**Study Notes: Lesson 10 - How to Discern the Will of God – Acts 9**

**Proverbs 3:5-6,** *Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. 6Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take. (nlt)*

**Your greatest desire is to know His will, to delight in His will and the greatest danger is to refuse His will.**

~ Adrian Rogers

**Six Myths Concerning The Will Of God:** *By Adrian Rogers in “What Every Christian Ought To Know”*

1. **Map Myth:** Thinking God is going to give you a road map – not true – the will of God is in having a personal relationship.
2. **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Myth:** If I do the will of God is it going to be painful?
3. **Missionary Myth:** God calls certain/special people. Preachers and missionaries – not true- God calls ordinary people to extraordinary things for Him.
4. **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Myth:** Thinking that you have to have something dramatic, signs or voice in order for you to know His will. He may speak to you with a miracle, generally He does not. In the case of Elijah, God spoke in a way that Elijah wasn’t expecting. **1 King 19:11–12**, **Proverbs 4:18,**
5. **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_ Myth:** thinking you missed His will and it’s too late – not true – it’s never too late. You may have missed God’s original plan, but God has a will for your life at every stage of your life. **Joel 2:25,**
6. **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Myth:** thinking God’s will is a mystery – not true- God wants you to know His will.

In Acts 9, the Apostle Paul was converted, immediately he has two questions:

**Who are you Lord?** **And Lord what do you want me to do?**

**Three Principles To Discern The Will Of God:**

1. **God Has Promised \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_! Acts 9:5-6, Ephesians 2:10**, **Psalm 37:23**, **Psalm 32:8**, **Isaiah 58:11**,

**I have a Father in control of everything.**

**I have a Savior besides me directing my footsteps.**

**I have the Holy Spirit within me energizing me, impressing my heart, my mind and my will.**

**Understanding the Will of God for you…**

**God’s \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Will: Proverbs 19:21 This is His overarching sovereign will.** God’s will, will never be changed by you or Satan. Whatever God’s sovereign will is, it is going to be done, no matter how much someone fights against it.

**God’s \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Will: Deuteronomy 30:19 His permissive will is that we make the right choices.**

God in His sovereignty has granted man a free will that he may also disobey God.

According to **2 Peter 3:9,** God’s will is for no one to parish.

God’s will is sanctification, **1 Thessalonians 4:3**,

God’s will is for men to pray, **1 Tim. 2:8**,

**God’s \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Will:**  **Matthew 10:30,**  God knows your name and He has a special personal plan for you for He orders your steps. He is interested in each of us. He knows us and cares for us and He deals with each individual**.**

**2. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Is Provisional:** **Psalm 25:9,**

**The Holy Spirit Not Only Guides, His Guidance Is Provisional.** You must be willing to know God’s will. We cannot try to superimpose our will onto His will. Stop trying to force God to accept your will for yourself. Allow Him to guide you!

* **To be guided by Him we must be \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**, meaning we must have a teachable and a broken spirit. We must come to the place where we can say and mean it, Lord what do you want me to do?
* **We must have an \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to the Lord.** Paul was saying to God, what do you want me to do? He was open to God’s voice. God speaks with a quiet voice. He’s not going to yell at you!
* **You need to have a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ before God.** We need a listening prayer as well as a talking prayer. It’s not listen God, your servant speaks. Speak Lord, your servant listens.
* **You need to have be \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.** It’s not enough to know the will of God, you have to yield to His will. **Rom. 12:1-2**,

**3. Guidance Is\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_: Acts 9: 8-11, 17,**

* God sometimes directs by miracles, supernaturally works in visions, dreams and miracles. God can work anyway He desires, He’s God. With Saul, Jesus appeared to him and directed him.

**Ways God speaks so that we might discern His will for our lives:**

* **The Word of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_: Acts 9:5,**  Much of God’s will for us is already in the word. God’s will is written, never seek the will of God concerning something God has clearly commanded or has clearly forbidden. It’s arrogant, dangerous, foolish and wicked to try to know the will of God apart from His word.

* **The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of God: Acts 9:10-12,** God will use other people to know His will for your life. God will and at times confirm through instruction, encouragement, or guidance through another person. You need to be sure that, that person gives you wise council.

**Proverbs 24:6**, **So don’t go to war without wise guidance; victory depends on having many advisers.**

God is the final counselor and we have to obey God rather than men.

The Holy Spirit of God will give you an inner witness.

The Holy Spirit is gentle, he never shoves or shouts, and He guides and leads with a still small voice.

People that are religious zealots, compulsive and drivers are / can be usually dangerous.

* **The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of God: Acts 9:20-22,**

God infuses your life with wisdom, **Ephesians 5:15-18**,

What is wisdom? Wisdom is seeing life from God’s point of view, the mind of Christ, since your mind has been renewed and sanctified. **James 1:5**

* **The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of God: Acts 9:23-25,**

The will of God is not always honey and no bees. When problems arise in the will of God His providential hand will guide us. The will of God is for us in Jesus the head of the body.

**Three Principles Regarding The Will Of God**:

1. **For Your \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ It’s Not Something You Have To Do, It Is Something You Get To Do.**
2. **The Will Of God Never Takes You Where The Grace And Power Of God Cannot \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ And Keep You.**
3. **You Are Free To \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_: God Will Not Force You.**

You are free to choose His will. If you refuse you have made a choice – you chose not to choose. You are not free to choose the consequences of your choice. The choice chooses for you. If you choose to jump out a ten-story building, it was your choice. Don’t blame God when you hit the ground. We are the sum total of our choices.

**To know the will of God we must ask, Lord who are you and what do you want me to do?**

**Questions To Ponder:**

1. Which of the six myths out lined is the most descriptive – how you view and practice your own search of God’s will?
2. When was the last time you sensed a high level of confidence that you were being led by God to make certain decisions or course of action? How was it different from other kinds of council and motivation?
3. In what way is obedience the key to being able to hear from God and respond to Him?
4. How much time do you spend actively listening to God’s voice – prayer, bile reading, worship or meditation?
5. What keeps you from being still and quiet before God?
6. Why is waiting such an integral part of hearing from God and knowing His will?