



## Sunday Sermon Notes: January 13, 2019

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### Knowing and Doing God's Will with your time – Psalm 90:12

Knowing God's will and doing it is something every believer longs for. We WANT to be where God has led us and where we are being and doing what God's calling on our lives means. Our challenge isn't the desire to do it nor is it an ignorance that God has a will but rather the clarity of understanding and implementing God's will in our daily personal lives. The purpose of this series is to do give us some tools to find that clarity. Finding God's will means we've found purpose and meaning for our lives and we've surrendered the inherent pessimism we see around us.

#### I. God longs for you to know His will!

When we speak of God's will, there are two aspects in view.

- A. **God's sovereign will.** These are things permanently fixed, constant and unmovable. It cannot and will not be broken or thwarted. It cannot be subverted or altered by human means and it shall be accomplished regardless of opposition. Examples of this include the sunrise and set, our body's natural processes and even Christ's death on the cross. In Matthew 26:39, Jesus prays for release, but submits to God's sovereign will just the same. Jesus' heart is to avoid the cross, but it is God's clear will to redeem humanity, a task that cannot be completed without the cross. Nothing happens without His will and all things fall under His authority and power. From the King (Proverbs 21:1) to the smallest sparrow (Matt 10:29) all are under his sovereign, indisputable, unstoppable will. We can rest confidently in that even if it brings things we would not choose like it did for Jesus. We can rest, however, knowing that His will is the stabilizing force for all that exists and His wisdom is better than all the wisdom we can muster.
- B. **God's command will** – This is the one most of us mean when we're discussing God's will. What does God have for ME? While the other is going to happen regardless of my choices, this one I can miss out on! Through my own disobedience, I can miss out on God's will. 1 John 2:17 - "*And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever*". Not all will abide forever. Some will desire to, but their own choices will take them away from God's will.
- C. **But what if God's will is painful?** - There's some power in these two aspects, but there is also some pain. On the one hand, we need the assurance that we have a God fully in control who stands supremely in charge and doesn't allow anything to happen outside of his control. On the other hand, we need a God who can empathize with our deepest pain, and does not delight in sin, pain or grief. How can we reconcile these two when there is so much grief in the world? To those who have lost someone they love or have endured some severe trauma such as being abused as a child, let me begin by saying I'm sorry. Was it God's will that such pain came? Could God have stopped it? If he could've, why didn't He? There are no easy answers to such deep and hurtful questions nor do I pretend to offer any today. What I can say is that our God, in His wisdom, mercy and kindness, has allowed under His authority, some things that we do not understand. They are deeply painful and, according to His sovereign will, confusing to us.

***If we are going to trust God even when it's painful, we must answer some key questions:***

- (1) Am I willing to trust God is SOVERIGN in all cases?**
- (2) Am I willing to trust God is GOOD in all cases? Even when it doesn't FEEL like He's good?**

**(3) Am I willing to trust God MORE than my emotions? More than other's emotions?**

**(4) Am I willing to release my anger and need for justice to God?**

**(5) Am I willing to accept suffering as a normal part of the Christian walk?**

**2Cor. 12:7** To keep me from becoming conceited because of these surpassingly great revelations, there was given me a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me. **12:8** Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. **12:9** But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. **12:10** That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

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**II. God's will is for our lives to be transformed! Rom. 12:1** Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship. **12:2** Do not conform any longer 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.

His will compels us to be changed from who we were to who He's called us to be.

**STEP ONE: Pray for transformation!**

- **Let the Word of God sink deeply into your soul.** So much of what we do every day isn't premeditated but trained behavior. What if we RE-TRAIN ourselves by allowing the Word of God to sink deeply into our souls and change us on the inside first?
- **Spend time talking with the God who's Will you're seeking!** This sounds too simple to be a part of our transformation, but it's the easy things that are easiest to miss! Spending daily time in prayer allows me to speak to the God who has divided the Sea, healed the sick and raised the dead! Most of my problems will seem easy!
- **Spend time with people who also want to follow God's will.** **Proverbs 13:20** - Walk with the wise and become wise, for a companion of fools suffers harm.

**Step TWO: Allow that transformation to guide decisions:**

- **Does God love me in spite of my past and my mistakes? - 1Tim. 2:3** This is good, and pleases God our Savior, **2:4** who wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth; **Luke 19:10** For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost."
- **What's okay to do with my body? - 1Cor. 6:19** Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; **6:20** you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body.
- **Who should I marry? - 2 Cor 6:14** - "Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness?"
- **Does God command me to forgive those who have wronged me? - Matt. 5:39** But I tell you, Do not resist an evil person. If someone strikes you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also. **5:40** And if someone wants to sue you and take your tunic, let him have your cloak as well. **5:41** If someone forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles. **5:42** Give to the one who asks you, and do not turn away from the one who wants to borrow from you. **5:43** "You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' **5:44** But I tell you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, **5:45** that you may be sons of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous.
- **Do I need a church home? - Heb. 10:25** Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another