



# DECISION MAKING

Discerning the Will of God



June Hunt



HOPE  
for the Heart

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Discerning the Will of God

JUNE HUNT



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Dear friend,

Recently I've been thinking about my own decision making—specifically, what has caused me to make the inexcusable decisions that later I would come to regret. I wish I could blame these wrong decisions on ignorance or indigestion or a “bad hair day!” However, in good conscience, I cannot justify such blame-shifting! The truthful answer is this: I prioritized “passion over principle.”

Sometimes, if I want to better understand myself or others, I look back at the past for a clue or two. One day, I peered back and asked myself, *When was the first time I willfully chose to do what I knew was wrong?* The answer was immediate: My “life of crime” began when I was quite young. Mother had gone into a drugstore to purchase some needed items for the house. As we walked down the aisle, she stopped to look at an item on the left. At the same time, I looked to the right, and there it was—a 3 MUSKETEERS® candy bar! I was now eye-level with rows of 3 MUSKETEERS® candy bars! (Mind you, this was not just *any* candy bar. This chocolate delicacy had long been advertised as “The biggest nickel candy bar”!)

It was at this very moment that I chose passion over principle. Yes, of course, I knew I should not steal. I knew that principle, yet somehow, one lone candy bar seemed to slip into my right hand (and it was *a perfect fit*). Quickly, through the big glass

doors, I scurried outside, took a right, and then went around the corner—because I needed to get out of sight so as not to get caught red-handed ... or chocolate-handed! As fast as I could, I tore open the wrapper and literally crammed the candy bar into my mouth. I had to hurry to get rid of the evidence and get back inside the store as soon as possible.

With my heart pounding, I anxiously followed some big, tall people through the large glass doors leading back into the drugstore. Mother was at the counter completing her purchases. Within moments, we were headed for home. And all was well with the world. All was well—until Mother looked over at me and said, “Why do you have chocolate on your face?”

“Chocolate? What chocolate?” I rapidly replied.

Mother pulled the car over to get a closer look. Sure enough, all the evidence had *not* been eliminated. Several smudges of chocolate were much too visible.

Calmly, she continued, “June, where did you get the chocolate?”

I mumbled something, which amounted to nothing. After further questioning, I was forced to admit my thievery. (No other explanation would make sense.)

Then humiliation upon humiliation: Mother drove me back to the store not only to pay for the

“stolen property,” but also to confess my crime in front of the manager.

The surprised store manager asked what I had stolen. With downcast eyes—and a voice barely above a whisper—I eked out, “I don’t remember.” I just didn’t want to admit my extravagance: I had stolen a 3 MUSKETEERS®—“The biggest nickel candy bar in existence”!

A moment later, Mother handed me the money to give to the manager. (She made *me* do it all—ugh!)

Obviously, that embarrassing scene—especially the way Mother handled it—made a strong impression on me because I remember it to this day, decades later.

Now, I know someone will say, “That’s nothing! That’s so insignificant. That’s just a child’s decision to steal a nickel candy bar from a store, and in no more than 30 minutes, everything was resolved.”

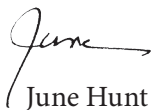
The issue is not *what* I stole, *when* I stole, *where* I stole, or from *whom* I stole. The crux of the matter is *why* I stole. In simplest terms, I chose to yield to temptation. I chose passion over principle.

The aftermath of prioritizing passion can be devastating when wrong decisions result in a loss of respect, a loss of reputation, or a loss of a relationship.



That is the *why* of this small book: to help you make decisions that you will never regret—decisions that line up with the whole counsel of God, and decisions that are in the perfect will of God. Only then can you live a life of perfect peace.

Yours in the Lord's hope,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "June". The signature is written in black ink and has a long, sweeping tail that extends to the right.

