

WHAT IS GOD'S WILL FOR MY LIFE? : PART 1

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Human Rat Race, Jesus Came To Do God's Will, Jesus Became Our High Priest And Introduced A New Covenant, Stubborn King Saul, Obedient King David, Psalm 40 Mysteries, Importance Of Obeying God And Knowing His Will, The General Will Of God Is Salvation, Our Great Commission: Share Message Of Salvation With Others, Treasure Of God's Kingdom, God Has Not Changed, Challenges To Preaching The Gospel, God Will Provide Your Needs, What If Your Needs Are Not Met, A Call For Laborers, Personal Faith And Choice, Rich Ruler: Forsake All To Follow Jesus, The Full Price Of Discipleship, Count The Cost First

In this modern world of ours, most people are kept so busy just trying to survive from day to day, that very few ever take the time to think about -- or even care about -- what God's Will might be for their lives. This is not to suggest that they are necessarily bad people; they are simply caught up in the usual human rat race, and the mundane affairs of this present life. However, for Believers in Jesus Christ, this is indeed a very important issue we should not choose to simply ignore. While discussing the necessity of Christ's Sacrifice on the Cross as the Final Atonement for our sins, the Apostle Paul quotes from the Book of Psalms in his Epistle to the Hebrews. Paul writes the following:

"Then said I, Lo, I come (in the volume of the book it is written of me,) to do thy will, O God . . . Then said he, Lo, I come to do thy will, O God. He taketh away the first, that he may establish the second."

Hebrews 10:7, 9, KJV

The original prophecy, as written by King David about a thousand years earlier, finds its origin in the following verses from the fortieth Psalm:

"Then said I, Lo, I come: in the volume of the book it is written of me, I delight to do thy will, O my God: yea, thy

law is within my heart."

Psalms 40:7-8, KJV

If you read more of Hebrews chapter ten -- and in fact, the entire Epistle -- you will discover that the Apostle Paul is actually describing how Jesus became our new High Priest, and how through His Sacrifice on the Cross, He did away with the Old Covenant of the Old Testament period, and He brought in a New Covenant which was founded upon and sealed with His own Blood. That is why in the previous verses, Paul writes "He taketh away the first, that he may establish the second." I likewise discuss these issues at length in the series "Is Jesus the Only Begotten Son of God?".

As some of you will know, unlike Jesus who delighted to do His Father's Will, King Saul was a king of a very different kind. Rather than acknowledge and obey the voice of the Lord via the Prophet Samuel, he relied upon his own wisdom and human understanding. Because of this, the Scriptures inform us that God became angry with Saul, and rent the kingdom from him, and eventually made David the king. David actually served in Saul's army at the time. Consider the following verses:

"Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths."

Proverbs 3:5-6, KJV

"And Samuel said, Hath the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams. For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because thou hast rejected the word of the LORD, he hath also rejected thee from being king."

1 Samuel 15:22-23, KJV

King David was the exact opposite of Saul. He was in love with the Lord's Spirit, and he highly exalted God's Word in his many Psalms. In fact, if you carefully read Psalm 40, you will discover that while it is a prophecy regarding Jesus, it is also a parallel to David's own life. You see, not only was David persecuted by his enemies -- just like Jesus -- but he was also the second king of Israel, after the first king, who obviously was Saul, just like the previous verses state. But that is not all. Consider that we find the "first Adam" in

the Book of Genesis, and the "last Adam" -- or "second Adam"? -- in Jesus Christ, as per 1 Corinthians 15:45. Also, unlike disobedient King Saul, David fervently endeavored to do God's Will, just like Jesus. Consider the first three verses of his very first Psalm which show the reward of delighting in doing God's Will:

"Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper."

Psalm 1:1-3, KJV

In later Psalms, King David continues to proclaim the reward of those people who obey the Word of the Lord, as well as his own personal delight in doing the same. Consider this group of verses:

"Delight thyself also in the LORD; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart."

Psalm 37:4, KJV

"I will delight myself in thy statutes: I will not forget thy word . . . Thy testimonies also are my delight and my counsellors . . . Make me to go in the path of thy commandments; for therein do I delight . . . And I will delight myself in thy commandments, which I have loved . . . Their heart is as fat as grease; but I delight in thy law . . . Let thy tender mercies come unto me, that I may live: for thy law is my delight . . . I have longed for thy salvation, O LORD; and thy law is my delight."

Psalm 119:16, 24, 35, 47, 70, 77, 174, KJV

Thus we see that obeying the Lord, and knowing what His Will is for our lives is something which should be of concern to every sincere Christian. As it was with Jesus and King David, it should also be a delight for us to do God's Will. But the question which then arises is this: Exactly how does one find out what God's Will is for his or her live? Perhaps the best approach to answering this question would be for us to first establish what we know to be the Will of God. That is to say, the general Will of God. Once we have established that, it will then be easier to provide a more amplified answer. Upon conducting a bit of Biblical research, I found the following

Scriptures which are applicable to this subject. Let's start with what Jesus had to say regarding the Will of His Father:

"Jesus saith unto them, My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work."

John 4:34, KJV

"Jesus answered and said unto them, This is the work of God, that ye believe on him whom he hath sent."

John 6:29, KJV

"And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day."

John 6:40, KJV

From the previous verses, we can ascertain that the words "work" and "will" are sometimes synonymous. In this case, God's Work, or Will, for Jesus, was that He fulfill His mission of Redemption, by offering His Life on the Cross for the sins of the world. In other words, Jesus came to save us. Jesus then expands on that thought by adding that it is then God's Will that we believe on what His Son has done for us, so that we might obtain Everlasting Life. This then, is the overall Will and Work of God: that all men everywhere might be saved, as becomes evident by the following set of verses:

"For the Son of man is come to save that which was lost."

Matthew 18:11, KJV

"For the Son of man is not come to destroy men's lives, but to save them . . ."

Luke 9:56, KJV

"For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost."

Luke 19:10, KJV

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved."

John 3:16-17, KJV

"For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our

Saviour; Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth."

1 Timothy 2:3-4, KJV

"The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance."

2 Peter 3:9, KJV

A few of my other articles which discusses the scope of God's Salvation plan are "Is the Message of Salvation Meant for All Men?", "All Are Given a Chance, But . . ." and "Not Everyone is a Child of God". You will find them listed at the end of this current series. So, after explaining what God's overall Will is for humanity, Jesus then narrows things down a little more for us when He tells His Disciples the following. Please notice the interesting numerology between these two verses:

"Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you."

John 15:16, KJV

"And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature."

