

The Will of God for You

Many people born into this world don't know why they're here. They don't know what to do once they get here, and they really don't know where they're going. For the most part, it's because they do not know God's will for their lives. What does God say about His will for you?

Here we are as we find ourselves today in another year that the Lord has allowed us to see. You may have made a New Year's resolution, maybe several, as so many people do entering into a new year. We should not take the privilege of entering this new year lightly. If you have made any New Year's resolution, may I remind you, a resolution is actually a vow you have vowed before God if you are a saved person. If you are unsaved, your vow or resolution is nothing more than wishful thinking.

As a saved person, may I remind you what the Bible says about a vow. Ecclesiastes 5:4 says, *When thou vowest a vow unto God, defer not to pay it; for he hath no pleasure in fools: pay that which thou hast vowed.*

Jonathan Edwards, that great preacher, a man who lived several years ago, made the following statement about two of his resolutions for a new year. Resolution one, he says: "I will live for God." Resolution two: "If no one else does, I still will." And that should be our goal, is to stick with our word, to stick with God, and do what we tell God we're going to do.

There was a woman by the name of Frances Ridley Havergal. She's not with us anymore because she was born on December 14, 1836, and she went to be with the Lord on June 3, 1879. She was a hymn writer who lived to be only 43 years old; yet, she wrote many hymns.

One of these hymns stands out to me as I have heard and sung it in many worship services. That song, "Take My Life and Let It Be." She also wrote another song, and she wrote many, but there's another one, "I Gave My Life for Thee."

Notice something else. She was also a poet. She wrote the following poem, and it's entitled, "The Year before Us."

Standing at the portal
Of the opening year,
Words of comfort meet us,
Hushing every fear.
I, the Lord, am with thee.
Be thou not afraid.
I will keep and strengthen.
Be thou not dismayed.
Resting on His promise,
What have we to fear?
God is all sufficient
For the coming year.

And let me remind you of this. The will of God will never take you where the grace of God will not protect you. As we enter this year and any new year, I may not know God's will for your life, but He does. Many do not know God's will because they never consult Him to find out. He needs to be consulted in prayer and in His Word, the Bible, in order to know what His will is for you.

I'd like for you to notice something. First, God's will for you, how you can find God's will. First, I see that you need to stay in the Word. The Word of God expresses the will of God. In Psalm 32:8, it says, *I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go: I will guide thee with mine eye.*

Psalm 40:8 says, *I delight to do thy will, O my God: yea, thy law is within my heart.* Thy law, that is the Word of God.

Jeremiah 10:23 says, *O LORD, I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps.*

And that very familiar verse in II Timothy 3:15, it says: *And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures...* This is Paul talking to Timothy. He says, "You've known the holy Scriptures, Timothy, and these are *which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.* We need to stay in the Word, and we need to seek after God.

In I Chronicles 28:9, it says, *And thou, Solomon my son... This is David speaking... know thou the God of thy father, and serve him with a perfect heart and with a willing mind: for the LORD searcheth all hearts, and understandeth all the imaginations of the thoughts: if thou seek him, he will be found of thee; but if thou forsake him, he will cast thee off for ever.*

You see, the closer you walk with Him, that's with God, the clearer His will becomes. In Psalm 143:8: *Cause me to hear thy loving-kindness in the morning; for in thee do I trust: cause me to know the way wherein I should walk; for I lift up my soul unto thee.*

And then in Colossians 1:9, the Bible says, *For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding.*

Stay in His Word. Seek after God. And then, I believe that you need to keep your life right with God. It is God's plainly stated will that His children be sanctified. What does that mean? It

means to live a holy life. Sanctified means being able through God to be different from this sinful world.

In Psalm 85:13, it says, *Righteousness shall go before him; and shall set us in the way of his steps.*

Matthew 6:33: *But seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness and all these things shall be added unto you.*

First Thessalonians 4:3 says, *For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication.* That means abstain from evil through God. He's the One who helps us do this.

And Romans 12:2: *And be not conformed to this world... Don't pattern yourself after this world... but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God.*

We're not to be like the world. We are set apart, and we are to stay set apart for God. As we are set apart, not being conformed to this world but being transformed through the Word of God and through prayer, when we do that then we can find the will of God.

But notice something else to find the will of God. You need to submit your will to God's will. You must give up your will and your way in favor of His will and His way. Psalm 130:5: *I wait for the LORD, my soul doth wait, and in his word do I hope.* There's the Word of God again.

Proverbs 3:5: *Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. ⁶ In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.*

Luke 22:42: *Saying, **Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done.***

Ephesians 6:6 says this: *Not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but as the servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart.* In other words, not forced to do the will of God, but doing it because you want to because Jesus loved you so much He gave His life for you. It's from a willing heart that you follow the will of God.

In Acts 22:10: *And I [Paul] said, What shall I do, Lord? And the Lord said unto me, **Arise, and go into Damascus; and there it shall be told thee of all things which are appointed for thee to do.***

Well, then I see, not only are we to submit to God's will, but we're to consult godly counselors. Select those who desire that you become like Christ. Be around the right people and get the right advice from the right person and the right people.

First Kings 12:8 says: *But he [Rehoboam] forsook the counsel of the old men, which they had given him, and consulted with the young men that were grown up with him, and which stood before him.* Rehoboam made a big mistake. He didn't listen to those who were aged, those people who had experience. He listened to those people who had no experience. I'm not saying that young people don't have knowledge. There are young people who walk with God, but you need to be around those people who walk with God and who are able to give you Godly advice.

Proverbs 11: *Where no counsel is, the people fall: but in the multitude of counsellors there is safety.*

Proverbs 12: *The way of a fool is right in his own eyes: but he that hearkeneth unto counsel is wise.*

Proverbs 15:22: *Without counsel purposes are disappointed: but in the multitude of counsellors they are established.*

I also see that, in order to know God's will, we need to exercise God-given spiritual sense. In Job 38:36 it says: *Who hath put wisdom in the inward parts? or who hath given understanding to the heart?* It's God who does that. Job knew the answer.

Ephesians 5:15-17: ¹⁵*See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise,* ¹⁶*Redeeming the time, because the days are evil.* ¹⁷*Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is.* Seek God's will. Let Him lead you. Let Him guide you.

You can also read later Proverbs 2:6-8.

And then I see that we need to step forward and submit to God, believing that He will guide you. In Deuteronomy 31:8: *And the LORD, he it is that doth go before thee; he will be with thee, he will not fail thee, neither forsake thee: fear not, neither be dismayed.*

God's will is not always obvious in the middle of a situation, but He will not allow a truly submissive and seeking child to miss His best for them. He has promised to be with you.

Well, blessings come by being in God's will and being in God's will can mean salvation for you. John 1:12: *But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name.*

God's will can also bring others to salvation through us. Second Corinthians 5:20: *Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God.*

And being in God's will brings order and peace according to I Corinthians 14:33.

Do you know Him today? Why not ask Him to come into your heart if you've never trusted Him. Follow God. Listen to Him. Follow Him and do His will.

And as a saved person, you need to follow Him because He first loved you and He wants you to follow Him and be a witness for Him.

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