

THE WILL OF GOD

Lesson 13

“And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us: And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him.” - 1 John 5:14-15

- I. Christ promised His disciples that they would receive whatever they asked the Father in His name
 - A. John 14:13,14 - God is glorified when we make requests in line with His desirous will
 - B. John 15: 7, 16 - Being at ease in one's position in Christ, and God's word being at ease in us results in believers asking according to His will
 - C. John 16:23, 24 - Before the Upper Room, the disciples had never made requests in the name of Jesus
 1. God instituted a new mode of communication following Christ's death and resurrection
 2. This type of communication was not available to the Old Testament saint
- II. God hears the believer when their asking is consistent with God's desirous will
 - A. Akouo - “consider what visor has been siad” the request has been acknowledged
 1. “God's will is the standard of the kind of asking which God acknowledges” - Pastor Tim Hoelscher
 2. “When a believer asks for something that is consistent with God's will and His character then He will hear their request
- III. How does one ask according to God's will?
 - A. Asking in Jesus' name means asking according to Christ's character, or in other words, asking the same way that Christ would ask
 - B. It does not mean adding the name of Jesus to the end of one's prayer
 - C. The Character of Christ
 1. Ro. 12:1-2; Heb. 10:5-10 - Willingness to make self available to God
 2. Ro. 12:3-5 - Being considerate of the Body of Christ
 3. Ro. 12:9-13; 1 Jo. 5:1-2 - Motivated by love in relationships with the members of the Body
 4. 1 Thess. 5:16; Jo. 6:38 - An appreciation for the will of God in all things
 5. 1 Thess. 5:17; Jo. 17:1-3 - Being consistently mindful of the glory of God
 6. 1 Thess. 5:18; Lk. 22:19 - An attitude of gratitude in all things
- IV. Asking contrary to the will of God
 - A. James 4:1-4 - James addresses believers that were in conflict with one another because they were seeking to gratify their selfish desires
 1. Their desires were not being met because they weren't asking
 2. They asked so that they could totally consume it upon their desires
 - B. Out of control desiring, yet despite their energetic efforts to get what they want, their request is always out of their reach
- V. Purpose of our communication with God - not bending God's will to do our bidding but our wills being brought into conformity with His desirous will