

ARE YOU IN the WILL of GOD?

"The humble He guides in justice, and the humble He teaches His way. All the paths of the Lord are mercy and truth, to such as keep His Covenant and His testimonies." Psalm 25:9-10

Most people, when they think of the will of God, are thinking in terms of who is the best person to marry, what is the best career to go into, and where to move. However, the will of God is concerned with far more than marriage and career guidance.

Vocation and Location

God gives the very best to those who leave the choice to Him. Vocation and location become clear when we are studying God's Word and following His instructions. **The will of God will never lead you where the grace the God cannot keep you.** Where God guides, He provides.

However, the question is: **am I humble and teachable?**

"Teach me to do Your will, for You are my God. Your Spirit is good. Lead me in the land of uprightness." Psalm 143:10

Repent and Obey

Much of present-day counselling involves dealing with people who basically (although they won't put it in these words) have a problem and want help - without them needing to repent of their sins or obey the Bible!

What Does the Bible Teach?

If most people only want to know what the Bible teaches on any given issue, counselling would not take much time. *"What does the Bible say about...?"* The pastor/counsellor would then read the relevant passages of Scripture and apply it to their situation. They would then be able to say: *"Thank you very much. Let me go and do that."* Biblical counselling with humble and teachable Christians would not be very time consuming, or complicated.

Sin Complicates Everything

However, it is human sinfulness and double-dealing scheming that complicates counselling and makes it so time consuming, as we seek to justify our chosen path of disobedience and manipulate the facts, in order to obtain someone's approval for violating Scripture and disobeying God.

God Will Never Lead You to Disobey Scripture

If the Bible forbids it, do not bother praying about it. God will not lead you to disobey His commands in Scripture. Cheating, stealing, gossiping, committing adultery and suing other Christians are forbidden in Scripture.

"Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path." Psalm 119:105

To Know God and to Make Him Known

God guides us first and foremost through His Word. The best way to know the will of God is to study the Word of God. We need to know the Word of God and we need to know the God of the Word. The main thing is to keep the main thing the main thing. The main thing is to know God and to make Him known. His Great Commission must be my supreme ambition.

"But seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you." Matthew 6:33

First Things First

When we get our priorities straight, first things first, everything tends to follow from that. We need to sincerely pray: ***"Your Kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in Heaven."*** Matthew 6:10

"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work." 2 Timothy 3:16-17

Not Conformed but Transformed

It is our priority to ensure that we are not conformed to this world, but transformed by the renewing of our minds, then we will be able to prove what is the good and acceptable and perfect will of God (Romans 12:2). ***"I delight to do Your will, O my God, and Your Law is within my heart."*** Psalm 40:8

"The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord, and He delights in his way. Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down; for the Lord upholds him with His hand." Psalm 27:23-24

The Adventure of Discipleship

To be guided by the Lord, we need to be following Him. Have you turned away from this world in order to follow Christ? Have you repented of your sins, taken up your cross and embarked upon this adventure of discipleship, following the teachings and examples of Christ alone?

"For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example that you should follow His steps." 1 Peter 2:21

We need to ask ourselves **what did Jesus do? What did Jesus say?**

Hyper Spiritual Deception

However, we have sometimes come across people who are so super-spiritual that they tell you ***"I won't do anything unless God guides me. I told the Lord that I would go anywhere He sends me, and I will do anything He tells me. But God hasn't guided me!"*** What they do not say, but which is plainly observable, is that because they have been so super-spiritual they have been wasting their time idly playing computer games and watching TV!

Inactivity is Not Spiritual

These individuals do not seek God's guidance to go and buy, or eat food, or to have a bath, haircut or go to the dentist. However when it comes to spiritual work, they think that inactivity is spiritual!

Transformed by the Renewing of our Mind

The best way to know what God's will is, is to study His Word, to have our mind renewed by the Word of God. It is when we are taught, rebuked, corrected and trained in righteousness through the Word of God that we become thoroughly equipped for every good work. Then we are able to test and discern what is the good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

"Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly, in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in Psalms and Hymns and in spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the Name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him." Colossians 3:16-17

This is God's Will for You

The will of God is no mystery for us to discover. He has made His will abundantly clear in the Bible.

"For this is the will of God, your sanctification; that you should abstain from sexual immorality... for God did not call us to uncleanness, but in holiness." 1 Thessalonians 4:3,7

Those people who say they want to know what God's will is, this is God's will: ***"Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."*** 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Joyful, Prayerful, Thankful

It is God's will that you be joyful, prayerful and thankful.

