

**Pendleton First**

**Opening:** The Journey of God in this life is long and has many twists, bends, hills, Mountains, Valleys on our way. God has promised to anyone who will trust Him that He is able to lead them into eternal life. Heaven’s goal is to take people from earth and transform them into the image of the son Jesus Christ. God has our best intentions in mind. Most Christians today are not unwilling to follow God’s plan for life, but they may be incapable of differentiating between what is their will and what is God’s will. Today we want to learn how to know the will of God for our life.

**Discernment:** The ability of the spiritually mature to divide right from wrong. Discernment in its fullness allows the believer to even discern right from almost right. The mature can discern what appears to be random footsteps as the direction of the Lord. By faith the random footsteps, the ups and downs, the twists are leading to a destiny in Christ.

**1. In God’s hands you are safe!**

**John 10:27-31** My sheep listen to My voice; I know them, and **they follow Me**. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. **No one can snatch them out of My hand**. My Father who has given them to Me is greater than all. No one can snatch them out of My Father’s hand. I and the Father are one."

**Life Lesson:** You are safe in the Love of Christ and God has great power and ability to lead you into His complete purpose for your life.

**Life Lesson:** You can rest in the fact that God is **always working** everything out for your ultimate good.

**Romans 8:28** And we know that God works all things together for the good of those who love Him, who are called according to His purpose.

**2. God actively leads our lives when we submit to Him.**

**Psalm 23:1-3** A Psalm of David. The LORD is my Shepherd, I shall not want. **He makes me lie down** in green pastures; **He leads** me beside quiet waters. He restores my soul; **He guides** me in the paths of righteousness For His name's sake.

**Psalm 37:23 The LORD directs** the steps of the godly. He delights in every detail of their lives. \* Godly meaning, those who desire Gods will in their life.

**1 Samuel 2:9 "He keeps** the feet of His godly ones, But the wicked ones are silenced in darkness; For not by might shall a man prevail. \* If our ways are righteous God will keep us from falling even in difficult slippery situations, this is called the preserving power of God.

**Psalm 25:12** Who is the man who fears the LORD? **He will instruct** him in the way he should choose. \* The condition for receiving instruction from God is to reverence and honor Him above the decision.

**Proverbs 16:9** The mind of man plans his way, But the LORD **directs his steps.** \*We have our own plans that hinder God's plan from being performed.

**Proverbs 19:21** Many are the plans in the mind of a man, but it is **the purpose of the LORD** that will stand. \* This scripture tells us that God's will is ultimately going to prevail in the earth. The only question is whether we will be a part of His will or by our own decisions we will depart His will.

3. **God ACTIVELY leads our lives even when we run from Him. God is faithful when we stumble.**

**Psalm 37:24 When he falls,** he will not be hurled headlong, Because the LORD is the One who **holds his hand.** \* What a promise for those who walk with God! God breaks our fall!

**Proverbs 24:16** For a righteous man **falls seven times,** and rises again, But the wicked stumble in time of calamity. \* The righteous will stumble in life completely but keep going forward.

**Philippians 2:13** For **God is working in you,** giving you the **desire and the power** to do what pleases him.

\*\* When we run from God it is often because we do not desire God like we used to. The first thing to lessen in our devotion is our desire for the things of God. Sometimes we leave God not out of a willful desire to do so but because like sheep we lose sight of our Shepherd. Remember that God knows how to use circumstances to bring us back home.

4. **How does God work within us? 1<sup>st</sup> Thessalonians 2:13** Therefore, we never stop thanking God that when you received his message from us, you did not

think of our words (The gospel) as mere human ideas. You accepted what we said as the very word of God--which, of course, it is. And **this word** continues to **work in you** who believe.

## 5. **God's Purpose and Its Mystery**

**\*\***Many times, we are so limited in our understanding of what God is doing in our lives. We often question His motives and His heart. It is in the times when the mystery of God's motives tests us that Satan will try and discredit God. God has never given us any reason to doubt His goodness but only ample proof to trust Him even when we do not understand His ways.

**Life Lesson:** In life you will have moments when you must rely on what is written about God and not by what your present circumstances appear to reveal about God. Simply put When you cannot see His hand you can trust His heart. Billy Graham responding to reporter after 9/11 asking; "what is God doing? "I don't know but I know we can trust HIM."

**\*\*** Never forget that God is testing our faith so that it is true and strong. The teacher is always silent during the test.

**Psalm: 119:105** "Your word is **a lamp** to my feet and a light to my path." **Psalm 139:11-12** "The darkness is light to you"

**\*\***A lamp to your feet is for the needs of right now, a light to your path is so that you are not living life without a vision.

**Life Lesson:** God wants His church to walk in a new faith and confidence as a sign to the world we walk in that though the world is being shaken we are not. Though it is dark we are with the LIGHT. Though it is night GOD IS AT WORK!

**Hebrews 12:28** Therefore let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom that **cannot be shaken**, and thus let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe,

## 6. **Christ is the mystery revealed. The end of the Journey; The direction of every God planned footstep.**

**Colossians 1:26-27** the mystery that has been **kept hidden** for ages and generations but **is now** disclosed to the Lord's people. to whom God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which **is Christ in you, the hope of glory.**

**Ephesians 1:18** “I ask that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you may know the hope of His calling, the riches of His glorious inheritance in the saints,”

**1<sup>st</sup> John 3:2** Dear friends, we are already God's children, but he has **not yet shown us what we will be** like when Christ appears. But we do know that we will **be like him**, for we will see him as he really is. \* He is the end of our Journey.

**2 Question to ask:** Is God the author of confusion? Would God lead you down a path that draws you away from Him?

Ask yourself this question when making major life decisions. “Do I have to compromise the word of God in order to make this decision or succeed in this path?” If the answer is Yes you have your answer from God.

**Life Lesson: If it really is God’s will, it leads you closer to God through it.**

## 7. We are God’s Masterpiece

**\*\*** Do not give up when you cannot see how your current circumstance will bring God glory. God is directing our steps to lead us through this life to transform us into vessels that can contain His glory. God is working in us to work through us.

**Ephesians 2:10** For we are **God's masterpiece**. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.

### **The Point:**

**\*\*** No work of art appears so at the beginning of the masterpiece. Every brush stroke is added to the next, every chiseled removal of stone will leave what was necessary while removing what was not. Every pruning will eventually result in greater fruitfulness. In Christ, every footstep leads us closer to our destination and our completion in Him. For in Christ, it is not what we do, but the kind of people we become that He is ultimately concerned with.