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MY CHILD'S ACTION DOES NOT LINE UP WITH MY UNDERSTANDING OF GOD'S WILL FOR HIS OR HER LIFE.

Jeremiah 29:11 - For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.

When our children are young, we consistently ask them what they want to be when they grow up. Some will say I want to be a doctor, nurse, chef or police. As our children get older, they usually determine what their real pursuit will be. As a parent, we do everything we can to help them prepare for that chosen profession. We make sure they take the right courses in school, enroll them in right school clubs and organizations and introduce them to the right people to ensure they are on the right path to success. Other children will not know what they want for a career, or some trauma or poor choice of action will happen that will deter them in the pursuit of becoming self-sufficient and successful (right now).

NONE OF THIS HAS CAUGHT GOD BY SURPRISE!

Proverbs 22:6 - Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old, he will not depart from it

As for the rebellious child, he or she may use the gift of free will unwisely. Yes, you have deposited the gift of wisdom and it appears that your child (adult or older teen) just insist on making poor choices. Love is not the issue! Yes, it's hard but we must allow the HOLY SPIRIT to do his job. GOD has NO Grandchildren.

So, what do you do? Trust in the Lord and keep the faith.

Understand his or her choices are not about you, although it feels personal, because it goes against our understanding of God's will for their life, and as parents we want the best for our child. We also think we KNOW what is best for them!

One of the best lessons in life, is allowing one to live their choices!

Allowing for natural consequences, for actions either positive or negative, is one of the best teachers of life. For example, if he or she don't go to work you have no money. Going into a

long negative rant about not going to work and you still give them the money will not allow them to grow. If they go to school and get a degree then a good job with good pay is the reward!

When things get better DO NOT keep reminding them of their mistakes!

Proverbs 12:18 - The words of the reckless pierce like swords, but the tongue of the wise brings healing.

Our emotions might come into play for all of our child's actions - the cost of your concerns, finances, energy, sleepless nights and frustrations. We might be tempted to remind them of their actions but the bible says in Ephesians 4:31-32 - Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.

Remember, this not about you. God has the plan for his or her life and it is a good one. Sometimes we must accept God's will and his acceptance of the free will of our children.