Mark 16:15, KJV

Thus we see that once we fulfill God's overall Will for our lives by believing in Jesus, similar to the Apostles and the Disciples of old, we are then expected to do what we can to carry that same message of Salvation to others. Amongst us Christians, this responsibility is commonly referred to as the Great Commission. Following are some additional verses where this Christian mandate is mentioned:

"And as ye go, preach, saying, The kingdom of heaven is at hand. Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils: freely ye have received, freely give."

Matthew 10:7-8, KJV

"Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine."

2 Timothy 4:2, KJV

"But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth."

Acts 1:8, KJV

"And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come."

Matthew 24:14, KJV

"Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:"

Matthew 28:19, KJV

"And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day: And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem."

Luke 24:46-47, KJV

"And daily in the temple, and in every house, they ceased not to teach and preach Jesus Christ."

Acts 5:42, KJV

"And how I kept back nothing that was profitable unto you, but have shewed you, and have taught you publickly, and from house to house . . . Therefore watch, and remember, that by the space of three years I ceased not to warn every one night and day with tears."

Acts 20:20, 31, KJV

"How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things . . . So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."

Romans 10:14-15, 17, KJV

"For though I preach the gospel, I have nothing to glory of: for necessity is laid upon me; yea, woe is unto me, if I preach not the gospel!"

1 Corinthians 9:16, KJV

"Let him that is taught in the word communicate unto him that teacheth in all good things."

Galatians 6:6, KJV

"Since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus, and of the love which ye have to all the saints, For the hope which is laid up for you in heaven, whereof ye heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel; Which is come unto you, as it is in all the world; and bringeth forth fruit, as it doth also in you, since the day ye heard of it, and knew the grace of God in truth:"

Colossians 1:4-6, KJV

"And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also."

2 Timothy 2:2, KJV

As I have explained on other occasions, being saved is like possessing a great treasure. It is something we should want to share with as many people as we possibly can, by whatever means we can. Jesus also compared God's Word and the Kingdom of Heaven to a great treasure in the following two verses:

"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto treasure hid in a field; the which when a man hath found, he hideth, and for joy thereof goeth and selleth all that he hath, and buyeth that field . . . Then said he unto them, Therefore every scribe which is instructed unto the kingdom of heaven is like unto a man that is an householder, which bringeth forth out of his treasure things new and old."

Matthew 13:44, 52, KJV

Now some people may argue, "Yes, but preaching the Good News was just for the people in those days. That was just for the Disciples whom Jesus had personally hand chosen to spread the Gospel during the First Century. Surely it is not meant for those of us living today in the 21st Century. After all, times have changed. I have a family to support. I have bills to pay. I don't have time to preach the Gospel, even if I wanted to."

My friends, this is indeed true. No one can deny that life has become much more complicated than in those bygone days. Although to be honest, even then they had these same basic responsibilities. They had to support their families. They

had to pay the Temple tithe. They had to pay Roman taxes. They had to grow food, herd animals, repair their homes, mend their clothes, etc. On top of all of that, they did not have electricity or running water. Yet despite all of those challenges -- not to mention constant persecution -- they were still able to reach the known world of their day with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Having said that, allow me to ask you something. Has God changed? Is He any less powerful than He was back then? Let's look to the Scriptures for a clear answer:

"For I AM THE LORD, I CHANGE NOT; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed."

Malachi 3:6, KJV

"I said, O my God, take me not away in the midst of my days: thy years are throughout all generations. Of old hast thou laid the foundation of the earth: and the heavens are the work of thy hands. They shall perish, but thou shalt endure: yea, all of them shall wax old like a garment; as a vesture shalt thou change them, and they shall be changed: BUT THOU ART THE SAME, AND THY YEARS SHALL HAVE NO END."

Psalms 102:24-27, KJV

"And, Thou, Lord, in the beginning hast laid the foundation of the earth; and the heavens are the works of thine hands: They shall perish; but thou remainest; and they all shall wax old as doth a garment; And as a vesture shalt thou fold them up, and they shall be changed: BUT THOU ART THE SAME, AND THY YEARS SHALL NOT FAIL."

Hebrews 1:10-12, KJV

"Jesus Christ THE SAME yesterday, and to day, and for ever."

Hebrews 13:8, KJV

So if God has not changed, are we really to believe that He is unable to provide for His servants just as much today as He did in the days of old? To say that the Lord is no longer as great as He used to be, or that today He is incapable of fulfilling His Word, would be in total contradiction to the Holy Scriptures. If you seriously doubt that God can still provide your needs in this modern age, if you truly seek first His Kingdom, then I ask you to please consider the following sample verses:

"God is not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent: hath he said, and shall he not

do it? or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good?"
Numbers 23:19, KJV

"Behold, the LORD'S hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear:"
Isaiah 59:1, KJV

"And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us: And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him."
1 John 5:14-15, KJV

"But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus."
Philippians 4:19, KJV

"But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you. Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof."
Matthew 6:33-34, KJV

"Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened . . . If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him?"
Matthew 7:7-8, 11, KJV

"And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive."
Matthew 21:22, KJV

"Are not five sparrows sold for two farthings, and not one of them is forgotten before God? But even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear not therefore: ye are of more value than many sparrows."
Luke 12:6-7, KJV

"And he said unto his disciples, Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat; neither for the body, what ye shall put on. The life is more than meat, and the body is more than raiment. Consider the ravens: for

they neither sow nor reap; which neither have storehouse nor barn; and God feedeth them: how much more are ye better than the fowls? And which of you with taking thought can add to his stature one cubit? If ye then be not able to do that thing which is least, why take ye thought for the rest? Consider the lilies how they grow: they toil not, they spin not; and yet I say unto you, that Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. If then God so clothe the grass, which is to day in the field, and to morrow is cast into the oven; how much more will he clothe you, O ye of little faith? And seek not ye what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink, neither be ye of doubtful mind. For all these things do the nations of the world seek after: and your Father knoweth that ye have need of these things. But rather seek ye the kingdom of God; and all these things shall be added unto you."

Luke 12:22-31, KJV

"He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?"

Romans 8:32, KJV

"Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen."

Ephesians 3:20-21, KJV

"Delight thyself also in the LORD; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart . . . I have been young, and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread."

Psalms 37:4, 25, KJV

"Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it."

Malachi 3:10, KJV

Given the many Scriptures I have shared here, it should be rather evident that God both can and is willing to provide our needs, if we are truly seeking first His Kingdom, and fulfilling His Will for our lives. Now, if you are seriously lacking anything in your life, the problem is not with God.

It is with you. Perhaps you are simply lacking in faith. Or maybe you are doing something which is displeasing to the Lord. Only you personally can determine what the problem is through prayer.

