

God's Will in Your Life

A critical question that all Christians should ask themselves is: "What does God want for my life?" If we begin with the end in mind, the Bible tells us that God wants you and me to live with Him forever in His kingdom. If we believe that statement, then there are certain things that God wants us to be thinking and doing today to prepare for this future time. Understanding God's will in our lives is a key ingredient in living a life of faith and service to Him.

As you go through the Bible Study, we encourage you to read each of the verses from your own Bible and even write them down, if you like. It is so important to know what the Word of God says on this topic of God's will, and we encourage you to believe what you read.

1. Whose will did Jesus tell you to follow?

Matthew 6:9-13

Points to Ponder: If you want God's will to be done on earth, you must first desire for His will to be done in your own heart and mind. Is this the motivating factor in your life as it was in Jesus'?

2. How do you know the specifics of God's will?

John 6:38-40

Luke 12:32

Ephesians 1:5

1 Thessalonians 4:1-8

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

1 Peter 2:13-17

2 Timothy 3:14-17

Points to Ponder: Several places in scripture directly state God's will. Perhaps the most encouraging is that He wants you to have eternal life! In what ways are you making time to search out God's will?

3. What is the sacrifice and service that God asks of you?

Romans 12:1-3

Points to Ponder: In what ways do you go about "proving" God's will? How essential is proving God's will to saying "no" to the world's ways and having your mind transformed?

In what ways may you be thinking of yourself more highly/important than you should? How does faith play a part in your understanding of God's will?

4. What does it mean to be conformed to the world?

1 John 2:15-17

Points to Ponder: In what ways do you see yourself conforming to the ways of this world? What is the opposite of the world's ways? What promise is given to those who do God's will?

5. How much greater are God's thoughts, methods and actions than your own?

Isaiah 55:8-9

Points to Ponder: Do you truly believe that God's ways are so much higher and better than your own? This is a difficult scripture for most human beings to swallow, because it's an admission that God's ways are so much more superior to anything that we can think, create or do. Yet, this concept is at the core of Christianity, because it takes humility and faith to believe that this scripture is true.

6. Even though Jesus Christ was God in the flesh and never committed a sin, what did He confess about His own desire versus God the Father's desire?

Mark 14:32-36

Points to Ponder: Jesus prayed for a specific outcome in His life, but was willing to submit to what God our Father knew was best in His life despite what outcome He received. When things don't go your way, do you and will you still trust that God knows what is best for you? In what ways may you be judging God when you don't receive what you want in life?

7. Have you come to the point in life where you will trust God with all your life?

Galatians 2:20

Points to Ponder: Have you counted yourself and your ways as dead in order to live by the faith of the Son of God? Have you come to the point where you can honestly admit that your way of living, apart from God's will, is not the right way (Proverbs 14:12; 16:25)?

8. What happens to the person who seeks to save his own life for himself, who desires to live by

his own way and will?

Mark 8:34-36

Points to Ponder: Are you willing to surrender your own life and give it to God? A temptation you will face in this life is that there are indeed benefits, sometimes real, sometimes perceived, of following your own will rather than God's. The test is: Is it worth it? Is it worth maintaining your own will and lifestyle to gain something in this world only to lose your own life? King David acknowledged several times that the wicked do prosper (e.g., Psalm 37:7), but the end of the wicked is punishment and death.

9. Is everyone who calls Jesus Christ "Lord" truly following Him?

Matthew 7:21-23

Points to Ponder: Is calling on the name of Christ and doing many works in His name the sign of a true follower of Jesus? What is it that makes you one Jesus knows (I John 2:3-6)? It's very sobering to realize that there are many people who profess not only that they know the Lord, but are actually performing works in His name, yet Jesus Christ says that He does not even know them. One of the great deceptions in life is to believe that we can sort of live however we want and that it's OK with God. In effect, many professing Christians believe that there is a broad road that leads to eternal life. This is a lie. Jesus clearly states that we must be doing the will of God.

10. Is knowing God's will enough, or is there more to living in His will?

Matthew 7:24-27

James 1:21-25

Points to Ponder: What steps do you take to make living in God's will a reality after you discover it? It is not enough to know what God's will is for your life, but He requires that one becomes a "doer of the word". When you are transformed from a hearer to a doer of the will of God, you will be blessed. God promises it!

11. What should be our attitude as we seek to know and live by God's will?

Isaiah 66:1-2

Proverbs 3:5-6

Points to Ponder: The key to having God in your life, to having Him direct your steps and

path is to make His will more important than your own. Will you commit to living God's will in your life?

12. Can we rely on God's help if we choose to live according to His will?

1 John 5:14-15

Points to Ponder: God will help you to achieve that which is according to His will. We can have confidence that if we ask God for anything that is within His will, He will grant it to us. What a comfort to know that God hears us when we ask according to His will!

Summary: God has a specific plan for your life, and living in God's will provides blessings both in this life and for eternity. The Apostle Peter tells us in 1 Peter 4:1-2 that since Christ suffered for us, we should no longer spend our time in the flesh for the lusts of men, but for the will of God. In addition, Jesus said in John 4:34, "My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to finish His work." As Christians, we need to arrive at the point in life where we believe our very sustenance is to do God's will. This frame of mind is only possible as we yield to the Holy Spirit and let Jesus Christ live in us.

As we close this study, ask yourself the following questions: What practices in your life are hindering God's will? What barriers are you placing on the path that God has for your life? What specific actions can you take today to align yourself with God's will in your life so that He can bless you?