

Journey With Hope Series

Knowing And Doing The Will Of God Part I

1 Peter 4:1-11

Wednesday, May 7, 2003 • Dr. David McKinley

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Before we go any further tonight I think we just need to pause in His presence and just again claim the promise of His power and strength.

Lord, tonight I realize that there are people in this building who are desperate for Your intervention, for your guidance, for Your grace and for Your assurance in their lives and Lord tonight You and You alone know the depth of need that a..., is in this room. Some of our families and, and Lord our jobs, our careers, our finances. Lord just some maybe who are struggling emotionally just with the pressures and the anxieties of life. And I do thank You that You are the Prince of Peace and that You and You alone can bring peace into the troubled waters of our lives and life experiences. And so Lord I ask tonight that in this moment that we would just pause to pray, to surrender, to embrace the One who can do everything when we are in this moment aware that we can do nothing. So Father, we simply bring our burdens and our needs and put them at Your feet. We're thankful for the ability to come aside and to sing and to praise and to worship and to get our eyes on You. We're thankful tonight for a promise book called the Bible and the opportunity to open it and we do pray that hearts will be mended, that healing will be known that Your grace would be poured out on us tonight. Lord we are so thankful that we can be together for this purpose. In Jesus name, Amen.

Karen, thank you again for a beautiful job through ministry and music tonight. Rick, always a great time. I just a..., have found that you are a putting some energy on life on Wednesday nights when we come together. Just kinda take that sage [applause] down in the middle of the week and put some bolts in your life and a... I love that and I am so thankful. You know my greatest, one of my greatest joys over the last year in this service has not only been just sensing the, the spirit of ministry that goes on here with each other as we pray for each other and as we connect with each other, but I have just loved watching this music team develop and minister to us and lead us in ministry through music and they've really done that, I mean they've really become The Connection Music Team here on Wednesday nights, they do a great job and I never say thank you enough to the men and women who give of their time, their energy and a, I want you to know they don't just get here and run on the platform but they

have made it their commitment to get here early, to come together, to prepare, but to pray and to study God's Word together just as a group that they would be prepared to share and to lead us on Wednesday e...evenings and a..., I think they're doin just a great job with that and I appreciate that a whole lot.

Earlier today I started a new series in Power Lunch. Power Lunch is our midweek gathering for the business community and we simply call it, *Empowering You To Make A Difference In Life* and it's sort of a gathering of people from offices and work places all over this area a..., some people drive a long distance to come and to be here. Others are on a very tight schedule and so we start right at about 12:05 with our program, some announcements, a special piece of music, 12:15 we start the message, we end at 12:45, people can be back at their office at 1 o'clock. And I would venture to say that probably 65% of Power Lunch is primarily non-Prestonwood. That is, these are not people who necessarily would call Prestonwood their church home. But it's been a platform of ministry that has been engaged by people through Prestonwood who invite business associates and workers to come with em and so it's always a great time to gather. But I started a series in there today called, *What Should I Do With My Life?* Because not long ago I was walkin through a bookstore and I saw a book of that title that sort of marked the wall a..., of the bookstore and it wasn't because I was goin through, you know, a personal reflective time I just found it to be an interesting book title that had such prominence in the book store and I wondered why is this book getting attention? And a..., so I picked it up and I looked at it and found it to be of interest, but, just as it is true that in life and it really doesn't matter what age or stage of life you may be at, it's true that in life time and time again each of us sift and query and consider what am I doing with my life and where am I going with my life? And it's a natural thing that happens in the course of life especially occupationally, for many of us. But for the Christian, in a very real sense there really is only one answer to that question, because from the day that you bow the knee to Jesus Christ, from the day that you receive Him and enter into a relationship with Him whereby you call Him and confess Him the Lord Jesus. The answer to the question, what should I do with my life is a simple one. I will live my life for the will of God. That's what it's all about. From the day that I give my life to Him the answer is, my life belongs Ch...to Christ, I am now a Christ follower and the great desire of my life, truly and wholly is to know and to do the will of God. Heh! Jimmy Draper, a pastor who lead in this area at 1st Baptist Church of Eules for many years, whose now the president and chief executive officer of Life Way Organization a..., who do printing and publication and resources for the Christian through the Southern Baptist Convention, on one occasion said this, he said:

"Most people are interested in knowing God's will so they can consider it."

Heh! I think he's right. I think everybody in this room wants to know God's will. But if we were to be totally honest with ourself most of us

wanna know God's will so we can consider it. It's an option. I wanna see if I like it or not and for many of us the will of God is a point of curiosity so we can consider it. Someone else has said:

"To know God's will is man's greatest treasure and to do God's will is life's greatest privilege."

That's probably getting more on the mark of what it really means to be a Christ follower. It was Betsy Ten Boom, the sister of Corrie Ten Boom. Corrie Ten Boom was a survivor of World War II and of the holocaust in concentration camps. Her sister Betsy was not! But it was Betsy who said:

"The center of God's will is our only safety."

And if you wanna live a life of safety and security for the believer, there is one confidence that my life is secure in the will of God. Lane Adams once said:

"God created this game of life and only when we play it His way can we find meaning, purpose and happiness."

And I believe there's a wonderful insight in that because I really do believe that when I am living in God's will my life is maximized in meaning and purpose and in happiness. It doesn't mean that I have all the answers, it doesn't mean that I don't have problems, it doesn't mean that there aren't some unresolved issues in my life. But what it does mean is that when my life is lived for His purpose and conformed to His plan there is meaning and purpose and happiness. So for the Christian, the holy ambition, the central concern, the consuming passion of life is to know and to do the will of God. And when that is true in your heart, truly true in your heart the attitude of George MacDonald is your attitude.

"I find doing the will of God leaves me no time for disputing about His plans."

That's a very great statements. I find that just doing the will of God day in and day out leaves no time disputing about His plans. I simply live my life to know and to do the will of God. Well, it wouldn't surprise you that Peter in addressing the subject of hope found in the book of 1st Peter would address the matter of the will of God because our hope is found in Christ and therefore there is hope filled and fueled in my life when I am doing the will of God. So in 1st Peter chapter 4, he addresses this subject, this concern of the will of God and he makes it clear that confidence and conviction in life, hope comes when I know and when I do the will of God. So lets open our Bibles tonight to 1st Peter 4 and let's read the opening portion of this 4th chapter of the book of 1st Peter. The Bible says:

*¹Therefore, since Christ suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same mind, for he who suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin
²that he should no longer live the rest of his time in the flesh for the*

lusts of men, but for...

What?

...the will of God.

No longer living my life for the lusts of men but now for the will of God.

³For we have spent enough of our past lifetime in doing the will of the Gentiles—when we walked in licentiousness, lusts, drunkenness, revelries, drinking parties, and abominable idolatries. ⁴In regard to these, they think it strange that you do not run with them in the same flood of dissipation, speaking evil of you. ⁵They will give an account to Him who is ready to judge the living and the dead. ⁶For this reason the gospel was preached also to those who are dead, that they might be judged according to men in the flesh, but live...to God in the spirit. ⁷But the end of all things is at hand; therefore be serious and watchful in your prayers. ⁸And above all things have fervent love for one another, for “love will cover a multitude of sins.” ⁹Be hospitable to one another without grumbling. ¹⁰For each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. ¹¹And if anyone speaks, let him speak as of the oracles of God. And if anyone ministers, let him do it with the ability that God supplies, that in all things Gd may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belong the glory and the dominion forever and ever.

And all the people said..

Amen.