

# DO YOU HAVE A GREEN LIGHT?

Class Three

Teacher/Counselor Notes

## 1. **Do You Believe It's God's Will?** (Chapter 11)

The best way to know God's *unrevealed will* (should you get married?) is found in doing God's *revealed will*. If you seek to do God's *revealed will*, your desires will be in line with His desires. At that point, you can act on your desires with full assurance that they are in line with God's will.

*Delight yourself in the LORD and he will give you the desires of your heart.*

*Psalm 37:4*

Three key factors in knowing God's will:

### 1. You must first delight yourself in the Lord

- Make sure you are **Saved**

*The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not **willing** that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.*

*2 Peter 3:9*

- Make sure you are **Spirit Filled**

*Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what **the Lord's will** is. Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit.*

*Ephesians 5:17-18*

- Make sure you are **Sanctified**

*It is **God's will** that you should be sanctified: that you should avoid sexual immorality; that each of you should learn to control his own body in a way that is holy and honorable.*

*1 Thessalonians 4:3-4*

### 2. God will put His desires in your heart

- Your thinking will be in line with His thinking
- Your will will be in line with His will

### 3. You can act on what your heart desires

**Key Idea:** Your desires are in line with God's desires when you live in line with God, His Word, and His will.

**Key Question:** How committed are you to doing God's will (including his teaching about sexual purity)?

## 3. **Are Your Friends and Family Supportive?** (Chapter 12)

Wise people, in contrast to fools, seek out others' input and counsel. They know they don't have all the answers or have everything all together. They know they have blind spots and need the valuable input that others can give.

Remember this...

- **You need others' input.**

*As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another.*

**Proverbs 27:17**

*The heartfelt counsel of a friend is as sweet as perfume and incense.*

**Proverbs 27:9 (NLT)**

*Listen, my son, to your father's instruction and do not forsake your mother's teaching.*

**Proverbs 1:8**

- **You need to carefully weigh others' input before you act.**

*A simple man believes anything, but a prudent man gives thought to his steps.*

**Proverbs 14:15**

In the final analysis, you need to take all the counsel you receive and carefully sift it. Weigh it. Does it have merit? You need to ask yourself questions like:

- € Are they giving me a green, yellow, or red flag?
- € Do I agree with what others are saying and seeing?
- € Is there merit to what is being said?
- € What does this mean?

**Key Idea:** All of us have blind spots. What others see may confirm or change what you think or see. Regardless, it's wise to seek out others' counsel.

**Key Question:** Who have you turned to so far to help you sort out the engagement decision? Do you agree with their input?

#### **4. What Does Your Heart Say?** (Chapter 10)

Peace must be the final authority in your heart. If your heart feels heavy, tense, confused, uneasy, or pressured, you need to find out what's wrong. Peace is like a relational green flag that tells you to keep on moving forward—full speed ahead. A lack of peace should be like a yellow caution flag. For safety's sake, you need to slow down and proceed with caution. A red flag could be telling you to pull over and stop before you put yourself in harm's way.

*Let the peace of Christ **rule** in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful.*

**Colossians 3:15**

- When Paul used the word **rule** he had in mind an umpire in the athletic games of his day.
- To “rule” was to *act as the umpire* with the final authority.
- An umpire made the final decision when there was a dispute on the field of play.

**Can you honestly say you feel peace in your heart about getting engaged?**

**Key Idea:** Peace can be a subjective indicator or objective reality. If your heart is saying no, you need to track down why.

**Key Question:** Is my heart at peace with popping the question?

**Key Distinction:** Last minute wedding day butterflies may be nothing more than the normal feelings most people have on their wedding day. Anxiety, sweaty palms, and even nausea are very common “last minute” subjective feelings. But when a lack of peace has been building over time and is directly connected to other objective factors, these kinds of feelings should not be ignored.

## **5. Is Now the Right Time or NOT?** (Chapter 4)

They say timing is everything. That certainly applies to getting engaged. Since marriage has huge lifetime ramifications, you need to be sure you’re ready and that it’s the right time.

Four important considerations:

### **1. Your personal maturity.**

*May your fountain be blessed, and may you rejoice in the wife of your youth.*

**Proverbs 5:18**

### **2. Your financial capability.**

*If anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for his immediate family, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.*

**1 Timothy 5:8**

### **3. Your time limitations.**

*When a man takes a new wife, he is not to go out with the army or be given any business or work duties. He gets one year off simply to be at home making his wife happy. (MSG)*

**Deuteronomy 24:5**

#### 4. **Your sexual control.**

*But if they cannot control themselves, they should marry, for it is better to marry than to burn with passion.* **1 Corinthians 7:9**

**Key Idea:** There is a time for every event under heaven. Even a time to get engaged. The above considerations must be carefully considered when determining if the timing is right.

**Key Question:** Is now the right time for you to get engaged, or should you give it more time or move on?