



## Finding God's Will in Errands and Housework

I'm not the type of person who loves to clean. In fact, I haven't cleaned bathrooms in my own home for at least seven years because Jared knows how much I hate it. Don't worry, he handles this for us. We're not living in filth. And as I've freely admitted in the book, I'm not a natural mothering type either.

I feel God's pleasure in many different settings. Sometimes when I love someone well or show kindness to a stranger. Other times when I'm teaching or writing, or praying. You know, the big, spiritual, or out-of-the-ordinary ministry. But I struggled to find God's will or presence in mundane errands or housework.

In *A Wife's Secret to Happiness* chapter eight, we talk about the blessing of dreams fulfilled. About how faith is a muscle that only grows when it's used. How God's invitation to join his plans is much better than my request for him to realign to my preferences. Sometimes my plans are for me to do grand ministry "out there" in the world. To impact God's kingdom on a large scale, according to my masterful designs.

But in this season, the one I'm in right now, part of his plan is for grand ministry "in here." In me. In my home. In my family. So I'm learning to recognize that how I live and how I love are also part of my ministry, and I've found that the Bible actually spells out aspects of God's will for us. Obviously, there's not a book of the Bible on *The Lord's Will for Jen Weaver* from 2017-2021. But he does offer insight into his desires for all people, which includes me and you. As you read the verses, take note of the key words used to describe God's will for us. I've made a list below each passage to help the process.

First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in **every way**. This is good, and **it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior**, who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. (1 Tim. 2:1-4—emphasis added)


- Prayerful
- Thankful
- Mindful of leadership
- Peaceful
- Receive salvation
- Know the truth

We ask you, brothers, to respect those who labor among you and are over you in the Lord and admonish you, and to esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Be at peace among yourselves. And we urge you, brothers, admonish the idle, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient **with them all**. See that no one repays anyone evil for evil, but **always** seek to do good to one another and **to everyone**. Rejoice **always**, pray **without ceasing**, give thanks **in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.** (1 Thess. 5:12–17—emphasis added)

- Respectful to leadership
- Peaceful (again)
- Admonishers of the idle
- Encouragers of the fainthearted
- Helpers of the weak
- Patient
- Seek to do good
- Rejoice always
- Prayerful (again)
- Thankful (again)

Be subject for the Lord's sake **to every** human institution, whether it be to the emperor as supreme, or to governors as sent by him to punish those who do evil and to praise those who do good. **For this is the will of God**, that by doing good you should put to silence the ignorance of foolish people. (1 Pet. 2:13–15)

- Submissive to leadership
- Do good



He has told you, O man, what is good; and **what does the LORD require of you** but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God? (Mic. 6:8)

- Do good = Do justice
- Love kindness (the word kindness here is also translated as steadfast love)
- Walk humbly

Don't worry, I'm not going to beat the submission drum. If you've made it to my book bonus content, you know how passionate I am about receiving God's delegated authority through submission in our marriages and respect of leadership. But as I read the passages above, God bolded for me the circumstances by which these aspects of his will play out in our lives. So much so, that I bolded them for you.

**Every way. Every one. Always. All. Without ceasing.**

Now I'm not saying that you're not called to big international ministry things on platforms and with microphones. Maybe you are, and I'll cheer you on. But I am saying that walking in God's will and connecting with his plan for our lives doesn't have to wait for big bold "out there" things. His will can apply to all things with everyone that we can do without stopping as we clean and cook and pick up dry cleaning and run the carpool. Expressions of service and justice and love as we pick up groceries. Of humility and helpers to the weak, with patience, and prayerfulness as we instruct our kids. Thanksgiving and rejoicing as we do good to our families through dishes and dusting.

That's how I've found God's will in errands and housework. I remind myself that it's not just that I do these things, but the attitude and perspective I carry while I'm doing them. God includes my family in my ministry. How I live and love and serve these people today is an expression of my love for him and a way I participate in his kingdom plan to bring all to salvation and to share the truth.

Sure, it may feel like I'm just washing the car or folding laundry, but I'm contributing in needed ways, and I marvel at the simplicity of these small, tedious acts. How cool is it, that when I give thanks as I vacuum, or pray for my kid while waiting in the school drop-off line, I'm operating in the sweet spot of God's will for me?!



## The Importance of Dating After “I Do”

Please, take a minute and wander down memory lane with me, all the way back to one of your favorite dates as the then-girlfriend to your husband.

Picture yourself getting ready. Hair primped to perfection, you try on a few outfits until you find the right one. Your toe taps expectantly—partially to the beat of your awesome playlist and also to the race of your nervous heartbeat.


He picks you up, looking handsome as ever. The evening’s events blur in your memory, but you recall the feelings. Excitement at hearing him say your name. Anticipation to get to know one another better. Passion as you share a kiss, enveloped in the safety and warmth of his arms.

That’s the importance of dating after you say, “I do.” Those feelings aren’t meant to fade with time. Sure, you may dress up less often. Some dates may even include watching movies at home in grungy PJ’s eating from takeout boxes, but these evenings retain the connection you remember. The eagerness to spend time with one another, tarnishes over time if not properly cared for.

As husband and wife, your time together vastly comprises real life things. Responsibilities like the 4 C’s: cooking, cleaning, children, and corporate obligations. Date nights afford you the opportunity to come together and *not* talk about the kids. Or the appliances that need fixing or schedules that need changing.

Dates are time to sit and be together. To hit the refresh button on your relationship as you enjoy fun experiences and light conversation. I’ve heard married women say that while they enjoy the stability of marriage, they miss the romance and excitement of dating. Friends, we get the best of both worlds. Date your mate. Don’t let your past “I do” limit your interactions to task lists and serious conversations.

Have I convinced you yet? Are you rekindling a passion for prioritizing date nights in your life? Great, here’s how to get started.

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1. **Make a schedule.** Find a time that works best for both of you in your current season. For many couples, scheduling a weekly date night is ideal. But maybe for you that's once every other week or once a month with a few 30 minute at-home coffee dates built in between outings.
  2. **Make a plan.** Determine who will do the planning, your budget, and what you want date nights to look like. Perhaps you take turns rotating weeks to plan activities the other spouse would especially enjoy. Or maybe you take a date night to brainstorm fun ideas and save them in a jar to pull from later. Dates don't have to be expensive or extravagant. Go to coffee. Drive around town looking at pretty houses. Go to the park or take a bike ride. If you have young children and can't afford a sitter, wait until the kids go to bed and spend 20 minutes sitting on the porch instead of running that 2<sup>nd</sup> load of laundry. The important part is investing in your relationship together.
  3. **Make it a priority.** Competing events are going to spring up. Be flexible and mix schedules around as you need to, but keep this one-on-one quality time as a priority. You owe it to yourself and to your relationship to keep dating your husband.