

HIGHER AIM WITH DR. CURT DODD

God's Will: Found

God's Will: Found | Part 1 | Psalm 119:105, Ephesians 1:11, 1 Timothy 2:1-4

INTRODUCTION

Christian comedian Mike Goodwin tells a story about the spiritual wisdom his grandmother shared. She told him, "Son, there's only two things you need to worry about: whether you're healthy, or whether you're sick." She continued down a funny but insightful path that eventually led to a choice between heaven and hell. In the same way, when it comes to finding God's direction for our lives, there are really only two things to concern ourselves with: whether we are in God's will right now, or whether we are not.

The good news is that God's will can be found. His Word is a lamp for our feet and a light for our path (*Psalm 119:105*). He has a plan for you, a purpose He is working out in everything (*Ephesians 1:11*). Aligning with that plan is the most important thing in your life, because it is the source of true peace, protection, and purpose. But before we can begin *doing* the will of God, we must first focus on *being*. Our doing flows from our being, so we must first ask ourselves what state we need to be in to know and follow Him.

KEY POINTS

1. You Must Be In The Family Of Faith

Before you can know God's specific will for your career, family, or future, you must first respond to His universal will for all people: that they would be saved and come to a knowledge of the truth. It is easy to assume that attending church, listening to Christian radio, or being baptized makes you part of the family of faith. However, Christianity is not about learning information or performing religious acts, it is about having a real, spiritual encounter with the risen Lord Jesus Christ.

You cannot get saved until you first realize that you are lost. Until you understand that your sin separates you from a holy God, you will not be able to truly respond to His offer of grace. Jesus said that no one can come to Him unless the Father draws them. Have you ever felt that loving draw of the Holy Spirit, showing you where you were and inviting you into a relationship with God? This is not about joining a church, it is about admitting your sin, turning from it, and placing your faith entirely in Jesus. This is the non-negotiable first step.

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The most important question you will ever answer is whether your faith is genuine. Have you personally had an encounter with Jesus Christ, or are you relying on the faith of your parents, your church attendance, or your own good works? God's will for you begins with regeneration, a true change from the inside out. This is a personal decision, not something that can be inherited or achieved through religious activity. Take a moment to honestly examine your heart. If you cannot recall a moment where you responded to God's drawing and surrendered your life to Christ, today can be that day. His desire is for you to be in His family.

2. You Must Be In The Flow Of The Spirit

The Scripture says, "Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit." The issue here is not a legalistic rule about alcohol, it is a profound spiritual principle about control. When a person is inebriated, they say and do things they normally would not because they are under the influence of a substance. They are in the flow of the flesh. In the same way, God wants us to be so fully in the flow of His Spirit that we begin to say, do, and act in ways that align with His character.

Many people struggle with substances like alcohol because they are trying to numb deep pain. The answer is not simply to say, "Stop that!" It is to address the root issue and find a new source of control. God does not want us to be controlled by anything, whether it is a substance, a habit, or the opinions of others. He wants us to be so in tune with His Spirit that we have the freedom to say yes to what He wants and the power to say no to what leads us down a dark alley. Being in the flow of the Spirit means you are actively listening to His voice and allowing Him to guide your every step.

True freedom in Christ is not the liberty to do whatever you want. It is the power to do what you ought to do. Are there areas of your life where you feel controlled by something other than God's Spirit? It could be a substance, a recurring sin, anxiety, or the need for others' approval. Being filled with the Spirit is a moment by moment choice to surrender control to Him. When you are in the flow of the Spirit, you will know the truth, and that truth will set you free to experience the abundant life Jesus promised. This week, practice listening for the Spirit's gentle guidance. What is He asking you to say yes to, and what is He giving you the desire and power to say no to?

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QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

1. When you reflect on your spiritual journey, can you identify a specific time when you felt the Holy Spirit drawing you to a personal decision for Christ, separate from any religious activity or family tradition?
2. The sermon contrasts being controlled by the flesh with being in the flow of the Spirit. In what area of your life do you most often feel controlled by something other than God?
3. How can you create more space in your daily life this week to listen for the Spirit's voice, so you can more readily say "yes" to His leading and "no" to things that would hinder your walk with Him?
