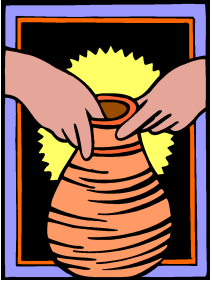


9 THE WILL OF GOD



Romans 9:21 Hath not the potter power over the clay, of the same lump to make one vessel unto honour, and another unto dishonour?

A famous preacher once said that a successful Christian is he or she that finds out what God wants one to accomplish with his or her life and then fulfills it. That is a very profound statement. The true measure of a Christian's success is not one's social status, bank account, influence, or fame. It is simply doing what God says to do.

The purpose of this lesson is to give the believer a clear understanding of what the will of God is, as revealed in the Bible, so that he or she can begin to accomplish those things God would have the Christian accomplish.

I. What Is The Will of God For His Life In Me?

- A. Many people, including Christians, often ask or wonder about such questions in life as what should I do when I grow up, who should I marry, where should I live, etc...
 - 1. These are important questions, and as a Christian, it important to have God's input in the decision making process concerning these matters.
- B. But how can you know what God wants for your life? This is not an unreasonable or foolish question, for as Christians we realize that we are not our own, but are bought with a price **1Corinthians 6:19**.
 - 1. God created us for a purpose and that purpose is found in Revelations 4:11 Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.
- C. There is, however, a difference between what God's will is and what His plan is for the life God has given you.
 - 1. God's will is the same for every man, but His plan for each individual differs.
 - 2. God is infinitely more interested in your being the person He wants you to be than in your doing for Him all the "mighty works." Focus on what He wants you to be, and He will show you what it is He wants you to do.

II. God's Clearly Revealed Will is found in His Word, the Bible.

- A. God's will is no mystery. It is not something we have to wonder about; it is clearly revealed in the Bible, and He wants us to understand what the will of the Lord is **Ephesians 5:17**
- B. God's will is:
 - 1. That all men be saved – **2 Peter 3:9, Acts 17:30, 1Timothy 2:4**.

2. Not only that all men be saved, but that all men should be Spirit filled, that is yielded and controlled by the Holy Spirit – **Ephesians 5:17-20**
3. That we be thankful in all things – **Ephesians 5:20; 1Thessalonians 5:18**. Closely associated with being filled with the Holy Ghost is thankfulness.
4. That we be sanctified, that is set apart for holy purposes **1Thessalonians 4:1-7**. We are not to be conformed to this world, but transformed by the renewing of our minds **Romans 12:1-2**.
 - a. When we live holy, sanctified lives, we are separated from evil – **2Corinthians 6:16-18, 1Thessalonians 5:22**.
5. That we be submissive servants – Ephesians 6:5-8, 2Corinthians 8:3-5, 1Peter 2:13-15.
 - a. For we are to serve God and then man from our hearts with pure motives. The Bible instructs us to be careful to maintain good works for necessary uses that we may be profitable, fruitful, and able to put to silence the ignorance of foolish men – **Titus 3:8, 14, 1Peter 2:15**.
6. That we sometimes suffer – **1Peter 2:15; 3:17; 4:19**
7. That we be ultimately conformed to the image of His dear Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. **Romans 8:28-29, John 17:20-23, Ephesians 4:13-15**

III. God's Will in Principle, or His Plan for Your Life.

- A. God has clearly revealed through His written revelation, the Bible, what He desires for each of His creatures. But wait a minute, that doesn't help us determine whether we should buy that car, or take this job? What is God's will and plan concerning these things?
 1. You will never find the will of God or His plan outside of the word of God. You find God's will and plan by renewing your mind – **Romans 12:1-2, Philippians 2:5, 2Corinthians 10:5**.
 2. You must be in conformity to the clearly revealed will of God before He will reveal His plan to you. Your priority should be to fulfill the general will of God in your daily life and then trust Him to guide you in the detailed plans.
 3. The question then comes; how does God reveal His will concerning these things to the seeking individual?
 4. Sometimes God reveals His will through opportunities, circumstances, the wishes of parents, the advice of friends, the evaluation of one's own abilities, personal inclinations, the needs of the day and conscience.
- B. Three things of God's will and plan are true:
 1. The Word of God directs.
 - a. God often guides through verses of Scripture that speak loudly to you.
 - i. Be cautious; don't just open the Bible, close your eyes, and point to a verse at random. God is a God of order.
 - ii. Saturate yourself with the word of God that the Lord can bring various portions of Scripture to your mind.
 - b. God's will never contradicts His word, therefore know your Bible. - **Psalms 1:1-3; 119:105, Joshua 1:8, 9**.
 2. Our inner conviction agrees.
 - a. God has given us His Holy Spirit to guide us, and He bears witness with our spirit that a certain course of action is right or wrong - **John 16:13, Acts 13:2, Romans 8:16**.
 - b. Again be cautious; is the voice you hear the voice of your own desires, or is it indeed the voice of God? **Jeremiah 17:9, Psalms 37:4**
 3. The circumstances permit.

- a. God opens and closes doors of opportunity.
 - b. Nothing happens to the child of God by chance - **Romans 8:28**.
 - c. As road signs serve as guideposts in our travels, we accept circumstances as guideposts in the direction of God's leading.
 - d. Caution: God on occasion allows Satan to control circumstances, as in the case with Job (See Job 1 & 2).
4. F. B Meyer said; "When the word of God, the impulse of the Holy Spirit in my heart, and the outward circumstances agree in harmony, then I am convinced that I am acting in accordance with the will of God."
 5. My desires may be my own and not God's, and so I can't fully trust my desires; the circumstances may be dismal or contrived by my adversary the Devil, and so I don't want to blindly follow opened or closed doors; but "Thy word is truth" **John 17:17**. There I must ultimately place my trust. **Luke 5:5**

**IV. In Summary, the Lord Jesus Christ Laid Down a Principle That Should Govern All Our Life -
Mathew 6:33**

- A. First, seek God's kingdom and righteousness, fulfilling His will that is clearly revealed in the Scriptures.
- B. Then follow by faith His word - **Proverbs 3: 5-6, Psalms 37:1-5**.