

GOD'S WILL FOR YOUR LIFE

- One of the more commonly asked questions that I hear from Christians is “What is Gods will for my life?”.
 - I say Christians because you would never hear that from a non-Christian because that really doesn't matter to them what Gods will is
 - But it is a common question that at some point we probably all have expressed and it comes from a point of wanting our will and God's will to match up
 - The question also seems to come up when there is perhaps a little turmoil or uneasiness in our walk with Jesus

- We can make the answer to that question very complicated if we choose too, but in reality it is very simple
 - If we take the original question “What is Gods will for my life” and remove the “for my life” part, the answer becomes much easier
 - By adding “me” to that equation we tend to give ourselves some sort of importance
 - What we really want to know is “What is Gods will and am I doing it?”
 - In the first example, we put ourselves in the center of a circle and want to know how God is going to make us better
 - How can “I” have fulfillment?
 - How can “I” do great things?
 - In that scenario, who is being elevated? It is us
 - When we are interested in Gods will and only that, He becomes the center of that circle and we are interested in what He wants from us
 - How can “I” tell others about Gods plan of salvation?
 - How can “I” pray to God for the needs of others?
 - At that point, we have God in the right spot

- As we talk tonight about this subject, I want to look at it from a couple of different perspectives
 - One, the overall will that the Father wants from all of us
 - Two, the part of how we make every day decisions in our life

- First, based on what the bible states, we have a really good list of things God wants from us as a pattern of how to live a pleasing life to Him
 - In Deuteronomy 6:5 and also repeated by Jesus in the New Testament in Matthew, Mark and Luke, we have the ultimate will of God given to us:
 - “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul and with all your strength”

 - Doing that is so important that if we could pull that off, we would never have to worry if we are in God’s will
 - In fact, Jesus said in John 14:15 “If you love Me, keep my commandments”
 - The way we express love for God is to show obedience and trust
 - The problem here is that our needs and desires and lusts will sometimes supersede what God wants for us
 - We have a tendency to make sure we are comfortable and that we are at as low a risk as possible before we step out to serve Him
 - Our nature is to make sure we have covered ourselves then give God whatever is left over
 - That doesn’t sound anything like full submission, does it?
 - Sounds more like protection
 - (emphasis) We are in God’s will when what God asks from us is more important than what we want for ourselves
 - The “Not my will but your will” example
 - There are countless examples of people who have given up everything, including their life, to follow Jesus
 - There are probably more examples of people who wilted under the persecution and denied Jesus when the going gets tough

- How do we even start to love God with all our heart, soul and strength? It sounds easy but as we all know that is a hard task
 - Let's ask ourselves a few questions
 - Are we willing to invest the time and energy necessary to get to know Him?
 - Are we willing to commit to reading His word every day?
 - Do we have that love that is like a 1st love where we yearn to seek Him and talk with Him?
 - Does it bother us when we are away from Him for any length of time?
 - Are we really loving Him if we are not willing to share Him with others?
 - Are we willing to sacrifice something we may want for something someone else may need?
 - Would we be ok with being called a Jesus Freak?
 - Does Jesus have the preeminent position in what we say, do or think?

- All of what was just stated are ways that we can outwardly express, through our actions, that Jesus is the ruler of our life

- Now let's take a look at the second part of the equation
 - Remember the first part was the overall abiding rule of loving God with all our heart, soul and mind
 - This next part is applying God's will in our everyday life
 - Let's look at a few verses and then we will look at the practical use of those verses in our life
 - Romans 12:2 "And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God"
 - 1 Thessalonians 5:18 "In everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you"

- 1 Peter 2:15 “For this is the will of God, that by doing good you may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men”
- 1 John 2:17 “And the world is passing away, and the lust of it, but he who does the will of God abides forever”
- From just these 4 verses we can carve out how God wants us to live our daily lives
 - We are not to be worldly in our actions
 - The best way to understand this would be to evaluate an action we are contemplating and put it to the test
 - Is that action sinful?
 - Obvious if it is sinful then God does not want us doing that
 - Would it in any way keep me from serving God?
 - We can make ourselves so busy that we exclude God from any of our time
 - Would it cause a financial burden that would keep us from giving?
 - We can and do get ourselves so tied up in debt that we cannot help when a need arises
 - Is there any pride involved?
 - Would this action cause me to glorify myself or create an idol in my life?
 - How many of us have wanted the coolest car on the block so people would see how awesome you are?

- You can see that by just a few bad actions we can hamper God's ability to use us. We cannot be good because we don't have the time or resources necessary to do good things.
 - Having things or doing things is not in and of itself bad
 - We just need to be careful that we are not trapped by the things that we do have or that we participate in

- God gives us the ability to make decisions and with that comes the responsibility to be wise in those decisions

- Of course, the bigger the decision the more time should be put into consulting what God would have us do
 - When choosing a spouse, you should choose wisely because the consequences of a poor decision are great
 - Where we work or where we choose to live should be carefully considered in light of what God would have for us
 - Prayer, counsel and wisdom are all tools that God provides for us to be able to know what He wants

- Last, we need to think in terms of eternity
 - Our sacrificing of time or resources here can have incredible consequences in the future
 - Sending our kids to private school or home schooling them involves many sacrifices and hardships, but has a huge long term positive result
 - Deciding to support a ministry that gives out bibles is a worthy work considering the results
 - Serving in a ministry and using our gifts to help people grow in their relationship to Jesus, or cleaning the church, working with the youth, etc.
 - Sharing Jesus with a stranger

- All of the times we serve, while they may seem inconsequential at the time, have eternal significance
 - How many people have gotten saved in a church service?
 - That doesn't happen unless there are people willing to invest their time and resources to teach Sunday School, to work the sound and lights, are willing to give financially to pay for a building, provide security and the list goes on and on.
 - What is your part in that is what we must ask?
- All of these involve some sort of sacrifice but allow us to use the gifts that God has given us to serve Him
- Next, if God has clearly put us in a place or has asked something from us then we need to stay there or do that thing until He tells us clearly to do something else
 - So in trying to wrap this up where we feel comfortable that we are in the will of God
 - Love God with all your heart, all your strength and all your mind
 - Diligently seek Him in your prayer life
 - Be a faithful student of His word. The bible truly is our instruction manual for every single need of our life
 - God, in His sovereign nature, has placed us in this time in history, He decided where we would be born, He has given us talents and gifts specifically for us to use. We should exercise those talents to serve Him.
 - Remember that we are His servant and not the other way around
 - Do good, love what God loves and stay away from what he hates
 - Be thankful and look forward to that time when we will be with Him in His presence