June Hunt

*“My son, do not forget my teaching,  
but keep my commands in your heart,  
for they will prolong your life many years  
and bring you peace and prosperity.”*

(Proverbs 3:1–2)



# DECISION MAKING

## Discerning the Will of God

“He loves me, he loves me not, he loves me, he loves me not.” Through the ages, children have played this simple game of deciding whether someone loved them or not by plucking petals from a daisy one-by-one. The last petal supposedly reveals the answer—but what an unreliable way to make decisions! And just as unreliable is making choices based on changeable circumstances or the cries of a crowd. Wise decisions are made by discerning the will of God, and God delights in revealing His will to those willing to do His will. And His will is clearly revealed in His Word.

**“Do not merely listen to the word,  
and so deceive yourselves.  
Do what it says.”  
(James 1:22)**



## DEFINITIONS

We make decisions every day. Many are of little significance; a few will change our lives forever. Do you make quick decisions by “doing what comes naturally,” or do you struggle with delay because of a paralysis of analysis? Many bad choices are made in life because we do not take the time to discover God’s perfect will for our lives. Be assured, God doesn’t play “hide-and-seek” as you try to discover His will. The more intimately you draw close to the heart of God, the more clearly you will know the will of God. And as you sincerely begin to place His desires above your own desires, He will be faithful to point the way. Let this be the prayer of your heart:

**“I desire to do your will, my God;  
your law is within my heart.”  
(Psalm 40:8)**

## WHAT IS Decision Making?

Making a decision is a process that includes making a choice or judgment about an attitude or action. Decisions are an act of the will, and they are always influenced by either the mind or the emotions.

▶ The Old Testament Hebrew word *abah*, which means “to breathe after” or “to be acquiescent,” is used to indicate a willingness to accept or comply.<sup>1</sup>

- **Your decisions receive God’s blessing when you are willing to obey God.**

*“If you are willing and obedient, you will eat the good things of the land” (Isaiah 1:19).*

▶ The Greek word *krino* is one of the many New Testament words that can be translated “to decide.” This Greek word means “to distinguish, to decide mentally, to determine or resolve.”<sup>2</sup>

- **Your decisions should be based on what you know to be God’s revealed will.**

*“As for the Gentile believers, we have written to them our decision that they should abstain from food sacrificed to idols, from blood, from the meat of strangled animals and from sexual immorality” (Acts 21:25).*

▶ Another Old Testament Hebrew word, *bachar*, which means “to select,” is also translated “to prefer or desire.”<sup>3</sup>

- **Your decisions reveal the desires of your heart.**

*“I have chosen the way of faithfulness; I have set my heart on your laws.” (Psalm 119:30)*

- **Your decisions are ultimately determined by what you desire the most. The fundamental principle for each of us becomes, “Do I choose to please myself, or do I choose to please the Lord?”**

*“But if serving the LORD seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve ... But as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD” (Joshua 24:15).*

## **WHAT IS** the Meaning of “Will”?

**Like a prism, the word *will* reflects many different sides.**<sup>4</sup>

- ▶ When making a choice, you are communicating your will.
- ▶ The word *will* is also used to express the desire or mandate of someone having authority. (God reveals His will.)
- ▶ Another meaning of the word *will* carries the idea of having a disposition to act according to one’s desired goals. (A child may be born with a strong will.)

- ▶ Further, by use of your own will, you can exercise power and control over your own actions or emotions.

**“Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done.”**  
**(Luke 22:42)**

**QUESTION:** “What did Jesus mean in Matthew 6:10 when He prayed to the heavenly Father, ‘Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven’?”

**ANSWER:** Jesus modeled a heart of submission to the will of His Father because He knew God’s will would ultimately be best. The meanings of the following Greek words used in the New Testament describe why **God’s will** should always be preferred.<sup>5</sup>

- ▶ **Thelema** means “a determination, choice or a desire of the heart.”
  - God’s will is His heart’s desire for you.
- ▶ **Boulema** means “a plan of the mind; a deliberate design and purpose.”
  - God’s will is His ultimate plan and purpose for you.
- ▶ **Eudokia** means “good and pleasing.”
  - God’s will is ultimately pleasing and good for you.

**“Your kingdom come, your will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.”**  
**(Matthew 6:10)**