



"What is God's will for me?" "Does God have a plan for my life?" I have asked these questions of myself many times. I have also offered a listening ear to many people of all ages who genuinely want "an answer", "the answer" to both questions.

I have a short story that may offer some guidance as you answer these questions for yourself. Recently, I shared this story *again* with my family while we were playing a game of Hearts. This story speaks for itself; you really don't have to interpret it. Oh, boy, did the conversation flow! This story is not the one and only answer to the questions, but it always has provided me grounding in realistic faith.

I was in my late teens attending a Lutheran Church service when the pastor of the church gave a sermon on those two questions:

Life is kind of like entering a 5-card poker game in which only 2 cards can be traded for better cards so that you maximize your position. So, you can choose to trade in 2 cards or not. The other 3 remain a part of your hand. And, what matters after that trading decision in the game of life is, "how you play your hand."

This is practicing realistic faith. It's an acceptance of reality and the "how you play your hand" is the on-going invitation to invite God into the "how."



So, grab a deck of cards and start a conversation!