When it comes to serving the Lord, what it really comes down to is a matter of faith and personal choice. I cannot decide for you, and you cannot decide for me. We must each operate according to our own degree of faith and personal conviction. The Lord is indeed doing the calling. He is most assuredly looking for modern-day Disciples who desire to carry on the work of reaping the soul harvest. However, it is entirely up to us how we choose to respond to His call. Consider the following set of verses:

"And he saith unto them, Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men. And they straightway left their nets, and followed him."

Matthew 4:19-20, KJV

"Then saith he unto his disciples, The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few; Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest."

Matthew 9:37-38, KJV

"For many are called, but few are chosen."

Matthew 22:14, KJV

"Therefore said he unto them, The harvest truly is great, but the labourers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth labourers into his harvest."

Luke 10:2, KJV

"Say not ye, There are yet four months, and then cometh harvest? behold, I say unto you, Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest."

John 4:35

"My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me:"

John 10:27, KJV

Just as occurred back then, not everyone is willing to simply give up everything by forsaking family, friends and material possessions in order to follow Jesus. It takes a special kind of person to do this, and they are indeed far and few between.

The rich ruler in Luke chapter eighteen certainly did not make the grade. Consider the following verses:

"And a certain ruler asked him, saying, Good Master, what shall I do to inherit eternal life? And Jesus said unto him, Why callest thou me good? none is good, save one, that is, God. Thou knowest the commandments, Do not commit adultery, Do not kill, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Honour thy father and thy mother. And he said, All these have I kept from my youth up. Now when Jesus heard these things, he said unto him, Yet lackest thou one thing: sell all that thou hast, and distribute unto the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, follow me. And when he heard this, he was very sorrowful: for he was very rich. And when Jesus saw that he was very sorrowful, he said, How hardly shall they that have riches enter into the kingdom of God! For it is easier for a camel to go through a needles eye, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God."

Luke 18:18-25, KJV

There is definitely a price to pay for such dedicated service to the Lord, and it goes beyond just giving up one's material possessions. Believe me; I know because I have experienced it in my own life. Consider the following verses:

"And a man's foes shall be they of his own household. He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. And he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after me, is not worthy of me."

Matthew 10:36-38, KJV

"And he said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: but whosoever will lose his life for my sake, the same shall save it."

Luke 9:23-24, KJV

Because there is such a high price to pay in order to be a full-time Disciple of Jesus Christ, even back then, Jesus admonished those people who desired to follow Him, to first count the cost, as we can determine by the following group of verses:

"For which of you, intending to build a tower, sitteth not

down first, and counteth the cost, whether he have sufficient to finish it? Lest haply, after he hath laid the foundation, and is not able to finish it, all that behold it begin to mock him, Saying, This man began to build, and was not able to finish. Or what king, going to make war against another king, sitteth not down first, and consulteth whether he be able with ten thousand to meet him that cometh against him with twenty thousand? Or else, while the other is yet a great way off, he sendeth an ambassage, and desireth conditions of peace. So likewise, whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple."

Luke 14:28-33, KJV

Please go to part two for the continuation of this series.

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WHAT IS GOD'S WILL FOR MY LIFE? : PART 2

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We Will Be Rewarded According To Our Works, Decide God's Will For Yourself, River Of God's Will, Present Your Body A Living Sacrifice, We're Our Own Worst Enemies, Rewired With The Mind Of Christ, Old Man Versus New Man, Cleansed By The Word, Holy Spirit Is Our Teacher, Faithfully Study God's Word, To Know And Understand The Recorded Word Is To Know And Understand God Himself, God Speaks To Us Through His Word, Fight Against Discouragement, Prophet Jeremiah: Holy Spirit Fire, My Job As A Writer, To Know The Will Of God Is To Know The Word Of God, God Will Not Contradict His Word, Modern Deception: Test The Spirits, We Aren't Mindless Robots, Wait On The Lord, God Will Place His Will In Your Heart, God Will Provide The Means Open The Way And Give You Signs, Example Of Gideon, If God Is Not Opening The Way Or Providing The Means, Do Not Foolishly Rush Ahead Of The Lord, God Usually Answers With Yes No Or Wait

Continuing our discussion from part one, to those brave souls who are willing to take this plunge of faith into full-time Discipleship, the Lord offers blessings both in this life, and in the Life to come. We will each be rewarded according to the works which we perform for the Lord here on the Earth, as we can determine by the following group of verses:

"Then Peter began to say unto him, Lo, we have left all, and have followed thee. And Jesus answered and said, Verily I say unto you, There is no man that hath left house, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my sake, and the gospel's, But he shall receive an hundredfold now in this time, houses, and brethren, and sisters, and mothers, and children, and lands, with persecutions; and in the world to come eternal life. But many that are first shall be last; and the last first."
Mark 10:28-31, KJV

"If thou sayest, Behold, we knew it not; doth not he that pondereth the heart consider it? and he that keepeth thy soul, doth not he know it? and shall not he render to every man according to his works?"
Proverbs 24:12, KJV

"For the Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father with his angels; and then he shall reward every man according to his works."
Matthew 16:27, KJV

"And if ye call on the Father, who without respect of persons judgeth according to every man's work, pass the time of your sojourning here in fear:"
1 Peter 1:17, KJV

". . . I am he which searcheth the reins and hearts: and I will give unto every one of you according to your works."
Revelation 2:23, KJV

"And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them."
Revelation 14:13, KJV

"And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works."

Revelation 20:12-13, KJV

"For the kingdom of heaven is as a man travelling into a far country, who called his own servants, and delivered unto them his goods. And unto one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one; to every man according to his several ability; and straightway took his journey. Then he that had received the five talents went and traded with the same, and made them other five talents. And likewise he that had received two, he also gained other two. But he that had received one went and digged in the earth, and hid his lords money. After a long time the lord of those servants cometh, and reckoneth with them. And so he that had received five talents came and brought other five talents, saying, Lord, thou deliveredst unto me five talents: behold, I have gained beside them five talents more. His lord said unto him, WELL DONE, THOU GOOD AND FAITHFUL SERVANT: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: ENTER THOU INTO THE JOY OF THY LORD. He also that had received two talents came and said, Lord, thou deliveredst unto me two talents: behold, I have gained two other talents beside them. His lord said unto him, WELL DONE, GOOD AND FAITHFUL SERVANT; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: ENTER THOU INTO THE JOY OF THY LORD. Then he which had received the one talent came and said, Lord, I knew thee that thou art an hard man, reaping where thou hast not sown, and gathering where thou hast not strawed: And I was afraid, and went and hid thy talent in the earth: lo, there thou hast that is thine. His lord answered and said unto him, Thou wicked and slothful servant, thou knewest that I reap where I sowed not, and gather where I have not strawed: Thou oughtest therefore to have put my money to the exchangers, and then at my coming I should have received mine own with usury. Take therefore the talent from him, and give it unto him which hath ten talents. For unto every one that hath shall be given, and he shall have abundance: but from him that hath not shall be taken away even that which he hath. And cast ye the unprofitable servant into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

Matthew 25:14-30, KJV

Again, not everyone is called to this particular kind of ministry. As I said previously, God's overall Will is that we believe in His Son; and that we then do what we can to encourage others to believe in Him as well. Exactly how you personally go about doing this, and to what degree you do it, is entirely up to you and your faith and conviction. Absolutely no one can decide this for you. Beginning with Abraham and the early Patriarchs, each individual has had to decide on his own. Finding the Will of God requires a lot of soul searching. It can't be based upon a pretentious faith. It must be based upon real faith, and a certain knowing in your heart that it is what God has called you to do. While writing about personal faith and conviction concerning the eating of meat, the Apostle Paul made the following comment which can also be applied to finding the Will of God in one's life:

"One man esteemeth one day above another: another esteemeth every day alike. Let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind."

