

SPRING 2016-APRIL 17, 2016-SUNDAY MORNING CLASS

The **BATTLE PLAN for PRAYER**

FROM BASIC TRAINING TO TARGETED STRATEGIES

PART IV: STRATEGIES

3

THE WILL OF GOD

I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent me. (John 6:38)

"This is the confidence which we have before Him, that, if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests which we have asked from Him" (1 John 5:14-15).

The best place in the world for any of us to be is squarely in the middle of God 's will. It is His perfect plan that will bring Him the most pleasure. It is not only what's best for us, but it's what will yield God the most glory. And thankfully, He has promised every one of His children that we can live in His will continually.

Many people are convinced that God's will is a mystery. Unknowable. All shadows and secrets. Best hunches and wild guesses. And sometimes, when trying to discern His will for a major decision, the predominant feeling at first can be indecision . Yet the best strategy to use first of all in beginning to seek God 's will for specific questions is to pray like Jesus did-to pray in surrender to it from the onset.

"Not my will, but Yours be done." The presentation of ourselves can lead to the revelation of His will (Rom. 12:1-2).

Second, we should pray in accordance with what we already know for sure to be His will.

The chief goal of God's will is that He be glorified. In all circumstances. The primary driver behind all of life is that "God may be glorified through Jesus Christ" in everything (1 Pet. 4:11). "Not to us, O' Lord, not to us, but to Your name give glory" (Ps. 115:1). If your desire is for the glory of God to be elevated and made known, be assured His will is going to be accomplished in you.

God's will is to advance His kingdom. In every realm. The kingdom of God is His real yet unseen rule over all creation. He is establishing His dominion on earth, even as it's already established in heaven. That's what Jesus meant by telling His followers to "seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness" (Matt. 6:33 HCSB). As you align your goals with His kingdom goals, He promises to provide everything needed for your life to flourish.

God's will is for Christ to be Lord. In every arena. Lordship equates to power and authority. You're familiar, of course, with people who exercise power and authority over you-your boss, your leaders, police officers, parents. You do what they tell you to do. So as you follow Christ as Lord, you're saying with your life (not just your words) that you intend to give Him your full allegiance. This devoting of yourself to Him is "good and profitable for everyone" (Titus 3:8 HCSB). It's the blessing of doing His will.

Glory. Kingdom. Lordship. Those are just three major components of His overall will for you. He also wants you living a pure, sanctified life (1 Thess. 4:3). He wants you rejoicing, praying, and grateful in all circumstances (1 Thess. 5:16-18). He wants you maturing in the faith (Heb. 6:1). He wants you producing fruit, season after season (John 15:16). He wants you in close fellowship with other believers, "being of the same mind, maintaining the same love, united in spirit,

intent on one purpose" (Phil. 2:2). Much of His will, therefore, is readily known. Not only does His Word declare it, but the Spirit affirms it in your mind and heart.

So your quest [a search or pursuit made in order to find or obtain something] for God's will on a specific issue—whether to make an offer on this house or that one; whether to go to the smaller church nearby or the larger one across town; whether to apply for another job opportunity or stay where you are—is not really a separate matter from these other elements of His will. They're all tied together. Your knowledge on how to make a left-or-right decision, one that doesn't come with a specific Bible verse attached, will come clear in His timing as you stay focused in prayer on submitting to all of His will. The heart that's not only praying for His will but is also surrendering to it simultaneously—whatever the Lord reveals His plan to be—will not miss His desires when all is said and done. Because He will bail you out if you take a wrong turn (Prov. 16:9).

One of the ways God often steers us toward specific directions is by opening and closing doors of opportunity—which we're able to recognize if we're prayerfully following Him and watching for them (Rev. 3:8).

