

GOD'S WILL *How To Find It & Follow It*

THE PASSAGE

Colossians 1:9-14

EXPLORING OFF THE MAP: *Three Things You Need To Know About God's Will*

- (1) God's will is more like a **GAME PLAN** than a **BLUE PRINT**.
Acts 13:1-4 & 16:6-10 1 Corinthians 16:5-8

- (2) **HOW** we live is far more important than **WHERE** we live.
 - ✓ Learn & follow the "**House Rules**."
Psalm 119:105 2 Timothy 3:16-17 2 Peter 1:5-9 Proverbs 12:15

 - ✓ Then do your **Best**, and take a **Nap**.
Proverbs 16:2-3 Matthew 22:36-40 Colossians 3:17

- (3) God's will is often like an old-school **POLAROID** picture.
 - ✓ If we follow **Today's Instructions**, we'll get **Tomorrow's Instructions**.
Proverbs 4:18 Genesis 12:1-25:8

 - ✓ God's will has both a **What** and a **When**.
Acts 7:20-36 Proverbs 19:3

 - ✓ A **Valley** doesn't mean a **Wrong Turn**.
Mark 4:3-41 Exodus 14:1-31 Psalm 23:1-6 2 Corinthians 7:5-7
Exodus 4:21 & 23:27-30 Judges 1:19 Psalm 34:19 2 Timothy 4:16-18

Growth Group Homework

For the week of October 16, 2016

QUICK REVIEW

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

MY STORY

1. Can you think of a time when you thought you had a good idea of what God's will was for your life (or someone else's life), only to discover later that he had something very different in mind?

2. Since God is all-knowing and all-loving, you would think we would choose to follow his will all the time but we don't. What are some reasons so many people do this?

DIGGING DEEPER

1. Figuring out God's will for our lives involves continually checking three major components – the Bible, wise counsel of others, and the inner promptings of the Holy Spirit. Below are some verses that shed additional light on each of these components. What do you learn from these passages about the role each of these elements plays in helping us determine God's will?

The Bible:

Psalm 119: 9-11, 59-61, 97-100, 105, 165 *New International Version (NIV)*

⁹ How can a young person stay on the path of purity?

By living according to your word.

¹⁰ I seek you with all my heart;
do not let me stray from your commands.

¹¹ I have hidden your word in my heart
that I might not sin against you.

⁵⁹ I have considered my ways
and have turned my steps to your statutes.

⁶⁰ I will hasten and not delay
to obey your commands.

⁶¹ Though the wicked bind me with ropes,
I will not forget your law.

⁹⁷ Oh, how I love your law!
I meditate on it all day long.

⁹⁸ Your commands are always with me
and make me wiser than my enemies.

⁹⁹ I have more insight than all my teachers,
for I meditate on your statutes.

¹⁰⁰ I have more understanding than the elders,
for I obey your precepts.

¹⁰⁵ Your word is a lamp for my feet,
a light on my path.

¹⁶⁵ Great peace have those who love your law,
and nothing can make them stumble.

Wise Counsel:

Proverbs 12:15 *New International Version (NIV)*

¹⁵ The way of fools seems right to them,
but the wise listen to advice.

Proverbs 13:10 *New International Version (NIV)*

¹⁰ Where there is strife, there is pride,
but wisdom is found in those who take advice.

Proverbs 15:22 *New International Version (NIV)*

²² Plans fail for lack of counsel,
but with many advisers they succeed.

The Inner Promptings of the Holy Spirit:

Acts 20:22-23 *New International Version (NIV)*

²² "And now, compelled by the Spirit, I am going to Jerusalem, not knowing what will happen to me there. ²³ I only know that in every city the Holy Spirit warns me that prison and hardships are facing me.

John 16:12-14 *New International Version (NIV)*

¹² "I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear. ¹³ But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. ¹⁴ He will glorify me because it is from me that he will receive what he will make known to you.

Can you think of an example of a specific time in your life when each of these elements has helped you to discern God's will?

What would you say or do if a friend continued to maintain that God was leading him down a path that you thought was contrary to Scripture and your wise counsel?

2. Many of the books in the New Testament were letters Paul wrote to churches that he had started. In these letters he included a number of his prayers for the church and its members. From these prayers we can get great insight into what God's will and desire is for our lives. As you read each passage, jot down what stands out to you most about what Paul prays for and how he wants us to live.

