

God has a will and a plan for all of us, but how do we know God's will? Sometimes it seems like such a mystery to us. But we can know it first of all through the pages of His Word, the owner's manual for life, the Bible. This is one reason why it is so important to make the Word of God part of our lives everyday.

In the Bible, we find God's principles and directions for life. (B I B L E means Basic Instructions Before Leaving Earth!) My pastor says, "The most dangerous place to be is outside of God's will."

The Promises and God's Will

I hear in meetings frequently that God's will seems to be something of a mystery. Most understand that for them, God's will is to not drink. I believe He reveals His will for us and that we, for some reason, often fail to recognize it as such. Perhaps we just don't know how to look or listen.

I have come to believe that God revealed part of His will for us through the authors of the Big Book of Alcoholic's Anonymous, specifically pages 83 and 84. Yes, in the promises. Here I relate His will to the Promises, as I understand it and for clarity will enumerate them.

He wants us to know a new freedom and happiness, bondage to alcohol is not in His plan. I honestly believe He wishes for us to be very happy in this life. He wishes for us to understand the true meaning of freedom...and this is freedom of the heart and soul. Promise 1.

He wants us to utilize our past escapades as a tool to bring understanding to others. Sharing our experience, strength, and hope so that others may achieve freedom and happiness is certainly in His plan. Promises 2 and 5.

He does want us to have inner peace and serenity. I do not believe it is His will for us to be unhappy. We cannot pass on His message to others while we are sad, lonely, depressed, etc. Promises 3 and 4.

He wants us to love others and that requires removing our selfishness and self-centeredness. Helping others brings a tremendous feeling of satisfaction. We will lose our need for instant gratification. Promises 7 and 8.

He wants us to look at life through open eyes, not bloodshot or hung over but soberly and with clarity. Promise 9. Also refer to promises 1 through 8. How about those for a new outlook on life?

I'm sure He does not want us to worry, because worry is in reality a control issue. So many of us fret about our finances and how can we manage to live a good life. He is not going to grant us riches nor will He deny them. When we learn that He is providing us with all we really need, and we learn gratitude for these gifts, we lose that fear. We may never have a lot of things but we have what we need and become grateful to have it. We will discover we no longer need to possess many material things as they do not provide happiness anyway. Promise 10.

I remember many times how I felt when faced with seemingly impossible situations. I just didn't know what to do, what path to take, and my only recourse was to escape into alcohol. I don't believe God wishes for us to face these events which invariably will occur by running away from them or seeking relief in drink. I believe if we trust in God, He will show us how to handle any

situation that might appear. The answers will come to us if we will just open up and allow God in. Promise 11.

This last one is the big one. I know, for this alcoholic, that I still have some trust issues with God. I like to do things on my own, but sometimes I can't. Understanding when I can't is when this last promise reveals itself. Allowing God to take the reins can be scary, however once we've done it a few times, it gets easier. I pray every morning to be allowed to do God's will, whatever it may be. I also pray for awareness of His will and the strength to carry it out. I know of many instances in my sober life when I have realized that God did indeed take the reins and I allowed Him to do so. I'm sure many of you can recognize that also. I believe His will is to have us let Him take charge and run our lives. He can certainly do it much better than I can. Promise 12.