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Series: God's Will

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FINDING HIS WILL

Hi...now imagine you are boating on the ocean. It's a nice, calm, beautiful day. You have a peaceful relationship with God through Jesus Christ. You are studying His Word daily. You are applying the Bible to your life, in every area of your life. As you navigate, you remain connected to Him. Those are all important things to focus on.

Now, what's next as your sail is up and you're wondering where to turn. Which way will you go? What will you do next?

Maybe you're wondering what God's will is regarding a job in your own life. You're questioning what you should do for a job. Maybe you want to become an engineer, missionary, artist, or painter. You have many different options. Maybe it's welding. There are so many different things you could pursue. Maybe you're wondering which college to attend...Gallaudet University...NTID...or a Bible college. Maybe you've met different beautiful Christian women. You're wondering which one you should marry. They're all Christians. Maybe you're wondering whether you should have pizza or steak tonight. You're wondering which one God wants you to eat. There are many big and little things to consider in life that may not have a direct answer in the Bible. The Bible doesn't specifically tell you to become an engineer. So, now we're going to examine how to explore God's will for our lives.

Let's go ahead and watch James 4:13-17, *"Now, listen, you who say, 'Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money.' Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes. Instead, you ought to say, 'If it is the Lord's will, we will live and do this or that.' As it is, you boast and brag. All such boasting is evil. Anyone, then, who knows the good he ought to do and doesn't do it, sins."*

As we've seen, if God's will is this or that, then we should do this or that. It's interesting to think about God's will. I had a friend who had a co-worker. They met me in Los Angeles. We had a discussion, and then they flew back home. Before they left, one of them said, "We'll arrive back home safely, if it is God's will."

I thought about his words...if it is the Lord's will. I guess that means if God wanted them to survive that flight then they would. I thought it was interesting...

Later, I met my wife. At that time, we had not been married yet. I went over to her house to eat with her, and then I left. I told her that I would see her the next day. My wife said...she wasn't my wife yet...anyway, she said, "I'll see you tomorrow, Lord willing."

I thought to myself, "Lord willing...hmm..." I guess that meant if God wanted me to see her the next day, if there wasn't an accident or another plan preventing us from seeing each other, then we would see each other. I thought that was interesting. I realized that this is what the Bible teaches us in James. Really, everything happens as the Lord wills.

It is the same in Acts 18:21. In this verse, Paul met with Jewish people and had a discussion with them. Paul had to leave, get on a boat, and travel. The Jewish people asked Paul to stay. Paul answered that he would return if it were the Lord's will. That meant the future depended on God's plan. It's all about His will. Living life is what happens according to God's will.

Really, my point is our attitude should not be simply living life going through the motions. We should live life depending on His will. Also, as we have seen in the ASL presentation of James, as it talks about our short lives consumed like a fire, our lives on earth are only temporary. Yes, believers have eternal life. However, life on earth is short. It's usually 60 to 120 years. That is really short compared to eternity. So, should we just take it easy? No. We should make wise use of our time. We should seize opportunities to do God's will and accomplish His purpose for His kingdom. Seize opportunities during your short time on life to do His will. Having this attitude is so important.

So, what do we do now? Sit and do nothing? No, of course not. I've talked about our attitudes. Now, I want to talk about "His plan...my steps." God created you. You are special and unique. God made you special. Your personality, your talents, your gifts, your intellect, and your abilities are all unique. God made you the way you are for His purpose. God made us all different. We do not all have the same color hair or similar faces. He made each one of us for His purpose. What is your passion? What is your skill? Whatever your passion or thought, you may use it for His purpose and kingdom.

Proverbs 16:9 says, *"In his heart a man plans his course, but the LORD determines his steps."* Whatever skills you have...whatever goals you have...if you have a desire for something, move by faith and let God lead your steps. As you take steps of faith, maybe God will lead you in a different direction. Or, maybe God will lead you directly. It's important to take steps. One way to take a step is to pray. As you pray, ask God if you should take steps in a particular way. He may confirm the steps to take after you pray.

Another step may involve an opportunity opening or closing. It may be in the form of a letter inviting you to go on a mission trip. Then, you can pray to see if God wants you to go on the trip or not. Or, maybe you receive a job offer. That may be God's will for you. Really, there are different ways that God will show you His will. Sometimes, we may have to make a choice and pray that God will give us peace in making a particular decision.

Another step may be discovering God's will clearly in the Bible. Your future calling may be

revealed to you as you read the Bible. Here's one example. My wife works as a midwife. She delivers babies at home, not in a hospital. Births happen in homes. She has her own business. How did she become a midwife?

Years ago, when she was in college she prayed and sought God's will. She considered her passions. She was already working as a nurse. She became fascinated when there was a workshop on midwifery advertised. She wondered if that might be God's call for her. She read the Bible and Exodus 1:19 got her attention. That verse talks about Hebrew midwives. This verse is part of a story talking about Hebrew midwives. My wife was touched. She envisioned becoming a midwife. Eventually, this was confirmed to her and she proceeded to become a midwife. This happened as a result of reading the Bible and situations in her life coming together to work things out for her.

This is how it may happen in your life...praying, reading Scripture, experiencing life, and seeing how it all comes together, then you will know God's will for you and your future.

Dinner plans for tonight? Steak or pizza? I Corinthians 10:31 says, *"So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God."* It doesn't matter whether you eat steak or pizza. What matters is that if you eat, you do it for His glory. Drink for His glory. Do things for His glory. It's important to have the right attitude in everything we do, everything we eat, and everything we drink; do it all for Him. Thank Him for providing food to eat and things to do. Do it all with the right attitude and glorify Him. That's my third point.

Ok...finding God's will for your life, your calling, and your life's journey depends on:

1. Having a right relationship with Jesus Christ. Experiencing Him through reading the Bible and applying it to your life, and allowing it to transform you. Without a right relationship, you will wander aimlessly in life like a boat going in different directions. With a right relationship, you will navigate well.
2. Having a right attitude, especially living temporarily on earth. There is eternal life, but life on earth is temporary. Seize your time and opportunities for Him. If it is the Lord's will, go ahead and move forward. It's important to have the right attitude because you could die tomorrow or in two weeks. You can't expect everything to happen according to your own desires. Everything happens according to His will. It's important to proceed with a right attitude.
3. Go ahead and trust God by pursuing your passions, desires, and dreams.
4. Let God direct your steps. Depend on Him. Pray as you take each step. Be mindful of situations that arise in your life as indicators of whether God is opening or closing doors. Read God's Word; allow it to confirm His plans for you. Then, continue taking steps.
5. Steak or pizza? It doesn't matter, as long as whatever you eat or drink or do is all done for His glory.

So long.



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