

Walking in the Will of God pt. 5

April 18th, 2021 | Pastors AI & Cameron Brice

(Pastor Cameron's climbing story of focusing: media to put up picture of his climbing adventure)

I. Is God's will your primary focus or has it become a secondary focus?

A. **Matthew 16:24-27 (NLT)**, "Then Jesus said to his disciples, "If any of you wants to be my follower, you must turn from your selfish ways, take up your cross, and follow me. 25 If you try to hang on to your life, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for my sake, you will save it. 26 And what do you benefit if you gain the whole world but lose your own soul? Is anything worth more than your soul? 27 For the Son of Man will come with his angels in the glory of his Father and will judge all people according to their deeds."

The cross and crucifixion represented God's will for Jesus and it represents His will for our lives on a daily basis.

a. Three things that Jesus emphasized that are essential to be a true follower or disciple:

1. Turn from your selfish ways.

Galatians 2:20 (NLT), "My old self has been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me. So I live in this earthly body by trusting in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me."

Matthew 20:28 (NLT), "For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve others and to give his life as a ransom for many."

2. Take up your cross...the cross for Jesus represented God's will for His life.

Mark 8:31-33 (NLT), "Then Jesus began to tell them that the Son of Man must suffer many terrible things and be rejected by the elders, the leading priests, and the teachers of religious law. He would be killed, but three days later he would rise from the dead. *(Psalm 22 & Isaiah 53 Jesus knew the written will of His Heavenly Father for His life)* 32 As he talked about this openly with his disciples, Peter took him aside and began to reprimand him for saying such things. 33 Jesus turned around and looked at his disciples, then reprimanded Peter. "Get away from me, Satan!" he said. "You are seeing things merely from a human point of view, not from God's."

You, doing the will of God, can be a dividing factor in your life with friends, classmates, coworkers, and even family.

Matthew 10:32-38 (NLT), "Everyone who acknowledges me publicly here on earth, I will also acknowledge before my Father in heaven. 33 But everyone who denies me here on earth, I will also deny before my Father in heaven. 34 "Don't imagine that I came to bring peace to the earth! I came not to bring peace, but a sword. 35 'I have come to set a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law. 36 Your enemies will be right in your own household!' 37 "If you love your father or mother more than you love me, you are not worthy of being mine; or if you love your son or daughter more than me, you are not worthy of being mine. 38 If you refuse to take up your cross and follow me, you are not worthy of being mine."

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Galatians 5:7-9 (NKJV), “You ran well. Who hindered you from obeying the truth? 8 This persuasion does not come from Him who calls you. 9 A little leaven leavens the whole lump.”

1 Corinthians 15:33-34 (NKJV), “Do not be deceived: “Evil company corrupts good habits.” 34 Awake to righteousness, and do not sin; for some do not have the knowledge of God. I speak this to your shame.”

3. Follow Me...

1 John 2:3-6 (MSG), “Here's how we can be sure that we know God in the right way: Keep his commandments. 4 If someone claims, "I know him well!" but doesn't keep his commandments, he's obviously a liar. His life doesn't match his words. 5 But the one who keeps God's word is the person in whom we see God's mature love. This is the only way to be sure we're in God. 6 Anyone who claims to be intimate with God ought to live the same kind of life Jesus lived.”

A. God's will vs Self-will

1. This can be a tough wrestling match. (*Media to put up a picture of wrestling*)

Galatians 5:16-18 (AMPC), “But I say, walk and live [habitually] in the [Holy] Spirit [responsive to and controlled and guided by the Spirit]; then you will certainly not gratify the cravings and desires of the flesh (of human nature without God). 17 For the desires of the flesh are opposed to the [Holy] Spirit, and the [desires of the] Spirit are opposed to the flesh (godless human nature); for these are antagonistic to each other [continually withstanding and in conflict with each other], so that you are not free but are prevented from doing what you desire to do. 18 But if you are guided (led) by the [Holy] Spirit, you are not subject to the Law.”

B. Kingdom ambitions vs Selfish ambitions.

Philippians 2:2-5 (TPT), “So I'm asking you, my friends, that you be joined together in perfect unity—with one heart, one passion, and united in one love. Walk together with one harmonious purpose and you will fill my heart with unbounded joy. 3 Be free from pride-filled opinions, for they will only harm your cherished unity. Don't allow self-promotion to hide in your hearts, but in authentic humility put others first and view others as more important than yourselves. 4 Abandon every display of selfishness. Possess a greater concern for what matters to others instead of your own interests. 5 And consider the example that Jesus, the Anointed One, has set before us. Let his mindset become your motivation.”