer.

Day Four: Review Chapter 6 and respond to the following questions:

Write out your prayer response to the following verses:

Psalm 33:16-17_____

Romans 8:37_____

2 Corinthians 3:5-6_____

2 Corinthians 12:7-10_____

Colossians 1:29_____

Hebrews 13:5-6_____

Revelations 3:8_____

Revelations 3:15-17_____

Define and give examples of: (120-21)

God's perceptive will_____

God's permissive will_____

God providential will_____

Write out a prayer of response to the following verses: Psalm 31:15; Psalm 139:15-16; Proverbs 21:1; Romans 13:1; I Corinthians 4:7; I Timothy 2:1-2

Day Five: Read Chapter 7 and respond to the following questions:

Write down the five evidences that one is beginning to understand that God is holy. (128-29)

Read and pray the prayer on page 130. Is there anything that is interfering with you praying this prayer from your heart?

Week Seven

Day One: Review Chapter 7 and respond to the following questions:

What are the four primary uses of the term "righteousness?" (131)

Meditate on Psalm 9:3-4 and write out any just cause that you wish to entrust to the Lord.

Write down your prayer response to these verses:

Proverbs 12:19_____

Proverbs 26:2_____

I Peter 3:9_____

I Peter 2:21-23_____

2 Timothy 4:14_____

Write out your prayer response to these verses:

Proverbs 19:17_____

Matthew 19:29_____

Mark 9:41_____

Galatians 6:7-9_____

Hebrews 6:10_____

☐ How did Jesus respond to the temptation to lose heart according to the prophesy of Isaiah 49:3-4? (133-34)

Day Two: Review Chapter 7 and respond to the following questions:

What insights do you learn about God's faithfulness from the following verses:

Lamentations 3:23-23 _____

I Corinthians 10:13 _____

2 Thessalonians 3:3 _____

I Peter 4:19 _____

I John 1:9 _____

I Thessalonians 5:23-24 _____

What insights do you learn from these verses about the quality of faithfulness that God desires to build in your life?

Proverbs 3:3-4 _____

Proverbs 20:6 _____

Luke 16:10 _____

Galatians 5:22-23 _____

What insights do you learn about truthfulness from these Proverbs?

Proverbs 6:12 _____

Proverbs 6:16 _____

Proverbs 12:19 _____

Proverbs 12:22 _____

Proverbs 19:5 _____

Proverbs 21:6 _____

Day Three: Read Chapter 8 and respond to the following questions:

Prayerfully meditate and write out a prayer response to each of these verses:

Isaiah 49:14-16 _____

Galatians 2:20 _____

Hebrews 12:5-6 _____

Read pages 144-45. Ask God in faith to overwhelm you with His love.

Pray Philippians 1:9-11 for your life today.

Day Four: Review Chapter 8 and respond to the following questions:

Read Jeremiah 10:23 and Psalm 18:17 and write out a prayer response based on these two verses, appealing to God's mercy to guide you and deliver you today.

Write down the insights about God's mercy that you glean from these verses:

Ephesians 2:4-5_____

2 Timothy 1:12-13_____

2 Corinthians 4:1_____

I Corinthians 7:25_____

2 Corinthians 1:3-5_____

Romans 12:1-2_____

Luke 6:36-38_____

Day Five: Review Chapter 8 and respond to the following questions:

Explain the concept of having "an expectation line" in your heart. (149)

What are the evidences of resting in the truth that we stand in God's grace? (149)

Explain and illustrate the truth of I Corinthians 15:10. (150-51)

Week Eight

Day One: Review Chapter 8 and respond to the following questions:

What way of God do you learn from these verses? (152) (Matthew 6:33; Psalm 37:4; Psalm 84:11)

What implications does John Wesley's quote on page 152 have for your life?

Explain the concept that some of God's good gifts can come in disguised packages. (152-53)

Pray the prayer found on the last sentence of page 154.

Day Two: Read Chapter 9 and respond to the following questions:

God will always start with the clear commands of Scripture. Read some of these Scriptures on page 159 and note any insight they give you in regard to a decision you need to make.

Evaluate your decision by the nine questions on pages 160-61 and note any help they provide.

What happens when you insist on your own way and go against God's Word? (Psalm 106:13-15) (162)

What promise does God give to those who meditate on His word?

Ezra 7:9-10_____

Joshua 1:8-9_____

Psalm 1:1-3_____

James 1:25_____

What do you think of the testimony of George Mueller's commitment to Scripture? (164) Ask God to give you an unquenchable thirst for His Word.

Day Three: Review Chapter 9 and respond to the following questions:

How can the truth of God's guiding us by the promptings of His Spirit be abused?
(167-68)

What are ways that God can use the counsel of others to aid us in knowing His will?
(169-70)

What hope can you give to one who feels he has missed God's will? (172)

Day Four: Review Chapter 9 and respond to the following questions:

How does Oswald Chambers define a call?

What do the following verses teach about proving God's will? (173-74)

Ephesians 2:10_____

Acts 20:24_____

John 4:34_____

Luke 22:42_____

John 17:4_____

Psalm 22:3_____

Psalm 31:3_____

Proverbs 3:5-6_____

What does the difference between God giving us an "Experienced Guide" rather than a detailed road map? (174)

Day Five: Read Chapter 10. Think of an important decision you have before you. Respond to the following questions as they apply to this decision.

What bearing does the truth of God's primary will to build a relationship with Him have on this decision?

Is there any "idol" to be repented of that relates to this decision? (178)

How could you use the Lord's Day Practice discussed in Chapter One?

Worship God as you trust Him make His path clear to you. (179) Look at the truths about God from Chapters 5, 6, 7, and 8, and record any guidance that these truths provide for you.

Why is it important to not be frantic in your spirit but to remain in a spirit of trust? (181)

Write out a prayer of praise, thanking the Lord that He will show you His will. (182-83)

Build your life around the daily practice of meditating on God's Word. Start today and record any insights you receive. (183-84)

Look at the nine principles on pages 60-61 and note any relevance they have to this decision.

Seek godly counsel from at least one lay authority in your life and write down their counsel. (184)

Follow George Mueller's six steps to knowing God's will. (85-86) Make and record your decision of faith.
