

January 9, 2022 James Gallaher - Knowing God's Will Part 2

Proverbs 3:5-6 *Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding and in all of your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight.*

Some fallacies:

- God hides His will for His people. Truth: He does not hide it - He will reveal if we trust Him and walk His ways. If we are willing to follow God this year, He will lead us. Sometimes we pursue things that are not a part of His plan. We often think God's will is Him telling us the future for ourselves. God does not tell us the future. **Psalm 119:105** *Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.* A lantern gives enough light to light up the path in front of us. It doesn't light the whole trail or the end. That is what His direction is for us - revealing one step at a time.
- We can become 100% certain of His will. Truth: We will get stuck if we are waiting for 100% certainty. If we can get 100% certainty, then we don't need faith. Look at Abraham. God tells him to go, not where and not the end. Joshua marches around Jericho not knowing the outcome. We can only be certain of His love for us. God's will is not about our happiness. God's will is about our holiness. His leading will result in holiness.
- His will is about our happiness. Truth: God is more concerned with our holiness not our happiness. Corrie Ten Boon is a great example as she didn't want to go into prison camp but that is where she led many to Christ.

We need to approach discovering His will with these 3 keys (like a 3 legged stool you need all of them to function).

***PRAYER** - conversing with God. Prayer is intended for connection with the Father. Jesus gave us a pattern for prayer. **Matthew 6:9-13** *Pray, then, in this way: Our Father, who is in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done, On earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil.*

Is God, the Father, the focus of our prayers? Acknowledge who we are speaking to. It is not a spiritual fixer but the throne in Heaven to approach. The focus of our prayer can only be Him to discover His will.

Are you more interested in God's will or our own desires? Give His plan preeminence. Even Jesus did it in the Garden of Gethsemane saying to the Father, "*yet not as I will, but as You will.*"

How often is my will in conflict to His will because we can't see the outcome? Ask for understanding. Our happiness is not the purpose. His trials and tribulations can bring about His purposes in our lives.

Rest in satisfaction knowing that His plans are for our good and not for evil. Be willing to submit to His will or we may miss what He wants to give. Seeking Him first gives us a different view instead of fear. His provision is for me. Ask Him to teach us to trust in this way, "*Give us this day our daily bread.*" He was purposeful in giving manna to the Israelites for each day.

***HIS WORD.** We struggle with questions that the Bible answers... on Marriage, kids, His character, His love, what Jesus has done, righteousness, peace, joy... God's Word needs to be part of our character. Read scripture until it becomes part of your character. Greg Koukl says, "Read slowly. Read carefully. Read on a regular basis until Scripture becomes part of your character." We grow in wisdom as we spend time in His Word learning His character. God Word will not contradict God's voice. Sometimes we choose what will make us temporarily happy. Knowing God's will has much to do with knowing His Word.

Matthew 7:7 *Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.* This instruction of Jesus begins in **Matthew 5 and 6**, as it goes first and honors God by saying, Blessed be, pray this way, then ask and seek. His Word works together from Genesis to Revelation. **Psalm 119:105** *Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.* His Word illuminates our path.

***GODLY COUNSEL.** Be wise but not selective. Don't be selective as that will lead to finding someone who agrees with you. **Proverbs 11:14, 12:15, 13:10, 15:22...** Seeking godly counsels requires us to look for people that have what we need not what we want. Pursue what we need. Be diligent to choose people that are in a relationship with God and are faithful to God's Word. Look for people who look to God's principles in His Word. God's Words are more important. Godly counsel is difficult as it requires our transparency and willingness to be truthful about our lives - not hiding what is difficult. Advice is free and about feelings. Counsel includes prayer and looking at His Word. Whose fault is it if you don't have godly counsel? You must seek it and be willing to listen and struggle and consider that our thinking might not be clear.

We need not fear what it will cost to follow God. His promise is contentment, joy, and peace. Trust God at each step. Acknowledge His will over our own and be content with what He provides. He will meet us at each step.

How do you show preference for God's will for our life over your own will?

How have these fallacies influenced your life?

How has God's Word been confirmed in your prayer life?

Why is it hard for us to seek godly counsel and be transparent?