

# How to Consistently Receive God's Will for Your Life

**Allow God to Thoroughly Examine  
Your Decisions and Motives**

# **1 Samuel 25:1**

**Now Samuel died, and all Israel gathered for his funeral. They buried him at his house in Ramah. Then David moved down to the wilderness of Maon.**

# 1 Samuel 25:2

There was a wealthy man from Maon who owned property near the town of Carmel. He had 3,000 sheep and 1,000 goats, and it was sheep-shearing time.

# 1 Samuel 25:3

This man's name was Nabal, and his wife, Abigail, was a sensible and beautiful woman. But Nabal, a descendant of Caleb, was crude and mean in all his dealings.

# 1 Samuel 25:4

When David heard that Nabal  
was shearing his sheep,

# 1 Samuel 25:5

he sent ten of his young men  
to Carmel with this message  
for Nabal:

# 1 Samuel 25:6

“Peace and prosperity to you,  
your family, and everything  
you own!

# **1 Samuel 25:7**

**I am told that it is sheep-shearing time. While your shepherds stayed among us near Carmel, we never harmed them, and nothing was ever stolen from them.**



# 1 Samuel 25:8

Ask your own men, and they will tell you this is true. So would you be kind to us, since we have come at a time of celebration? Please share any provisions you might have on hand with us and with your friend David.”

# 1 Samuel 25:9

David's young men gave this message to Nabal in David's name, and they waited for a reply.

# 1 Samuel 25:10

“Who is this fellow David?”

Nabal sneered to the young men.

“Who does this son of Jesse think he is? There are lots of servants these days who run away from their masters.

# 1 Samuel 25:11

Should I take my bread and my water and my meat that I've slaughtered for my shearers and give it to a band of outlaws who come from who knows where?"

# 1 Samuel 25:12

So David's young men returned and told him what Nabal had said.

# 1 Samuel 25:13

And David said to his men, “Get your swords!” And every man strapped on his sword. David also strapped on his sword. About four hundred men went up with David, while two hundred remained to guard the equipment.

# 1 Samuel 25:14

Meanwhile, one of Nabal's servants went to Abigail and told her, "David sent messengers from the wilderness to greet our master, but he screamed insults at them."

# 1 Samuel 25:15

These men have been very good to us, and we never suffered any harm from them. Nothing was stolen from us the whole time they were with us.



# 1 Samuel 25:16

In fact, day and night they were like a wall of protection to us and the sheep.

# 1 Samuel 25:17

You need to know this and figure out what to do, for there is going to be trouble for our master and his whole family. He's so ill-tempered that no one can even talk to him!"

# **1 Samuel 25:18a**

**Abigail wasted no time. She quickly gathered 200 loaves of bread, two wineskins full of wine, five sheep that had been slaughtered, nearly a bushel of roasted grain,**

# **1 Samuel 25:18b**

**100 clusters of raisins, and  
200 fig cakes. She packed  
them on donkeys**

# 1 Samuel 25:19

and said to her servants, “Go on ahead. I will follow you shortly.”

But she didn't tell her husband Nabal what she was doing.

# 1 Samuel 25:20

As she was riding her donkey into a mountain ravine, she saw David and his men coming toward her.


# 1 Samuel 25:21

David had just been saying to his men, “A lot of good it did to help this fellow. We protected his flocks in the wilderness, and nothing he owned was lost or stolen. But he has repaid me evil for good.”

# 1 Samuel 25:22

May God strike me and kill me if even one male of his household is still alive tomorrow morning!”





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**Allow God to Thoroughly Examine  
Your Decisions and Motives**

# Principle #1

Allowing God to thoroughly examine your decisions and motives is about taking the time to process why you are tempted to cut corners, to repay evil with evil, or to do something that is outside of God's universal will.

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# David's Known Motives

- Ancient Near East customs and OT laws dictate that Nabal should help David and Nabal refuses.
- Nabal does not just refuse, he is also a jerk who insulted David, his family, and his men after they voluntarily protected Nabal's sheep herders.