Romans 14:5, KJV

God's overall Will can be compared to a mighty river. The river finds its origin in many small mountainside streams. Each of these might be considered one particular aspect of fulfilling God's Will, comparable to different levels of Discipleship. When those streams come together, they are all part of that same mighty river and can't be told apart the one from the other. They are all a part of God's Will, and they all lead to the same final destination: the ocean. The problem many of us encounter with this example, is in trying to discover in which of those streams we belong. What is our particular calling and ministry?

Part of the formula for finding the Will of God for our lives can be found in the following verses taken from the Apostle Paul's Epistle to the Romans. Paul wrote as follows in the twelfth chapter of his letter:

"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God."

Romans 12:1-2, KJV

The first step we have to take in finding God's Will for our lives is to present ourselves as living sacrifices to God. This is not talking about a real blood sacrifice such as was performed by the ancient Patriarchs with the firstfruits of their flocks. Rather, it is referring to a surrendering of our personal will and plans for our lives. This is where most of us run into immediate trouble. Let's face it, folks. Most of us are rather selfish individuals. We each put our personal welfare first above everything and everybody else. As the Apostle Paul wrote to the brethren at Ephesus:

"For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church:"
Ephesians 5:29, KJV

We are our own worst enemies; and not only our flesh, but our minds as well. It is necessary that we bring both our bodies and our minds into subjection to God's Will. This is why Paul likewise tells us that in order to find the Will of God, we cannot conform to the ways of the world. That is, the ways in which the world makes us live, think and act. We must allow God to totally rewire us spiritually, so that we no longer think on the things of the flesh, but rather on the things of the Spirit. We must allow God's Spirit to totally transform us into new creatures who begin to see and understand things with the mind of Christ. We must allow our old man of the flesh to symbolically die, and let the new man of the Spirit live instead. And it's not always easy to do. These truths are made evident by verses such as the following:

"Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain. And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown: but we an incorruptible: I therefore so run, not as uncertainly: so fight I, not as one that beateth the air: BUT I KEEP UNDER MY BODY AND BRING IT INTO SUBJECTION: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway."

1 Corinthians 9:24-27, KJV

"For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that

exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and BRINGING INTO CAPTIVITY EVERY THOUGHT TO THE OBEDIENCE OF CHRIST;"
2 Corinthians 10:3-5, KJV

"For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ."
1 Corinthians 2:16, KJV

"That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness."
Ephesians 4:22-24, KJV

"Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds; And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him:"
Colossians 3:9-10, KJV

"Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin."
Romans 6:6, KJV

"For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be."
Romans 8:6-7, KJV

"Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new."
2 Corinthians 5:17, KJV

Exactly how does this spiritual transformation occur in our lives? The Scriptures inform us that this process is akin to taking a spiritual bath in the Word of God. Consider these two verses:

"BETH. Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to thy word."
Psalm 119:9, KJV

"Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto

you."

John 15:3, KJV

In Jesus' time, this cleansing of mind, body and spirit was the result of the Lord verbally speaking the Word directly to the people. After all, Jesus was/is the Living Word. Just by speaking the Word, people were healed. Just by speaking the Word, demons were cast out. Just by speaking the Word, men were forgiven for their sins. Just by speaking the Word, men forsook all and followed Jesus. Just by believing the Word, we receive Eternal Life. Today, in the absence of Jesus' physical presence, God has found it fit to speak to us, and to teach us, by other means. Primary among these is the Holy Spirit. Consider the following verses:

"And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you . . . But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, HE SHALL TEACH YOU ALL THINGS, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you."

John 14:16-17, 26, KJV

"Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, HE WILL GUIDE YOU INTO ALL TRUTH: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come."

John 16:13, KJV

Please notice that it says that the Holy Ghost will help His Disciples to remember the things Jesus had spoken unto them. Of course, we modern Christians weren't there in Jesus' day; so we have to rely upon what was passed down to us in the Scriptures in order to know what He said. That is the key. In order for God's Spirit to quicken things to us from His recorded Word, we have to know what it says to begin with. We have to study the Word of God. In Jesus' time, the people came to know and understand God through the very things that Jesus did, said and taught. Jesus brought the Old Testament Scriptures alive for them. Today, we can accomplish the same by studying the Bible. In short, to know and understand the recorded Word is to know and understand God Himself. For as it is written:

"I will worship toward thy holy temple, and praise thy name for thy lovingkindness and for thy truth: for thou hast magnified thy word above all thy name."

Psalm 138:2, KJV

The more we immerse ourselves in the written Word of God, the more we will not only come to know and understand God, but we will also know what His Will is for our lives. We will learn how God operates and what He expects of each of us as Christians. If you are in tune with God's Spirit, He will speak to you through His recorded Word. I am sure that some of you have already experienced this. Things will just seem to pop out of the pages at you. You might be praying and reading, and all of a sudden there's a verse; and you think to yourself, "Wow! That is exactly what I was looking for! There's the answer right there!"

What is truly exciting about this process is that the more you read and study God's Word, the more the Spirit can link things together for you and show you the Big Picture. I can honestly say that in writing my articles, this is constantly happening to me. The Lord, by His Spirit, just pours it on, and I just type away putting it all together for you in one compact little package. Well, sometimes my packages are big, but boy are they juicy!

You know, sometimes I will get a bit discouraged; especially after I have received negative responses from the enemies of Christ, or from some of those self-satisfied religionists who don't like the things I preach. In fact, just the other day, this woman -- a friend on Facebook who is supposedly a sister in the Lord -- posted a message on my timeline, and also sent me a private message, in which she stated that my work for the Lord is in vain. Seriously, folks. She said to me "your work is in vain." I couldn't believe it. It was as if Satan was speaking right through her. Well, I don't need that kind of negativity in my life, so I promptly unfriended her. Quite to the contrary, the Scriptures tell us this:

"Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that YOUR LABOUR IS NOT IN VAIN IN THE LORD."

