



This is Definitely Gods Will for your Life | Ethan Matott | 8.16

Weekly Study

SHARE

What's up Red Rocks! Welcome to week 3 of our sermon series, **"What Does God Have Planned for Me Next?"** from last week's message focusing on the paradox of choice and how the fear of missing out can impact the way we make decisions. Pastor Ethan challenges us in a very important way in his message. How surrendering our plans, renewing our minds, and obeying what God has already revealed helps us discern His will and follow Jesus into the unknown.

We often want God to give us a detailed plan for our future: where to go, what to do, which opportunity to take, or how everything will work out. But following Jesus usually begins with surrender, not certainty. Before God answers every question about what is next, He invites us to trust Him with what is already in front of us.

- ☐ **Which group would you say you most relate to when you have an important decision to make? Do you usually respond quickly, overthink it, avoid it, or seek advice? Why?**

GROW

Read Romans 12:1-2

Paul describes following Jesus as becoming a "living sacrifice." This means surrender is not limited to one emotional moment or a single major decision. It is the ongoing choice to place our plans, desires, relationships, resources, and future before God. When our lives belong to Him, obedience becomes an act of worship rather than an interruption to the life we want.

Paul also warns us not to conform to the patterns of the world. The world trains us to prioritize comfort, recognition, security, control, and personal happiness. Jesus transforms us by renewing our minds so that we begin evaluating life differently. Instead of only asking, "What will make me successful?" or "What will make me comfortable?" we need to begin asking, "What will help me become more like Jesus?"

- ☐ **What does being a "living sacrifice" look like practically in someone's everyday life? How**

about your everyday life?

- ☐ **What worldly pattern most commonly influences your decisions or competes for your attention?**

Romans 12 connects transformation with discernment. As our minds are renewed and our lives are surrendered, we become better able to recognize God's good, pleasing, and perfect will. This does not mean every decision becomes obvious. It means our spiritual instincts become healthier because we are learning the ways of God and becoming familiar with His voice.

- ☐ **How does the idea of becoming more familiar with God's voice challenge or encourage you? How have you seen consistent obedience make God's direction clearer over time?**
- ☐ **Where might distraction, fear, disappointment, or a lack of surrender currently be clouding your ability to discern God's direction?**

M O V E

Read Mark 10:17-22

The rich young ruler approached Jesus wanting to know what God had planned for him eternally. Jesus answered by exposing what was already sitting on the throne of his heart. The problem was not simply that the man had money; it was that his money had him. Jesus loved him enough to identify the one thing he was unwilling to surrender.

- ☐ **If Jesus identified the one thing that most competes with Him in your life, what do you think He might point toward?**

When Jesus called His first disciples, He did not give them a detailed explanation of everything that following Him would require. He simply said, "Follow me." Jesus does not always reveal the entire destination before asking for our obedience. He is not calling us into the unknown alone; He is calling us to follow Him into the unknown.

Some people respond impulsively without considering the cost. Others hesitate indefinitely because there will always be another reason to wait. Genuine discipleship requires both a willingness to count the cost and the faith to obey without possessing every detail.

- ☐ **Where are you currently asking God for more information when He may already be asking for obedience?**
- ☐ **Which response most often holds you back from following Jesus completely: discomfort, distraction, delay, fear, or the need for control? Explain.**

The better question may not be, “God, what do You have planned for me?” It may be, “God, what have You already told me?” God’s will is not only found in a future assignment. It is experienced today as we know Him, live on purpose, and allow Him to send us into the world with surrendered hearts.

☐ **What is one specific act of obedience you know God has already placed in front of you?**

P R A Y

Take a quiet moment and ask God to reveal anything competing for the throne of your heart. Then have each person briefly share one area where they need greater surrender or courage to obey. Pray in pairs, asking God to renew your minds, clear away distraction and fear, and help you recognize His voice. Finish by praying for the faith to follow Jesus even when He has not revealed every detail.