**David's More Than Likely  
Unknown Motives**

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**Now Samuel died, and all Israel gathered for his funeral. They buried him at his house in Ramah. Then David moved down to the wilderness of Maon.**



# The Death of Samuel

- Probably no one valued Samuel more than David.
- Samuel dies at a time when David is in one of his most difficult seasons.
- Was David able to attend the service?
- Did he have to observe from afar?
- What does Samuel's death mean for the futures of David and Saul?

# David's Sojourn in the Wilderness 1 Samuel 21-23

PHILISTIA

● Gath  
Tell es-Safi

J U D A H

- Adullam
- Keilah

● Ramah  
Gibeah  
of Saul  
● Nob  
● Jebus  
(Jerusalem)

● Bethlehem

● Hebron

● Ziph

● Maon

*Wilderness of Judah*

En Gedi ●

Masada ●

Dead Sea

MOAB

**David's Other More Than  
Likely Unknown Motives**

# David Let Saul Live

- Did I do the right thing?
- Did I miss out on God's will when I let Saul live because God said he would deliver my enemies in my hand?
- I did the right thing and yet my men and I are still living like outlaws.
- First Saul and now I have to deal with Nabal, who is just like Saul.

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Allowing God to thoroughly examine your decisions and motives is about taking the time to process why you are tempted to cut corners, to repay evil with evil, or to do something that is outside of God's universal will.

# Principle #2

**Allowing the Lord to thoroughly examine your decisions and motives can never be done in the context of a vacuum.**

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# Principle #2

**Allowing the Lord to thoroughly examine your decisions and motives can never be done in the context of a vacuum.**

# Principle #3

**Allowing God to thoroughly examine your decisions and motives before you act on them will usually prevent you from making rash decisions and from having to endure the long-term consequences they bring.**

# **1 Samuel 25:23**

**When Abigail saw David, she quickly got off her donkey and bowed low before him.**

# 1 Samuel 25:24

She fell at his feet and said, “I accept all blame in this matter, my lord. Please listen to what I have to say.”

# **1 Samuel 25:25**

**I know Nabal is a wicked and ill-tempered man; please don't pay any attention to him. He is a fool, just as his name suggests. But I never even saw the young men you sent.**

# 1 Samuel 25:26

Now, my lord, as surely as the Lord lives and you yourself live, since the Lord has kept you from murdering and taking vengeance into your own hands, let all your enemies and those who try to harm you be as cursed as Nabal is.

# 1 Samuel 25:27

And here is a present that I,  
your servant, have brought to  
you and your young men.

# 1 Samuel 25:28

Please forgive me if I have offended you in any way. The Lord will surely reward you with a lasting dynasty, for you are fighting the Lord's battles. And you have not done wrong throughout your entire life.



# **1 Samuel 25:29**

**Even when you are chased by those who seek to kill you, your life is safe in the care of the Lord your God, secure in his treasure pouch! But the lives of your enemies will disappear like stones shot from a sling!**

# **1 Samuel 25:30**

**When the Lord has done all he  
promised and has made you  
leader of Israel, don't let this be  
a blemish on your record.**

# 1 Samuel 25:31

Then your conscience won't have to bear the staggering burden of needless bloodshed and vengeance. And when the Lord has done these great things for you, please remember me, your servant!"

# Principle #3

**Allowing God to thoroughly examine your decisions and motives before you act on them will usually prevent you from making rash decisions and from having to endure the long-term consequences they bring.**

# Principle #4

**Allowing God to thoroughly examine your decisions and motives is a great belief to have but it means nothing if you are not eager to listen, teachable, humble, and obedient when the Lord reveals that you are wrong.**

# 1 Samuel 25:32

David replied to Abigail, “Praise the Lord, the God of Israel, who has sent you to meet me today!”

# **1 Samuel 25:33**

**Thank God for your good sense!  
Bless you for keeping me from  
murder and from carrying out  
vengeance with my own hands.**

# 1 Samuel 25:34

For I swear by the Lord, the God of Israel, who has kept me from hurting you, that if you had not hurried out to meet me, not one of Nabal's men would still be alive tomorrow morning.”