1 Corinthians 15:58, KJV

Sometimes I think to myself, "What's the use? I am such a mess myself. Why do I even bother doing this? Nobody really cares what I have to say. Who am I to tell others what to

believe or how to live?" When this feeling comes over me, I will try to shut up for a while and not say anything, and not write anything. But you know folks, it doesn't last very long. Before you know it, it is like God's Spirit within me just kind of bubbles to the surface, and I am back at it again, writing articles, composing poetry, compiling new KJV Bible Verse Lists, and creating new graphics. I just cannot stop what God has begun in me.

As you may know, the young Prophet Jeremiah experienced the same thing. During those forty years that he preached in the land of Israel, he received a lot of persecution for speaking out against the corrupt Jewish religious elders, the corrupt political leaders, and even the people themselves who were in a deep state of apostasy. That included sacrificing their own children on the altars to the false gods. As a result of his preaching, they accused him of being a false prophet, and a traitor to his own nation. Eventually, they threw him into a pit in prison. Well, dear Jeremiah decided to try to keep quiet and not prophesy anymore; but consider what happened:

"Then I said, I will not make mention of him, nor speak any more in his name. But his word was in mine heart as a burning fire shut up in my bones, and I was weary with forbearing, and I could not stay."

Jeremiah 20:9, KJV

In the previous verse, the word "stay" means he was unable to stop himself. He simply could not withhold the Lord's Spirit which was endeavoring to speak through him. I would not be surprised if some people now accuse me of presenting myself as some kind of self-styled prophet. Well, I can assure you that I am not a Prophet. A true Prophet is someone to whom the Lord gives something new to say, as in a prediction of the future. To my knowledge and recollection, I have never done that. And quite frankly, I do not like titles anyway.

To be honest, all I do is take what has already been said and written in the Bible, and try to present it in a form which is easier for some of you to understand. It is like taking a jigsaw puzzle, or a connect-the-dots, or maybe a color-by-numbers painting. All I do is endeavor to make a little more sense out of what is already there. I am nobody special. I am just doing what I can to love the Lord, and to love other people, by faithfully sharing the truth with them from what I have learned from the Bible over the years. If anything, I would consider myself to simply be just one of

many teachers, or scribes, who is trying to do what I can to feed, inspire and motivate my fellow Christian brethren.

Returning to the main theme of this series, if I could simplify it into one statement, it would be this: To know the Will of God is to know the Word of God. Why? Because in knowing His Word, God can reveal His Will to you. Not only that, but with so many false voices and lying spirits in the world today, unless you are familiar with what God's Word does say, you could very easily open yourself up to a voice which is NOT of God! You could unknowingly become deceived! It is important to remember that in revealing something to you, the Lord will never contradict something He has said in His written Word. He may expand upon it, but He will never contradict it. Please don't forget this point.

It is when we don't know God's Word that we put ourselves in danger. If you don't believe this, just look at all of the garbage which is currently being espoused by New Age thought advocates who claim to channel Space Brothers and the like. Look at all of the many false prophets who populate most of the social networks. Look at all of the utterly ridiculous interpretations of Bible prophecy. Look at the doctrines of devils which have invaded so many churches. The simple fact is that when people reject the true Word of God, the Lord will send them strong delusion, if that is what they really want. So that is why it is so very important that we dwell in God's Word, and try -- or test -- the spirits. Consider the following verses:

"Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world."

1 John 4:1, KJV

"I also will choose their delusions, and will bring their fears upon them; because when I called, none did answer; when I spake, they did not hear: but they did evil before mine eyes, and chose that in which I delighted not."

Isaiah 66:4, KJV

". . . because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie:"

2 Thessalonians 2:10-11, KJV

"And the messenger that was gone to call Micaiah spake unto

him, saying, Behold now, the words of the prophets declare good unto the king with one mouth: let thy word, I pray thee, be like the word of one of them, and speak that which is good. And Micaiah said, As the LORD liveth, what the LORD saith unto me, that will I speak. So he came to the king. And the king said unto him, Micaiah, shall we go against Ramothgilead to battle, or shall we forbear? And he answered him, Go, and prosper: for the LORD shall deliver it into the hand of the king. And the king said unto him, How many times shall I adjure thee that thou tell me nothing but that which is true in the name of the LORD? And he said, I saw all Israel scattered upon the hills, as sheep that have not a shepherd: and the LORD said, These have no master: let them return every man to his house in peace. And the king of Israel said unto Jehoshaphat, Did I not tell thee that he would prophesy no good concerning me, but evil? And he said, Hear thou therefore the word of the LORD: I saw the LORD sitting on his throne, and all the host of heaven standing by him on his right hand and on his left. And the LORD said, Who shall persuade Ahab, that he may go up and fall at Ramothgilead? And one said on this manner, and another said on that manner. And there came forth a spirit, and stood before the LORD, and said, I will persuade him. And the LORD said unto him, Wherewith? And he said, I WILL GO FORTH, AND I WILL BE A LYING SPIRIT IN THE MOUTH OF ALL HIS PROPHETS. And he said, Thou shalt persuade him, and prevail also: go forth, and do so. Now therefore, behold, the LORD hath put a lying spirit in the mouth of all these thy prophets, and the LORD hath spoken evil concerning thee. But Zedekiah the son of Chenaanah went near, and smote Micaiah on the cheek, and said, Which way went the Spirit of the LORD from me to speak unto thee? And Micaiah said, Behold, thou shalt see in that day, when thou shalt go into an inner chamber to hide thyself. And the king of Israel said, Take Micaiah, and carry him back unto Amon the governor of the city, and to Joash the king's son; And say, Thus saith the king, Put this fellow in the prison, and feed him with bread of affliction and with water of affliction, until I come in peace."

1 Kings 22:13-27, KJV

Within certain sectors of Christendom, there are people who believe that we shouldn't make a single step without making sure it is God's Will first. From the minute you wake up, until the moment you go to bed, you are expected to be in the Spirit hearing from the Lord regarding every move you make. Personally, I do not know anyone who is that in-tune to the Spirit of God. Well, Jesus was, obviously. Not only that, I

think the idea of constantly worrying about whether or not you are in God's perfect Will throughout the day would drive a person absolutely crazy. It sounds like the same bondage as those folks who won't do a thing without reading their daily horoscope or calling up their favorite psychic. Additionally, it seems to me that this type of walk with the Lord would remove any degree of free will. In essence, you would be a robot or a walking zombie. It sounds kind of cultish, does it not?

