

Once when I was greatly concerned about determining the next step in my life I asked Dr. Torrey how to determine the will of God. He referred me to an article in one of his books and I read it with great interest. In it he said that the most important element in determining God's will is to make absolutely sure that one is seeking only the glory of God and not his own advancement or advantage. Dr. Torrey described an important turning point in his own career. After being engaged for a number of years in a very effective type of Christian work he was invited to assume a position of leadership in quite a different activity. Before deciding he went aside for three days and devoted himself to making absolutely certain that his own personal desires, feelings or attitudes would not be a deciding factor but that his decision would be made solely on the basis of deciding what would most effectively promote the glory of God and the advancement of the Gospel. At the end of that time of soul searching he was able to see clearly that it was God's will for him to make this vital move.

Another important influence in my life came through Dr. Robert Dick Wilson under whom I was privileged to study at Princeton. As a young man Professor Wilson had seen the increasing effects of the higher criticism of the Old Testament and had decided to devote his life to examining and presenting the evidences for the truth of this portion of God's Word. Dr. Wilson's careful scholarship, his deep piety, his devotion to the work of Christ, and his great care in examining facts and drawing from them only the conclusions that were warranted helped to focus my interest in the directions that I subsequently followed.

The third greatest personal influence was Dr. J. Gresham Machen who was as fine a scholar as anyone in the Princeton faculty but who, unlike most of them, was an excellent teacher as well as a very able researcher. He was also unusually gifted as a writer. His textbook for the study of New Testament Greek is so outstanding that it was adopted in the divinity schools of Harvard and Yale, though most of the professors in those schools had no use for the views that Princeton Seminary was then upholding.