# 1 Samuel 25:35

Then David accepted her present and told her, “Return home in peace. I have heard what you said. We will not kill your husband.”

# Principle #4

**Allowing God to thoroughly examine your decisions and motives is a great belief to have but it means nothing if you are not eager to listen, teachable, humble, and obedient when the Lord reveals that you are wrong.**

# Principle #5

**Thoroughly believing and trusting in the Lord and in His ways, will allow you to fully entrust Him to work things out the right way, the best way, and a way that will honor and glorify Him.**

# 1 Samuel 25:36

When Abigail arrived home, she found that Nabal was throwing a big party and was celebrating like a king. He was very drunk, so she didn't tell him anything about her meeting with David until dawn the next day.

# **1 Samuel 25:37**

**In the morning when Nabal was sober, his wife told him what had happened. As a result he had a stroke, and he lay paralyzed on his bed like a stone.**

# 1 Samuel 25:38

About ten days later, the Lord struck him, and he died.

# **1 Samuel 25:39**

**When David heard that Nabal was dead, he said, “Praise the Lord, who has avenged the insult I received from Nabal and has kept me from doing it myself.**

**Nabal has received the punishment for his sin.”**

# Principle #5

**Thoroughly believing and trusting in the Lord and in His ways, will allow you to fully entrust Him to work things out the right way, the best way, and a way that will honor and glorify Him.**



# Principle #6

**When you consistently reject pursuing your own personal will for the sake of obediently honoring and glorifying the Lord's will, it will usually result in unanticipated and unforeseen blessings.**

# 1 Samuel 25:40

Then David sent messengers to Abigail to ask her to become his wife. When the messengers arrived at Carmel, they told Abigail, “David has sent us to take you back to marry him.”

# 1 Samuel 25:41

She bowed low to the ground and responded, “I, your servant, would be happy to marry David. I would even be willing to become a slave, washing the feet of his servants!”

# **1 Samuel 25:42**

**Quickly getting ready, she took along five of her servant girls as attendants, mounted her donkey, and went with David's messengers. And so she became his wife.**

# Principle #6

**When you consistently reject pursuing your own personal will for the sake of obediently honoring and glorifying the Lord's will, it will usually result in unanticipated and unforeseen blessings.**

# Principle #7

**If allowing God to thoroughly examine your decisions and motives becomes your lifestyle, your desire and appetite for seeking and discerning the Lord's will in every situation and facet of your life will significantly increase.**

# 1 Samuel 30:8

Then David asked the Lord,  
“Should I chase after this band  
of raiders? Will I catch them?”

And the Lord told him,  
“Yes, go after them. You will  
surely recover everything that  
was taken from you!”

## 2 Samuel 2:1

After this, David asked the Lord,

“Should I move back to one of the towns of Judah?” “Yes,” the

Lord replied. Then David asked,

“Which town should I go to?”

“To Hebron,” the Lord answered.



## 2 Samuel 5:19

So David asked the Lord, “Should I go out to fight the Philistines? Will you hand them over to me?”

The Lord replied to David, “Yes, go ahead. I will certainly hand them over to you.”

## **2 Samuel 5:23**

**And again David asked the Lord what to do. “Do not attack them straight on,” the Lord replied.**

**“Instead, circle around behind and attack them near the poplar trees.**

## **2 Samuel 5:24**

**When you hear a sound like marching feet in the tops of the poplar trees, be on the alert! That will be the signal that the Lord is moving ahead of you to strike down the Philistine army.”**

## **2 Samuel 5:25**

**So David did what the Lord commanded, and he struck down the Philistines all the way from Gibeon to Gezer.**

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**If allowing God to thoroughly examine your decisions and motives becomes your lifestyle, your desire and appetite for seeking and discerning the Lord's will in every situation and facet of your life will significantly increase.**

A person with a backpack is walking away on a dirt path through a field of tall grass. The sun is setting in the background, creating a golden glow and long shadows. The sky is filled with dramatic, dark clouds. The overall mood is contemplative and hopeful.

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