The way I tend to look at things is like this: We already know from reading the Bible what God's general Will is for our lives. He wants us to be saved. He wants us to share the message of Salvation with others. Exactly how we go about doing it is similar to the example of the river I discussed previously. If you feel that the Lord might be directing you in a particular direction to do something, but are not yet sure what it is, the best thing to do is to just wait on it, and to continue doing what you already know is God's Will.

For example, perhaps you are praying about whether or not the Lord wants you to go to a certain mission field. While you are waiting to find out, continue to minister to people in your immediate area. In this way you are still fulfilling God's general Will for your life as a Christian. One thing I do know is that if something is God's Will, He will put it in your heart to want to do it. Consider this verse that is found in the Apostle Paul's Epistle to the Philippians:

"For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure."

Philippians 2:13, KJV

Not only will the Lord put His Will in your heart, but He will also provide the means to enable you to do it. If it requires money, perhaps He will provide the money by some miraculous means. Maybe someone will give you an unexpected monetary gift. Or maybe you will get an unexpected bonus from work. All kinds of things can happen. If it is someone you have considered speaking with about the Bible, perhaps the Lord will do something to put that person in your path. In some cases, if the decision involves a major change in your lifestyle, you might even want to ask the Lord for a specific sign to confirm His Will.

As some of you may know, this is precisely what Gideon did in the Book of Judges. Gideon had a miraculous encounter with an

Angel of the Lord. During the encounter the Angelic Messenger informed Gideon that the Lord was going to use him to free the Israelites from the Midianites who were oppressing them. Gideon listened in disbelief. He required some proof, so he asked for a specific sign on two occasions. Today, this is popularly known as Gideon's Fleece. So he asked for a sign; and once it had been fulfilled, Gideon requested that the exact opposite happen; just to make certain that it was the Lord. If you are interested, you can find the entire story in Judges chapters six through eight.

As the old saying goes, "Where the Lord guides, He will also provide". If the Lord isn't opening the way, then perhaps it isn't His highest Will for you at that time. As I explained previously, God has promised to provide all of our needs. So if He is not doing so in your case, then you simply need to ask yourself why. If the Lord is not providing for you in a certain direction, then you just have to trust that He knows what is best for you and not push the issue. The worst thing you can do is to try to go ahead in your own strength and wisdom. Remember the verses I shared earlier. This was King Saul's mistake; and it not only cost him his kingdom, but it also cost him his life, and the lives of his sons as well. So it pays to wait on the Lord, as to do otherwise may indeed lead to nothing but disaster.

It seems that in seeking the Lord's Will, He will usually respond to your inquiries in one of several ways: He might give you the go-ahead to do something. He might show you that it is not His Will at all. Or, He might reveal that something is His Will, but not at that particular time. In other words, maybe He wants you to wait a while. In short, you may get a yes, no or wait response from the Lord. The main thing you have to remember is that if you humbly ask the Lord with all sincerity to reveal His Will to you, He most certainly will. After all, He certainly does not want you wandering around half-confused not knowing what His Will is for your life. In the Book of the Prophet Amos we find the following verse:

"Surely the Lord GOD will do nothing, but he revealeth his secret unto his servants the prophets."

Amos 3:7, KJV

While that verse specifically concerns Prophets of God, I think it is safe to say that we can apply that same lesson to discovering God's Will for our lives as well.

Please go to part three for the conclusion of this series.

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WHAT IS GOD'S WILL FOR MY LIFE? : PART 3

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How God May Reveal His Will, Submit Yourself To God, No Will Of Your Own, Look For Possible Opportunities And Open Doors, God Will Provide The Means, Ask God For Confirmation Signs, Look For Similar Situation In The Bible, Seek Counsel From Other Mature Christians, Listen To God's Small Voice In Your Heart, My Personal Experiences, Patiently Wait For The Lord To Reveal His Will, Present Your Body And Life As A Living Sacrifice, What If We Don't Obey, Free Will, Personal Choice, The Rich Young Ruler, God's Junk Heap, Burden Of Failing The Lord, Parable Of The Prodigal Son And Backsliding, God Does Not Lose Children, King Ahab: Consequences Of Disobedience, Strong Delusion, Closing Remarks, BBB Suggested Reading List

At this point in our discussion, you may still be wondering exactly how the Lord is going to reveal His Will to you. To be honest, how and when He will do this for you personally, I cannot say. After all, I am not in your situation. You are. However, allow me to review and expand upon the points we have already discussed, plus introduce a few new ones. I hope that this will help you to establish God's will for your life:

1. Begin by submitting yourself to God and having no will of your own. In addition to Romans 12:1-2 -- which I mentioned earlier -- here is another verse for your consideration:

"Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you."

James 4:7, KJV

2. Look for possible opportunities which might point in the direction God wants you to take. Some Christians refer to these as "open doors". Here is a good verse from the Book of Isaiah:

"And thine ears shall hear a word behind thee, saying, This is the way, walk ye in it, when ye turn to the right hand, and when ye turn to the left."

Isaiah 30:21, KJV

3. Take note if the Lord is providing the means for you to go in that particular direction. Here again is a verse I shared with you in part one:

"But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus."

Philippians 4:19, KJV

4. If you have the faith for it, do as Gideon did and ask the Lord for some specific sign of confirmation. The more specific you are regarding your desired sign, the more you will obviously be convinced that something is God's Will, should He fulfill your sign:

"And he said unto him, If now I have found grace in thy sight, then shew me a sign that thou talkest with me."

Judges 6:17, KJV

5. Look for similar examples or situations in the Scriptures which may shed light on what God's Will might be for you. As the Apostle Paul wrote to both the Roman and the Corinthian brethren, we can learn important lessons from events of the past:

"For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope. Now the God of patience and consolation grant you to be likeminded one toward another according to Christ Jesus:"

Romans 15:4-5, KJV

"Now these things were our examples, to the intent we should not lust after evil things, as they also lusted . . . Now all

these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come."

1 Corinthians 10:6, 11, KJV

6. Take counsel with those Christians who may be older in the Lord than you are. They may possess experiences, wisdom and insights which you do not yet possess. The Bible is full of Scriptures which encourage this practice. Here are a few of them:

"Where no counsel is, the people fall: but in the multitude of counsellors there is safety."

Proverbs 11:14, KJV

"Without counsel purposes are disappointed: but in the multitude of counsellors they are established."

Proverbs 15:22, KJV

"For by wise counsel thou shalt make thy war: and in multitude of counsellors there is safety."

Proverbs 24:6, KJV

"But if he will not hear thee, then take with thee one or two more, that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established."

Matthew 18:16, KJV

"This is the third time I am coming to you. In the mouth of two or three witnesses shall every word be established."

