

## Finding God's Will

### Knowing God and His Word

11/5/18

We are taking a few weeks to consider the question "How can we know God's will?" Sometimes I think we get confused and frustrated because we spend too much time and energy trying to figure out what God is doing or why He is doing it. While God does, at times, give us quite specific directions, much of His will remains a mystery to us. He does not inform us ahead of time, nor does He always inform us after events in our lives. We may not find out until eternity.

Often, however, I find that as I walk in obedience to what I continue to learn of God's Word and about God's character, I find myself living in God's will. It also often seems that, looking back over the course of time, God has been involved throughout the process and I see his guiding hand all over the path that has led to where I am in life. In other words, finding God's will seems to be more a process of conforming me to His will by conforming me to His character. (Romans 8:28-29)

All of Romans chapter 8 is an interesting description of this process. As believers, we have been given life in the Spirit. That is the reality of salvation. In 1 Corinthians 2 Paul explains that we actually have the mind of Christ living in us! Without the Spirit living in us it is impossible to know God's will. That is the first step. We must know Him in the sense that we are His children. The "fleshly" or "carnal" mind cannot comprehend spiritual truths. Jesus told Nicodemus the same thing. He had to be born of the Spirit to have any hope of comprehending what Jesus would tell him.

Chapter 8 goes on to describe that since the Holy Spirit is in us, we are co-heirs with Christ. That is an absolute reality for everyone within whom the Holy Spirit dwells. Since we are co-heirs with Christ, we live in light of a future glory. Therefore, even in the midst of trials we are not overwhelmed. We know that this world is not the end of things. This is a fallen world waiting for its ultimate renewal, and while we are fully redeemed, we too anxiously anticipate a day when our renewal will be completed. It is an absolute surety because it is the end product of a completed redemption. However, the complete expression and experience of it is yet to come.

In the meantime, because all that is true, God continues to accomplish His will in and through our lives in conforming us to His image. One interesting observation is that we don't even really know how to pray, because we don't really totally understand the future that God already knows and holds. So the Spirit makes intercession for us.

Because of who God is and what He has done, we know that nothing will separate us from His love. He is absolutely loving, and we are absolutely loved.

Knowing God's will, or experiencing God's will, then, begins with knowing God and knowing His Word. As we spend our lives trying to figure out how or why God is doing something, we will spend much of our lives frustrated or even angry, because we aren't God. Experiencing God's will means living by faith in who He is and what He is doing for His glory and for our good. (Hebrews 11:6)

**QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER:**

1. What role does the Holy Spirit play in us knowing God's will?
2. What role does understanding God's character play in our knowing God's will?
3. What role does knowing God's Word play in knowing God's will?
4. How do we get to know God better?
5. What might stand in the way of that happening?