Ephesians 1:15-23 *New International Version (NIV)*

Thanksgiving and Prayer

¹⁵ For this reason, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all God's people, ¹⁶ I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers. ¹⁷ I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. ¹⁸ I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people, ¹⁹ and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is the same as the mighty strength ²⁰ he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, ²¹ far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every name that is invoked, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. ²² And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, ²³ which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.

Philippians 1:9-11 *New International Version (NIV)*

⁹ And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, ¹⁰ so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, ¹¹ filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ—to the glory and praise of God.

2 Thessalonians 1:11-12 *New International Version (NIV)*

¹¹ With this in mind, we constantly pray for you, that our God may make you worthy of his calling, and that by his power he may bring to fruition your every desire for goodness and your every deed prompted by faith. ¹² We pray this so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Which of the things Paul prayed for would you most like others to pray for you to have or experience?

3. God's will often unfolds very differently than we expect so we miss what he wants to do in our lives. One example of this is found in 2 Kings 5:1-15. After reading the story, answer the questions below.

2 Kings 5:1-15 *New International Version (NIV)*

Naaman Healed of Leprosy

¹ Now Naaman was commander of the army of the king of Aram. He was a great man in the sight of his master and highly regarded, because through him the LORD had given victory to Aram. He was a valiant soldier, but he had leprosy.

² Now bands of raiders from Aram had gone out and had taken captive a young girl from Israel, and she served Naaman's wife. ³ She said to her mistress, "If only my master would see the prophet who is in Samaria! He would cure him of his leprosy."

⁴ Naaman went to his master and told him what the girl from Israel had said. ⁵ "By all means, go," the king of Aram replied. "I will send a letter to the king of Israel." So Naaman left, taking with him ten talents of silver, six thousand shekels of gold and ten sets of clothing. ⁶ The letter that he took to the king of Israel read: "With this letter I am sending my servant Naaman to you so that you may cure him of his leprosy."

⁷ As soon as the king of Israel read the letter, he tore his robes and said, "Am I God? Can I kill and bring back to life? Why does this fellow send someone to me to be cured of his leprosy? See how he is trying to pick a quarrel with me!"

⁸ When Elisha the man of God heard that the king of Israel had torn his robes, he sent him this message: "Why have you torn your robes? Have the man come to me and he will know that there is a prophet in Israel."⁹ So Naaman went with his horses and chariots and stopped at the door of Elisha's house. ¹⁰ Elisha sent a messenger to say to him, "Go, wash yourself seven times in the Jordan, and your flesh will be restored and you will be cleansed."

¹¹ But Naaman went away angry and said, "I thought that he would surely come out to me and stand and call on the name of the LORD his God, wave his hand over the spot and cure me of my leprosy. ¹² Are not Abana and Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Couldn't I wash in them and be cleansed?" So he turned and went off in a rage.

¹³ Naaman's servants went to him and said, "My father, if the prophet had told you to do some great thing, would you not have done it? How much more, then, when he tells you, 'Wash and be cleansed!'" ¹⁴ So he went down and dipped himself in the Jordan seven times, as the man of God had told him, and his flesh was restored and became clean like that of a young boy.

¹⁵ Then Naaman and all his attendants went back to the man of God. He stood before him and said, "Now I know that there is no God in all the world except in Israel. So please accept a gift from your servant."

What can you learn about our expectations of what God's will is from this story?

Like Naaman, we can get mad when God's will is different from what we want or expect. Why do you think this is so often our response?

TAKING IT HOME

1. As you look at what's going on in your life right now, can you think of any situations where you are seeking to figure out God's will? What steps have you taken to figure it out?

2. Looking back on this week's teaching and homework, what's most important for you to remember?

Prayer Requests:



REAL MAN WEEKEND – “The Palomar Experience”- Oct. 28-30

Lookin' for some crazy guy stuff to do? Want to kick back or get refocused on God? Join us for another epic man's weekend that will get you recharged and refreshed as a man following God. The weekend will also include plenty of man event options like paintball, high ropes course, skeet shooting, archery, zipline, horseback riding, etc. Space is limited so don't delay! Register online at:

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