Wholehearted

It is God's will that you be wholehearted: ***"And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men."*** Colossians 3:23

"Delight yourself also in the Lord, and He shall give you the desires of your heart. Commit your way to the Lord, trust also in Him, and He shall bring it to pass." Psalm 37:4-5

Delight in the Lord

When we are Bible-based and Christ-centred, we will find that we are Spirit-led. When we delight ourselves in the Lord, He will give us the desires of our heart.

"However, when He, the Spirit of Truth, has come, He will guide you into all Truth." John 16:13

"I will bring the blind by a way they did not know; I will lead them in paths they have not known. I will make darkness light before them, and crooked places straight. These things I will do for them and not forsake them." Isaiah 42:16

"Your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, this is the way, walk in it, whenever you turn to the right hand or whether you turn to the left." Isaiah 30:21

The Fear of the Lord is the Beginning of Wisdom

To know the will of God we need know the Word of God. We need the wisdom of God. The Bible is clear that the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom (Proverbs 1:7). The Scripture tells us that if any of us lacks wisdom, we should ask God who gives generously to all (James 1:5).

Because They Hated Knowledge

No one should expect to gain an understanding of the will of God if they spurn the Word of God. ***"Then they will call on Me, but I will not answer; they will seek Me diligently, but they will not find Me. Because they hated knowledge and did not choose the fear of the Lord. They would have none of My counsel and despised My every rebuke. Therefore they shall eat the fruit of their own way and be filled to the full with their own fancies. For the turning away of the simple will slay them, and the complacency of fools will destroy them; but whoever listens to Me will dwell safely and will be secure without fear of evil."*** Proverbs 1:28-33

Do You Love God?

Before we should even begin considering guidance questions of vocation, location and marriage partner, we should ensure that we are right with God. Jesus taught: ***"If anyone loves Me, he will obey My teaching..."*** John 14:23

Repentance

Carefully read The Ten Commandments. ***"The Law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul."*** Psalm 19:7

"But he who looks into the perfect Law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the Word, this one will be blessed in what he does." James 1:25

Restitution

Is there Restitution that you need to do? Have you ever stolen anything, or borrowed something and failed to return it? If you have not yet done Restitution for that, make that an urgent priority. Restore that property to its rightful owner.

Restoration

Have you been responsible for damaging someone else's property? Have you repaired, or replaced the item?

Reconciliation

Have you been guilty of speaking behind someone's back? Have you repented of this and made right with that individual?

"And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever." 1 John 2:17

Putting Feet to Your Faith

If you are concerned to do God's will, ensure that you apologise to everyone that you owe an apology. Forgive those who have despitely used you. Leave your gift at the altar and go and be reconciled to your brother before you come to worship God. This is the will of God that you love God with all of your heart, soul, mind and strength and that you love your neighbour as yourself. It is God's will that you do unto others what you would want them to do unto you.

You Are Your Own Worst Enemy

You see, those who seem to think that the will of God is primarily concerned about vocation, location and selection of marriage partner, miss the point. We are our own worst enemy. If we are not right with God it doesn't matter where we are, or what we are doing, or to whom we are married. We will take our problems with us.

Led by God - But Rebellious

Exhibit A to prove this point is seen in the Book of Exodus. The children of Israel had been led of the Lord through the Red Sea and through the Wilderness. A Pillar of Cloud led them by day and a Pillar of Fire by night. God's presence was plainly leading them, yet they were ungrateful, grumbling and rebellious. Being led by the Lord apparently had not changed their sinful, selfish nature.

Have You Knelt at the Cross?

However, if we have come to the foot of the Cross, surrendered to Christ and forsaken our sin, if we are diligently studying God's Word daily, delighting ourselves in the Lord, seeking first His Kingdom and His righteousness, then we will be a blessing, wherever we are. We will also be

more responsive and open to understanding God's will and recognizing His guidance as to the **where**, the **when**, the **who** and the **how**.

Take Up Your Cross and Follow Christ

We need to put first things first. When you are humble and teachable, prayerful, joyful and thankful, wholeheartedly following in the teachings and example of Christ, then you will find the reality of what the Psalmist declared: ***"I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go. I will guide you with My eye."*** Psalm 32:8. God works all things together ***"for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose."*** Romans 8:28

God gives the very best to those who leave the choice to Him. You can know the peace that passes all understanding and experience the joy of being in the centre of God's will. ***"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him and He shall direct your paths. Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord and depart from evil. It will be health to your flesh and strength to your bones."*** Proverbs 3:6-7

"Being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the Day of Christ Jesus." Philippians 1:6

"That Christ may dwell in your hearts through Faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend, with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height - to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, to Him be glory in the Church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen." Ephesians 3:17-21

"Now may the God of peace who brought up our Lord Jesus from the dead, that great Shepherd of the sheep, through the Blood of the everlasting Covenant, make you complete in every good work to do His will, working in you what is well pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen." Hebrews 13:20-21

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