

HIGHER AIM WITH DR. CURT DODD

God's Will: Found - Part 3

God's Will: Found | Part 3 | 1 Timothy 2:1-4

INTRODUCTION

A story is told of an old woman in Scotland who would travel between villages selling thread. Whenever she came to a fork in the road, she would toss a stick into the air and follow whichever path it pointed to upon landing. One day, a traveler saw her repeatedly tossing the stick, picking it up, and tossing it again. When asked what she was doing, she replied, "I am trying to figure out which road to take. This one over here looks very rough. I don't want to go down that road. And so I am throwing that stick until it points in the direction that I want to go."

This simple story reveals a profound truth about the human heart. We often say we want to be in the will of God, but what we really want is for God's will to align with our own preferences. We want the easy path, the comfortable journey. But a life surrendered to Christ is not about bending His will to ours; it is about joyfully aligning our will with His. As Scripture shows us, God's will is not a mystery to be solved but a truth to be embraced, leading us into a deeper and more fulfilling life in Him.

KEY POINTS

1. You Must Be in the Family of Faith

The first and most critical step to living in God's will is to be in God's family. The Scripture is clear that God our Savior "wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth." You will never truly do the will of God until you first find yourself in a personal relationship with Him. This is not about church membership or religious activity; it is about a one-time experience of conversion where you turn from sin and place your faith entirely in the finished work of Jesus Christ. Being in God's will begins with belonging to God.

2. You Must Be in the Flow of the Spirit

Once you are in the family of faith, God calls you to live in the fullness of His Spirit. This is not about getting more of the Holy Spirit, but about the Holy Spirit getting more of you. To be "filled with the Spirit" means to be under His control, surrendered to His leadership. This happens when we, as believers, keep our sins confessed and continually open our lives to His guidance. Rather than trying to live the Christian life in our own strength, we are called to walk in moment-by-moment dependence on the Spirit, allowing His power to flow in and through us.

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3. You Must Be in the Right Frame of Mind

God's will for His children includes cultivating an attitude of gratitude, regardless of our circumstances. The command to "give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus" does not mean that all circumstances are good. We walk through difficult seasons of loss, physical struggle, and uncertainty. However, we can trust that God's hand is on us in the valleys just as it is on the mountaintops. God often closes one door to open another, using our trials to shape our character, display His peace to a watching world, and position us for new opportunities to serve Him. A heart that trusts God's sovereign plan can find reasons for gratitude even in the waiting.

4. You Must Follow God's Leaders

The Bible instructs believers to "be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established." This can be a challenging teaching, especially when we disagree with those in power. Yet, Scripture calls us not to condemnation, but to intercession. Our responsibility is to pray for our leaders, recognizing that God has placed them in their positions for His divine purposes. He uses world leaders to accomplish His sovereign plan, and we have the privilege of watching biblical prophecy unfold in our lifetime. By submitting to this aspect of God's will, we demonstrate our trust in His ultimate control over history and our own lives.

Living in the will of God is not a checklist to complete but a posture of the heart to maintain. It is a daily, conscious choice to surrender. Jesus modeled this perfectly in the Garden of Gethsemane when He prayed, "not my will, but yours be done" (*Luke 22:42*). He faced the ultimate difficult circumstance, yet He submitted fully to the Father's hand. Are you fighting the Father's hand in some area of your life? Are you upset or at odds with His plan because it does not match your own?

God wants you to experience the profound peace and purpose that comes from being in the center of His will. This requires embracing all of His Word, not just the parts we find easy to swallow. It means trusting that wherever His hand is on you, in good times and bad, He has a plan to develop your life and reveal more of Himself to you. The Christian life is not a cafeteria where we pick and choose what we like. It is an invitation to receive the whole counsel of God, so His Word can flow through us and transform us into people who honor Him in every season. Let Him show you what He has for you now.

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QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

1. In what area of your life are you most tempted to “keep throwing the stick” until it points in the direction you want, rather than trusting God’s direction?
2. Reflect on a recent difficult circumstance. How can you practically apply *1 Thessalonians 5:18* by cultivating a spirit of gratitude and trusting that God is working for your good and His glory?
3. The call to pray for and honor leaders can be challenging. What is one specific, practical step you can take this week to move from criticism or frustration toward faithful intercession for those in authority?