Paul often spoke of the open and closed doors God placed before him as he made decisions on where to travel next when he was planting and encouraging the early churches. Paul sometimes reported that the sense of warning over some cities was so strong, he felt "prevented" by the Holy Spirit from going there (Acts 16:6). A closed door. He spoke of other times, however, when God confirmed directions by giving him an open door to deliver the message of the gospel (2 Cor. 2:12). Once in Ephesus, the "wide door" God had unlocked for Paul's work in this region caused him

to feel led to stay beyond the time he'd originally planned. And yet along with this expanded opportunity came the observation that "many oppose me" (1 Cor. 16:9 HCSB). Some might question if a hard road is truly God's will. It very well may be.

The leadership that God gives as you pray your way through hard decisions is not to be evaluated merely by the physical events happening around you. Just because His calling is seeming to lead you toward opposition or difficulty is not the cut-and-dried definition of a closed door. Sometimes the most difficult, painful, fearful, or illogical path is the one that ends up being the open door, the one bearing His fingerprints. When Jesus prayed, "Not My will, but Yours be done" (Luke 22:42) in the garden, He stood up to take the difficult path which was in the center of God's will.

So how do you know? What are you supposed to be looking for?

One answer is peace in the midst of the storm. When you're doing what you know to be the will of God-when your desire is shifted toward His glory, when your goal is to participate in His kingdom, when your impatience is swallowed up in surrendering to His lordship-you'll begin to "recognize His voice" above all other internal and external opinion (John 10:4 HCSB). The Holy Spirit within you, who is continually interceding for you "according to the will of God" (Rom. 8:27), will help you understand and accept what your physical eyes may not be able to see. You'll know you're staring at an opened or closed door because it will not be in contradiction to His Word and you'll be sensing His loving peace.

"Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts," the Bible says (Col. 3:15). When you make known your sincere requests to Him in prayer, "the peace of God, which surpasses every

thought, will guard your hearts. and minds in Christ Jesus" (Phil. 4:7 HCSB).

This is not just an emotional peace that shows up for a few hours and then morphs into panic and confusion by nightfall. This distinctive "peace of Christ" settles in and is often confirmed by other believers. The enemy may try to agitate you into doubting it. But your reverent, trusting, prayerful spirit will keep Christ's peace from floating too far. You'll be able to stand before a day of unknowns, seeing the doors open and close while you calmly, peacefully wait, watch, and work. You'll discover yourself praying, "Lord, what would please and honor You most in this situation?" "Help me recognize Your desire and heart." "From what You've shown me about Yourself how would You lead me to pray here?"

That's faith. That's obedience. That's where His will for you shines and bears fruit. And that's the kind of praying that leads remarkably to peace.

PRAYER: *Lord, I know I'm in skillful hands as I pray for You to show me Your will and lead me faithfully into it. I accept from You specific guidance through Your Word to give me "a lamp to my feet and a light to my path" (Ps. 119:105)-for this moment. Thank You for being heaven-and-earth beyond me in size and scope (Isaiah 55:8-9), yet somehow stooping down to involve Yourself in my details. Tune my heart to the desires of Your heart. Align my mind with Your thoughts. Guide my path to the center of Your plans. And help me pray and live in accordance with Your will. I love You, and I will follow You in Jesus' name, Amen!*

HOMEWORK:

1. Name the best place in the world for you to be in?

2. It [_____] is His **IMPERFECT** or **PERFECT** plan that will bring Him the most **DISPLEASURE** or **PLEASURE**.
3. Name one what's most glory to God is that you...?

4. God promised you His child that you **CAN** or **CAN'T** live in His will continually.
5. Many people are convinced that God's will is:
 - a _____.
 - _____.
 - All _____ and _____.
 - Best _____ and wild _____.
6. Sometimes, when [people] trying to discern His will for a _____ decision, the predominant [influence over others] feeling at first can be _____.
7. Yet the best strategy to use first of all in beginning to _____ God's will for specific questions is to pray like Jesus did—to pray in _____ to it [_____] from the onset [a beginning or start].

You say in your prayer, "Not my will, but Your will be done!"

8. The presentation of yourself can lead to where?
9. You should pray in **OPPOSITION TO** or **ACCORDANCE WITH** what you ALREADY KNOW for sure to be His will.
10. Stop a minute here, what you ALREADY KNOW His will for sure (100%)...tell me what you ALREADY

KNOW His will...What is His will?