2 Corinthians 13:1, KJV

7. Listen to the still small voice of God speaking to your heart. It takes time to learn to recognize it, but you will eventually. In my experience, it seems that Satan usually speaks in a rather loud, intrusive voice which seems to be more directed at your head. The Lord, on the other hand, speaks in a quiet, almost imperceptible voice to your heart. It is not something audible that you hear with your ears. It is something you sense deep within. At least that is how it has been with me. Consider what happened to the Prophet Elijah:

"And he said, Go forth, and stand upon the mount before the LORD. And, behold, the LORD passed by, and a great and strong wind rent the mountains, and brake in pieces the rocks before the LORD; but the LORD was not in the wind: and

after the wind an earthquake; but the LORD was not in the earthquake: And after the earthquake a fire; but the LORD was not in the fire: and after the fire A STILL SMALL VOICE."

1 Kings 19:11-12, KJV

As I said, I don't know how else to describe this process other than to say that it is a Voice very deep within you. In my case, sometimes I will wake up in the morning with Scriptures coming to me which I need to add to an article I have already written. Some of my poetry comes in this way as well. It is almost as if sometimes I wake up in the middle of a conversation with the Lord, or with one of His Angelic Agents, or with the Voice of His Spirit. Whatever you want to call it. And it isn't always just when I wake up in the morning. I can be sitting on the john, or washing dishes, or cooking, and something will pop into my head, forcing me to rush to my computer before I forget it.

Now, mind you, I am by no means any kind of spiritual giant. But I do know that the Lord does speak to me with Scriptures all the time. If it does not contain the Word, I tend to be kind of doubtful that it is the Lord. But beware, because Satan also knows the Word and can quote it as well. Remember Jesus' temptation by Satan in the wilderness of the Jordan River Valley?

At any rate, I am certain that you will know what the Lord's Will is for your life if you are prayerfully -- and patiently -- watching and waiting for Him to reveal it to you. It goes without saying that this can be the hardest part of finding God's Will. That is, doing the waiting. In this day and age of fast living, instant gratification and short attention spans, it seems we are always in a hurry to get things done. For some of us, patience is a very rare virtue. However, the Bible is full of verses which exhort us to strive to exercise this virtue, and to patiently wait on the Lord. It is when we patiently wait on the Lord that all of our needs will be met. It is when we patiently wait on the Lord that He will also reveal His Will to us. Consider this nice group of verses:

"But LET PATIENCE HAVE HER PERFECT WORK, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing."

James 1:4, KJV

"WAIT ON THE LORD: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the LORD."

Psalms 27:14, KJV

"Rest in the LORD, and WAIT PATIENTLY FOR HIM: fret not thyself because of him who prospereth in his way, because of the man who bringeth wicked devices to pass."

Psalms 37:7, KJV

"[To the chief Musician, A Psalm of David.] I WAITED PATIENTLY FOR THE LORD; and he inclined unto me, and heard my cry."

Psalms 40:1, KJV

"The LORD is good unto them that WAIT FOR HIM, to the soul that seeketh him."

Lamentations 3:25, KJV

"For thus saith the Lord GOD, the Holy One of Israel; In returning and rest shall ye be saved; in QUIETNESS AND IN CONFIDENCE shall be your strength: and ye would not."

Isaiah 30:15, KJV

"IN YOUR PATIENCE possess ye your souls."

Luke 21:19, KJV

"For we are saved by hope: but hope that is seen is not hope: for what a man seeth, why doth he yet hope for? But if we hope for that we see not, then do we WITH PATIENCE wait for it."

Romans 8:24-25, KJV

"For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be FILLED WITH THE KNOWLEDGE OF HIS WILL in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God; Strengthened with all might, according to his glorious power, unto all patience and longsuffering with joyfulness;"

Colossians 1:9-11, KJV

"We give thanks to God always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers; Remembering without ceasing your work of faith, and labour of love, and PATIENCE OF HOPE in our Lord Jesus Christ, in the sight of God and our Father;"

1 Thessalonians 1:2-3, KJV

"And the Lord direct your hearts into the love of God, and

into the PATIENT WAITING for Christ."

2 Thessalonians 3:5, KJV

"But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, PATIENCE, meekness."

1 Timothy 6:11, KJV

"And we desire that every one of you do shew the same diligence to the full assurance of hope unto the end: That ye be not slothful, but followers of them who THROUGH FAITH AND PATIENCE inherit the promises. For when God made promise to Abraham, because he could swear by no greater, he sware by himself, Saying, Surely blessing I will bless thee, and multiplying I will multiply thee. And so, after he had PATIENTLY ENDURED, he obtained the promise."

Hebrews 6:11-15, KJV

"Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompence of reward. For YE HAVE NEED OF PATIENCE, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise. For yet a little while, and he that shall come will come, and will not tarry."

Hebrews 10:35-37, KJV

"Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us RUN WITH PATIENCE THE RACE that is set before us,"

Hebrews 12:1, KJV

"BE PATIENT therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord. Behold, the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath LONG PATIENCE for it, until he receive the early and latter rain. BE YE ALSO PATIENT; stablish your hearts: for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh. Grudge not one against another, brethren, lest ye be condemned: behold, the judge standeth before the door. Take, my brethren, the prophets, who have spoken in the name of the Lord, for an example of suffering affliction, and of PATIENCE. Behold, we count them happy which endure. Ye have heard of the PATIENCE OF JOB, and have seen the end of the Lord; that the Lord is very pitiful, and of tender mercy."

James 5:7-11, KJV

"I know thy works, and thy labour, and THY PATIENCE, and how thou canst not bear them which are evil: and thou hast tried them which say they are apostles, and are not, and hast

found them liars: And hast borne, and HAST PATIENCE, and for my name's sake hast laboured, and hast not fainted . . . I know thy works, and charity, and service, and faith, and thy PATIENCE, and thy works; and the last to be more than the first."

Revelation 2:2-3, 19, KJV

In light of all of the previous verses, can there be any doubt then that patience is a very important virtue when it comes to serving the Lord? That brings us right back to the verses I shared earlier in part two from Paul's Epistle to the Romans. Once the Lord has revealed His Will to you, you have to be yielded enough to Him to want to do it. You have to present your body as a living sacrifice to Him. You must be willing. Otherwise, all of the waiting will have been to no avail. There is no use in asking the Lord what His Will is if you have no intentions of doing it once He reveals it to you.

So we must ask ourselves: What if we choose not to obey the Lord in something He reveals to us? In the case of some important lesson He might be trying to teach us, failure on our part to yield this area to Him will probably result in our spiritual growth being stunted. We may continue to grow in other areas, but it may be lop-sided growth. For example, we may have great knowledge of the Word, but we may be very short on patience. This could affect our ability to minister the Word of God to others in an effective manner. Or perhaps we are great at singing praises to the Lord, but we have a terrible problem with being critical and judgmental of others.

