

The Godly Man as Christ's Representative

Finding God's Will

Most all Christians have a keen interest in knowing God's will for their lives. Many earnestly and prayerfully desire to know His will in order to do it. Others only have a curious interest so they can compare it with their own will.

Often my wife and I are involved in seminars and conferences where the people have a number of workshops from which they may choose the 2 or 3 they wish to attend. We have observed that whenever a workshop on, "How to Know God's Will for Your Life", is offered, it consistently has one of the highest attendances.

It is very likely someone in your class is even now attempting to discern God's will in some area. Teacher, pray earnestly that God will use this lesson in a very significant way to give direction and guidance to all who are seeking His will now in some matter. Pray that it will put into each one's hands the necessary tools to clearly discern His will anytime.

A. Object Of The Lesson

1. To provide the class with tools to help them determine God's will for their lives - in large and small decisions.
2. To help bring them to a willingness to do His will.

B. Discussion Questions

1. What do you think of the statement "God's Will is never in opposition to His Word"? (This gives us tremendous guidance because we are great rationalizers. If there is something we want and especially if we are already emotionally involved, it is extremely easy to convince ourselves it must be "God's will"! However, if it is in any way in opposition to His Word, we have a clear answer.)
2. Why is it important that we know God's will? (We can't do God's will unless we know it.)
3. Why is it important that we do God's will? (There is no other way to please God. There is no other way to be fulfilled and happy ourselves. These are two great motivators: It pleases God, and it is best for us.)
4. Who can know God's general, revealed will in the Word? (Anyone who hears or reads the Word can know His general will for all. e.g. The 10 Commandments, for all to be saved (I Timothy 2:4), to be pure and holy, free of sexual sin, (I Thessalonians 4:3), to give thanks in everything (I Thessalonians 5:18), etc.)
5. Who can know God's specific will for their lives? (Only those whose purpose and desire it is to do it. He does not reveal His will that we may consider it, or compare it with our own. He reveals it only that we may do it. John 7:17; Psalm 119:173)
6. What are the ways God leads us and reveals His will to us? (Through His Word,

circumstances, inner peace, and Godly counsel)

7. What do you think is significant about Abraham's servant's statement, "I being in the way, the Lord led me?" (He was moving instead of sitting still. A moving ship is much easier to guide than one sitting still with the motors turned off. This does not indicate moving with haste or running off in "eleven different directions". What it does mean is doing everything you know to determine God's will - e.g. taking each of the steps listed on page 45 and 46.)

8. What are some prerequisites for knowing God's will that you can think of?

9. Can you share a time when you prayerfully sought God's will and tell us how He led you to know what His will was?

10. Can you share an instance where you didn't seek God's will but chose to follow your own desires and what was the result?

11. From the following verses describe what God's will is like. Romans 12:2; Deuteronomy 5:29; Isaiah 48:17,18.

12. What has God promised concerning His will? (Psalm 32:8,9; Isaiah 30:21)

13. Describe the kind of person you would go to for counsel on the will of God.

14. What is the value of listing advantages and disadvantages?

15. One of the things we sometime find hard to accept is that it might be His will for us to suffer. What reasons can you think of why it could be God's will that we suffer?

A. To refine us. Isaiah 48:10

B. For His sake. Matthew 5:11,12

C. Discipline. Proverbs 5:23 (RSV) Matthew 10:22; Philippians 1:29

D. To be able to help others. II Corinthians 1:3,4

E. To humble us. II Corinthians 12:7

F. To remind us of our helplessness. John 15:5

G. To make us trust Him. II Corinthians 1:9

H. To release us from sin's power. I Peter 4:1

I. Jesus did. Hebrews 2:18

J. To teach us obedience. Hebrews 5:8

K. For sin. Jeremiah 17:9

L. Helps us commit ourselves to God. Luke 23:46

M. Can bring peace and mercy. Galatians 6:12-14

N. For testing. Revelation 2:10

O. For chastisement. Revelation 3:19

C. Suggestions For Conclusion

1. Ask the men to share some blessing from this study; perhaps a specific way God has used it to help them determine and do God's will.

2. You might encourage them to write out the principles for determining right and

wrong in the form of the following questions, which they could keep as a handy guide when in doubt:

- a. Does the Bible speak against it?
- b. Could it hurt my body?
- c. Could it hurt my mind?
- d. Could it hurt or cause another to stumble?
- e. Will it glorify God?

(Teacher: To glorify means "To enhance the reputation of")

3. You might wish to share one of the following poems in closing:

GOD'S NO

God's "no" means "Something better"
I can trust Him with my all.
The God who formed the universe
Attendeth when I call;
And when in love and wisdom
He withholds my heart's request
His "no" means "something better".
He will give me what is best.

God's "wait a while" bring blessings
That His "right away's" withhold.
When He's tried me in the fire
I shall come forth as gold.
Oh what peace it brings in sorrow,
And what comfort fills my breast
Just to know, whate'er His answer
He will give me what is best.

Barbara C. Ryberg

His Way

So often we thoughtfully and carefully plan the thing
we are going to do.

We weigh every balance and choose out the best,
our motives well-meaning and true.

But then something happens to alter our plan, and we worry
'Now what shall I do?'

Then God lays another plan down in its place and says,
"My Way is best for you."

If only when things are not just as we'd planned,
we'd look up through each trial and test,

We'd find God's higher ways, ways past finding out,
we'd find "His way is best."

God help us to dash every teardrop away, remembering
what might have been true,

And smile as we think of your wonderful words,
"My Way is best for you."

Step By Step

He does not lead me year by year
Nor even day by day.
But step by step my path unfolds;
My Lord directs my way.

Tomorrow's plans I do not know,
I only know this minute;
But He will say, "This is the Way
By faith now walk ye in it."

And I am glad that it is so.
Today's enough to bear;
And when tomorrow comes,
His grace Shall far exceed its care.

What need to worry then, or fret?
The God who gave His Son
Holds all my moments in His Hand
And gives them, one by one.

Barbara C. Ryberg

D. Additional Scriptures

Acts 24:16; 22:14 (LB) ; Psalm 40:8, 119:105, 143: 10; Ephesians 6:6; John 1:13; I John 2:17;
James 4:15; Mk 3:35; Matt 6:33; I Thessalonians 4:3,5,18; Philippians 2:3,4; I Corinthians
3:16; Proverbs 3:5,6.

E. Possible Projects

1. If you or your wife have any major decisions coming up in the next year, begin now to pray about it. Review often the Procedure for Discovering God's Will to make sure you are in a position to be led of God and to discern His will. Begin keeping a list of any Scriptures or evidences of God's leading in the matter.
2. If you are right now faced with a decision or problem in which you need to know God's will, determine this week to prayerfully work through each step given in the Procedure For Discovering God's Will.

F. Extra Helps

How to Know the Will of God for Your Life by William Orr, Scripture Press
Audio 1238 - "Knowing God's Will"
Audio 68 - "The Will of God and the Word of God."