

A lot of time among people considering ordination or religious life, you hear tossed around the phrase “discerning God’s will.” It’s over-used, if you ask me. People can get caught up treating God as if He’s some sort of Magic 8-Ball, or the Horoscope page in the newspaper.

In today’s Gospel Jesus tell His disciples, and us as well:

*For this is the will of my Father,
that everyone who ... believes in [the Son]
may have eternal life,
and I shall raise him on the last day.*

That’s pretty simple, don’t you think?

In today’s world there are all sorts of things to get addicted to ... and I won’t enumerate. There are all sorts of distractions which make all sorts of excuses for why people ignore their relationship with God.

But, the simple answer is: God wants everyone to have eternal life. The problem isn’t with figuring out God’s will. Rather, the disconnect is with our own wills.

The proper disposition isn’t to “discern God’s will.” Instead, we should be praying for the docility and the perseverance to abide in God’s will. When we have conquered our own wills ... and allowed God to break through our own will-full-ness ... we then can embrace a will-ing-ness to live in God’s will ... which for “*everyone who ... believes*” is to “*have eternal life*”.

As we approach this altar to receive the Bread of Life ... Jesus Christ ... Body and Blood ... Soul and Divinity ... let us pray for this openness to God’s will ... this will-ing-ness to abide in the will of God. Let’s not play guessing games with God as if we don’t really know what He wants. Jesus has told us what God wants. Let us pray for the docility to accept and the perseverance to remain ... in God’s holy will.