

DOING THE WILL OF GOD

Thursday, February 19
Reading: Romans 12:1-2

Isaiah 55:9 "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways and My thoughts than your thoughts".

You may ask, "If God's ways and thoughts are so much higher than ours (Isaiah 55:8-9), how can I possibly know His will?" The Apostle Paul gave us the first and greatest clue in his letter to the Romans.

Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—His good, pleasing and perfect will. (Romans 12:1-2)

To pray "Your will be done" implies that we are building a strong relationship with the Lord – that we are living for Him and not like the world. Part of being a living sacrifice is doing the things we already know are God's will! Witnessing, serving, giving, growing – these are not options but essentials.

Once we are doing what God has commanded in our lives, what do we do when decisions or issues come up that we are not sure what God's will is? How can we determine God's will in important decisions like marriage, career, etc.? Below are some questions to help with these decisions:

1. Is my heart and mind open to listen for God's voice? Or have I already made my decision and want God to "rubber stamp" it?
2. Have I bathed the decision in prayer?
3. Have I studied God's Word to discover directions and principles that apply?
4. Have I sought the council of my spouse/family or other Christian friends?
5. Have I looked at past and present circumstances to see if they give clues on God's will for my life?
6. Have I asked the Holy Spirit to reveal God's will to me and give me peace about the decision?
7. Will the decision help in my spiritual growth and service or will it be a hindrance?

These are only sample questions. Notice the majority of them focus on having a strong relationship with God. We cannot know God's will if we are not living in a loving relationship with our heavenly Father.

In his book *Prayer The Great Adventure*, David Jeremiah makes an excellent point.

"Find out where the Master is – then that is where you need to be. Find out what the Master is doing – then that is what you need to be doing. Jesus says, "If anyone serves Me, let him follow Me; and where I am, there shall My servant be, if anyone serves Me, the Father will honor him" (John 12:26)¹

Doing God's will is being and doing what Jesus does! It is agreeing to follow Him even if you don't fully understand it all. It is allow Him to have His way in your life. Is your life conformed to God's will? Are you doing the things you know He has called you do? Only then can we know we are in the center of His will.

¹ David Jeremiah. *Prayer: The Great Adventure*, p. 115.