11. What is the chief (top) goal of God's Will?

12. God be glorified 'in all circumstances'. What are these 'circumstances'?

👉 The primary driver behind all of the life is that 'God may be glorified through _____' in everything.

👉 If your desire is for the glory of God

○ to be _____ and make _____,

○ to be _____ His will is going to be _____ in you.

13. God's will is to advance His what? _____

👉 Name two realms:

👉 The Kingdom of God is: REAL or FAKE

👉 T F: The Kingdom of God is yet seen rule over all the creation.

👉 God's Kingdom is established in where?

👉 MEMORIZE VERSE: Matthew 6:33

👉 As you _____ your goals with His Kingdom goals, He promises to _____ everything needed for

your life to _____.

☞ What are the God's Kingdom goals?

14. God's will is for Christ to be what? _____

- ❖ In every arena, Lordship equates to what?

- ❖ Y N NS: Are you intend to give Him—Lord your full allegiance?

- ❖ Y N NS: Jesus as your Lord, do you do what He tells you?

- ❖ Choose wisely:
 - It's the blessing of doing His will.
 - It's the curse of not doing His will.

15. Name three major components of His overall will for you?

16. Notice 'God's will' means 'God _____':

- you living a pure, sanctified life.
- you rejoicing, praying and grateful in all circumstances.
- you maturing in the faith.
- you producing fruit, season after season.
- you in close fellowship with other believers, 'being of the same mind, maintaining the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose'.

- Much of His will, therefore, is _____ known. Not only does His Word declare it, but the Spirit _____ it [_____] in your mind and heart.
17. Your quest [a search or pursuit made in order to find or obtain something] for God's will...blah, blah, blah...is also _____ to it [God's will] simultaneously [existing, occurring, or operating at the same time]—whatever the Lord _____ His plan to be—will not miss His desires when all is said and done.
 18. Proverbs 16:9: "A man's heart devises [plan] his way, but the Lord directs his steps." One of the ways God often _____ you toward specific directions is by _____ and _____ doors of opportunity—which you're able to recognize if you're prayerfully following Him and watching for them.
 19. Learn from Paul's experienced—mission journeys.
 20. God gives you a what as you pray your way through hard decisions?
 21. Because God's calling is seeming to _____ you toward opposition or difficulty is not the cut-and-dried definition of a closed door. Sometimes the most difficult, painful, fearful, or illogical path is the one that ends up being the _____ door, the one bearing His fingerprints.
- ✂ When Jesus prayed, "Not My will, but Yours be done" in the garden, He stood up to take the _____ path which was in the center of God's will.

22. How do you know? What are you supposed to be looking for?

23. When you're doing what you know to be the will of God:

- ✓ when your desire is _____ toward His glory,
- ✓ when your goal is to _____ in His kingdom,
- ✓ when your impatience is _____ up in surrendering to His lordship...
 - you'll begin to '_____ His voice' above all other internal and external opinion
 - Who is continually interceding for you according to God's will and will help you understand and accept what your physical eyes may not be able to see?
 - you'll know you're _____ at an opened or closed door because it will not be in contradiction to His Word,
 - and you'll be _____ His loving peace.

Colossians 3:15: "Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts".

24. The distinctive [having a special quality, style, attractiveness, etc..] peace of Christ settles in and is often confirmed by who?

25. Who may try to agitate [to shake, to disturb, excite emotionally, revolve in the mind] you into doubting it [_____]?

26. Through what can keep Christ's peace from floating too far?
27. You'll be able to stand before a day of unknowns, seeing the doors open and close while you _____, peacefully _____, _____, and _____.
28. You'll discover yourself praying [and saying], "Lord, what would please and honor You most in this situation?" or "Help me recognize Your desire and heart", or "From what You've shown me about Yourself, how would You lead me to pray here?"
- 👉 That's _____!
 - 👉 That's _____!
 - 👉 That's where His will you _____ and bears _____.
 - 👉 That's the kind of praying leads remarkably to what? _____

Hallelujah! The Lord is good to us!

