

Knowing & Doing the Will of God

Some Underlying Assumptions

1. God is the sovereign ruler of our lives - Psalm 139
2. God is working out a plan for His creation - Romans 8:18-25
3. It is God's will that we join Him and serve Him in the outworking of this plan - John 17:13-21
 - a. The Father is seeking true worshipers - John 4:23-24
 - b. It is under this overarching plan for all creation that God has a specific plan for us individuals
 - c. In other words, the question we should be asking is, God, according to your will, how would you have me join you?

What If We Miss God's Will?

1. We must repent, knowing that God is slow to anger and forgiving.
 - a. He restored Peter (John 21)
2. We must know that God not only restores but He uses our failures for His glory.
 - a. Solomon was born to David and Bathsheba.
3. We can with God's grace avoid some common pitfalls we fall into when trying to discern God's Will.

Some Common Pitfalls that Cause Us to Miss God's Will

(See, J. I. Packer, *Knowing God*)

1. Unwillingness to think - 1 Cor 2:14-16; We have the mind of Christ; a mind that is being renewed: use it!
 - a. The Holy Spirit will not lead you to do something contrary to Scripture.
 - b. We can know many things concerning the will of God from Scripture.
2. Unwillingness to think ahead - Deut 32:29 - "Would that they were wise, that they understood this, that they would discern their future." - regarding Israel about to enter the promised land.
3. Unwillingness to risk - Matthew 10:16-23 - We want comfortable easy lives, but we must realize that following Christ is not easy.
4. Unwillingness to suspect our own motives - Prov. 12:15a - "The way of a fool is right in his own eyes, . . ."
5. Unwillingness to take advice - Prov. 12:15b "but a wise man is he who listens to counsel."
6. Unwillingness to suspect others' motives - 1 Thess 5:21 "But examine everything carefully; hold fast to that which is good."

7. Unwillingness to wait - “Wait on the Lord” is found throughout Scripture - even Jesus when it came to His assignment said in certain instances, “My hour has not yet come.”
8. Unwillingness to obey - John 14:15 - “If you love Me you will keep My commandments.”
 - a. We must obey God’s revealed will.
 - 1). We must be in God’s Word!
 - 2). We must know God’s Word!
 - b. There is no reason to think that the Holy Spirit will guide us apart from God’s Word. – God’s Word is the FIRST place we must turn in order to discern God’s will.
 - c. You must obey what is clearly revealed.
 - d. This may be where many need to begin today. A renewed commitment to obey!

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