

# Quote of Bernhard Rothmann – Know and Do God’s Will

Whoever believes, comes to the right understanding. He will grasp God’s will through faith and carry it out in deed ... Thus God has restored the Scriptures among us. In them his will is abundantly known to us and we will adhere to them alone. And if we, with constant diligence, earnestly do what we understand we will daily be taught further by God

## Historical Context

The Anabaptists believed that it was possible to know and do God’s will. Three conversation partners – Scripture, the Christian community, and the Holy Spirit – were required participants in any decision-making process.

Today it is hard to comprehend what a revolutionary practice it was for discernment to belong to laypeople as well as to the clergy. Believing that simple, unlearned people could understand and interpret God’s Word, the Anabaptists were not willing to surrender the responsibility of biblical interpretation to scholars or church authorities alone. The prerequisite for faithful interpretation was the same for all people – the fear of the Lord, which is the beginning of wisdom. In 1534, Bernhard Rothmann, a theologian, wrote [the above words].

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