As I have said previously, it really comes down to personal choice. If we offer resistance, the Lord may still take us where we are at and try to use us as best as He can, but it may not be His best and highest calling for our lives. Using the example of the river again, we may still be swimming in the Great River of His Will, but we might not be in the part of the River where we can do the most good. That is, where we can save the most people from drowning in their own sins. This is indeed tragic. But under this present Age of Grace, God will not force Himself, or His Will, upon anyone.

One final area worth covering in this series concerns those people who either choose not to serve the Lord when it is offered to them, or who insist on doing something which they know in their hearts is not God's Will.

In the case of the former, let me remind you again of the story of the rich man who we discussed in part one. One thing we discover is that the rich young ruler appears to have a high opinion of himself. Maybe he is a little self-righteous. Outwardly, he feels that he has done all of the right things in order to inherit Eternal Life. After all, he tells Jesus "All these things have I kept from my youth up." But then he makes a mistake when he continues to prod Jesus with one last question: "What lack I yet?" The man is apparently feeling good about himself. But then the Lord is forced to expose the insincerity in the man's questions. Here again is the final outcome of the story, as recorded in the Gospel of Matthew:

"The young man saith unto him, All these things have I kept from my youth up: what lack I yet? Jesus said unto him, If thou wilt be perfect, go and sell that thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come and follow me. But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful: for he had great possessions."

Matthew 19:20-22, KJV

Rather than experiencing the joy which one acquires when following the Lord, this man went away sorrowful. He is but one example of those people who come to the Light, but then refuse to continue to bathe in its midst when they realize that there's a heavy price to pay. In a symbolic sense, the rich man was probably cast upon God's junk heap reserved for those people who were simply found unfit for full-time Discipleship. Think of how his whole attitude must have changed after that encounter with Jesus. His whole world of plastic self-righteous living must have been blown apart by the Lord's revealing words. After all, as we are told in the Epistle to the Hebrews:

"For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart."

Hebrews 4:12, KJV

It is a sad thing to fail the Lord; particularly when we know we have failed Him, and have to live with that thought for the rest of our days. Of course, as with the Parable of the Prodigal Son in Luke chapter fifteen, the Lord is always willing to take us back into His arms of fellowship, once we

come to our senses and acknowledge our mistakes. In the Old Testament, we are told many times that the Lord is married to the backslider. Consider this verse from the Book of the Prophet Jeremiah:

"Turn, O backsliding children, saith the LORD; for I am married unto you: and I will take you one of a city, and two of a family, and I will bring you to Zion:"
Jeremiah 3:14, KJV

As I explain in the article "OSAS: Are We Once Saved, Always Saved?", contrary to the belief which is held by certain Christians, I am not convinced that God loses His children. I believe that He will no more permanently cast us off, than we will abandon our own flesh children. We may be angry with them for a time, and we may have to chastise them, but if we are true parents, and if we really love them, we will always find a place in our hearts to receive them back again. Our Heavenly Father is the same way, as becomes evident by the following set of verses:

"All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out."
John 6:37, KJV

"And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand."
John 10:28, KJV

"Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee."
Hebrews 13:5, KJV

But what about those people who go against God's Will and do something they know is not of Him? The Bible offers a very clear answer to this issue, as we have already seen in the example of stubborn King Saul. Another example can be found in the story of Ahab, the King of Israel, who was insistent on fighting his enemies the Assyrians. All of the false prophets had encouraged the king, telling him that the Lord was with him, and would grant him victory. This man was not really interested in what the Lord had to say. His mind was already made up.

However, when Ahab counseled with Jehoshaphat -- who was the King of Judah -- Jehoshaphat voiced some reservations. So he

called for a Prophet of God by the name of Micaiah. At first, Micaiah lied; probably to save his own skin because he knew that the King of Israel -- meaning Ahab -- did not like him. However, when Jehoshaphat insisted on hearing the truth, it was then that Micaiah informed them that God had sent a lying spirit into the mouths of all of Ahab's false prophets. As a result of his boldness in speaking the truth, Ahab had poor Micaiah thrown into prison. The chapter concludes with Ahab dying at the hands of his Assyrian enemies. If you wish to read the whole story, it can be found in 1 Kings chapter twenty-two.

While the story of King Ahab is an extreme example, it does highlight a key point in our current discussion; and that is that if you are so stubborn that you will consciously and purposely go against what the Lord knows is best for you, if you rebel against His Will, then you must be prepared to pay the consequences. Not only that, but as we learned in part two, the Lord might even choose to allow you to believe your delusion, just like when He sent the lying spirit to deceive the false prophets of King Ahab. Sadly, as we also discussed earlier, this very same condition exists in our world today. So many people have rejected Scriptural Truth, and embraced so many modern lies, that God is allowing them to live their delusions.

So, as can be seen, knowing what the Will of the Lord is or isn't, is indeed an important issue; particularly if you are a Bible-believing Christian. Following through on what He shows you is equally as important. But, if you are not yet sure what God's Will is for your life, then as we discussed previously, just be patient and wait until He does show you. Don't try to move ahead in your own strength. And while you are waiting for God's answer, do what you already know you are supposed to be doing. Be a faithful witness in whatever capacity you can. As Jesus said:

"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven."
Matthew 5:16, KJV

That is something which you can do anywhere, anytime, while you are waiting on the other. With these thoughts, I will bring this series to its conclusion. I trust that you have found it informative, and I pray that it has been a great inspiration and a blessing in your personal life. If you have an account with Facebook, Twitter, Tumblr or with any

other social network, I would appreciate if you would take the time to click or tap on the corresponding link that is found on this page. Thanks so much, and may God bless you abundantly!

For additional information, you may want to refer to the list of reading resources below which were also mentioned in this series, or which contain topics which are related to this series. These articles are likewise located on the Bill's Bible Basics website:

Age of Deception, Age of Delusion
All Are Given a Chance, But . . .
Are You a Burning Ember for the Lord?
Are You Crucified With Christ?
Are You Redeeming the Time?
Christian Witnessing: Winning the Sheep and Waging the Warfare!
Free Will and Personal Choice
Is Jesus the Only Begotten Son of God?
Is the Message of Salvation Meant for All Men?
Many Are Called, But Few Are Chosen
Message to the World
Not Everyone is a Child of God
OSAS: Are We Once Saved, Always Saved?
Parable of the Sower: Salvation and Service
So You Really Think You Are So Humble?
Study, Work and Don't Be Ashamed
The Only Credentials You Need!
This Little Light, Glory of the Lord and Our Bright Future

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