In His Steps: An Asian Christian View to Discerning God’s Will

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Abstract
Most Asian cultures are polytheistic, and the people of these cultures have evolved specific ways to discern the gods' wills for their lives. When an individual from an Asian background converts to Christianity, he or she faces many challenges. For example, family members may pressure the believer to return to polytheism, and the believer must respond to their difficult challenge. Polytheism provides many ways to discern the will of the gods, but Christianity limits its methods to prayer, guidance from the Bible, and the direction of the Holy Spirit.

This dissertation will describe methods of spiritual discernment for Christians from polytheistic culture who seek to know God's will. This chapter describes the problems Christian converts from polytheism face; this story of a polytheist who became a follower of Christ illustrates the challenge.

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God's sovereignty means that every circumstance in our lives either derives from him or is allowed by him. It all sifts through his hands before it reaches us. And he uses these beyond-our-control events in often-surprising ways to show us his way. Read more in this Bible Gateway Blog post. That truth is usually most apparent in Step 3 of my process for discerning God's will, where I “Watch for Circumstances” as I wait on God for his answers in my decisions. The Bible is definitive about Christ's supremacy over all things: “All things were created through him and for him. . . . And in him all things hold together” (Col. God’s sacred pace—my term for the four steps I use to peacefully and confidently discern God's will for my important decisions—delivers us from both this “rush to conclusions” and the trouble that comes from relying on our own shortsighted understanding. Seventeenth-century theologian John Owen recognized, “We can have no power from Christ, unless we live in a persuasion that we have none of our own.” Jesus said in John 15:5: “Without me you can do nothing” (NKJV). He wasn’t using hyperbole; he meant nothing. To “consult my Friend Jesus” in prayer as the first step in my decisions helps to “un