

# EPHESIANS

## 5:17

### HOW TO BE IN THE CENTER OF GOD'S WILL FOR YOUR LIFE

Don't be foolish, but understand the Lord's will for your life. (Ephesians 5:17)

Be filled with the knowledge of God's will so that you will constantly desire to please Him in every aspect of your life. (Colossians 1:9-10)

Have you noticed how some children have a super strong "want" to please their parents? They're often described as kids with a *tender conscience* because they deeply desire to obey the way mom and dad want them to live. This is a special bond when such boys and girls are blessed to have really good and loving parents. In the Christian life we know that our Heavenly Father (who always knows what's best!) is as good and loving as it gets! And as God's beloved and blessed kids, we also realize that we've every possible reason to follow the way He wants us to live. Indeed, one of the ways you can be assured that you truly are God's child is by longing to live His way, rather than your own way. In today's message, we'll be learning about some key aspects of God's will, while most especially focusing on *how to be in the center of God's will for your life*.

#### WHY WANT GOD'S WILL?

1. (Ephesians 1:8-9) God Has Gone To Great Lengths To ...
2. (Romans 12:2) God's Will Is The ...
3. (Proverbs 10:8-10) God's Will Protects You From ...

#### HOW CAN YOU KNOW GOD'S WILL?

**1<sup>st</sup> PRINCIPLE:** The \_\_\_\_\_ will \_\_\_\_\_ you \_\_\_\_\_ of God's will for your life!  
(2 Timothy 3:16)

1. (2 Peter 3:9) The Bible says God's will is that ...
2. (1 Thessalonians 5:18) The Bible says God's will is that ...
3. (1 Thessalonians 4:3) The Bible says God's will is that ...

4. (1 Peter 2:13-15; Hebrews 13:17) The Bible says God's will is that ...
5. (1 Peter 4:1-4) The Bible says God's will is that ...
6. (Ephesians 5:17-18) The Bible says God's will is that ...

**2<sup>nd</sup> PRINCIPLE:** The Lord will \_\_\_\_\_ you the \_\_\_\_\_ of His will ...

Through \_\_\_\_\_ (Romans 8:26-27)

Through \_\_\_\_\_ (Proverbs 3:5-6)

Through \_\_\_\_\_ (Proverbs 1:5; Hebrews 13:7)

#### ADDING IT ALL UP

(Psalm 37:4)

#### FOR THOUGHT & TALK

Take no more than 5 minutes to quickly review the main points from Pastor John's message. As you discuss the questions, don't expect to answer all of them. Just discuss the ones your group would most like to explore together. Remember, the goal of your small group is to grow together relationally, to apply God's Word to our daily living, and to pray for one another and our church.

1. What are some of the questions and issues people have when it comes to the will of God? Why can "the will of God" sometimes be a "touchy topic" to deal with? What would you say to someone who is ticked at God because they think His will was nothing but a bust as far as they're concerned?
2. Why is it important for Christians to live life following God's will rather than according to our own whims and desires? Pastor John said that fear of God's will, an ignorant notion that we can't know God's will, or outright rebellion against God's will are the three main reasons why even Christians turn away from God's will. How have you seen people (including yourself perhaps) struggle with these difficulties when it comes to God's will?
3. When it comes to figuring out God's will for your life, the first place we all have to start is with the Bible. There were six definitive aspects of God's will (accounting for about 90% of God's will for us) outlined in this message from the Bible. What makes each principle key to effectively following God's will? Which one of the six resonated the most with you?
4. God reveals 90% (approximately) of His will to us in the Bible. Why does it make sense that we should first follow that part of His will that He has clearly revealed to us in Scripture, before we expect Him to reveal the other 10% that isn't clearly spelled out in the Bible? What is some of the "10%" part of God's will that you have personally been wondering about and dealing with lately?
5. How has prayer, seeking godly wisdom from spiritual leaders, and letting God speak to you as you go through your current circumstances, helped you to understand God's will more clearly? What would you say to a fellow believer who is struggling to figure out God's will for their life?