

The Will of God

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I. Introduction.

A. The greatest thrill in life is to know the will of God and to carry it out with conviction. It is success in life. (Ephesians 5:17)

B. Many limit God in His ability to communicate to mankind. It is not pleasing to Him for us to think that He will withhold anything from us that is important.

C. It dishonors God for one to think that he does not matter to God in His program. You are part of God's personality factory. (Psalm 139:15-16)

1. We are what we are because of the ratio of genes and chromosomes, but God controlled every part of that.

2. As soon as God creates a soul and personality, He throws the formula away. Each person is totally different from anyone else.

3. Just as one star is different from another and contributes to a symphony, every person is made to be entirely different and contribute in his own way to the symphony. (1 Corinthians 15:41, Job 38:7)

4. We must pursue our purpose if we have been given an individual one.

5. We have been given a secret name by God. He is intimately and personally interested in each individual. (Revelation 2:17)

6. Everyone is important to God.

II. The general will of God.

A. To find the general will of God, one must understand his own desires first. (Psalm 37:4)

1. Three of the speaker's desires were met throughout his lifetime.

2. The desires that a person has are probably a reflection of the desires created in him. (Romans 11:29)

B. God's will is that every person be born again and having been born again dedicate his gifts to the glory of Christ. Too much of the workforce are not using their gifts leading to dissatisfaction.

1. Most should use their gifts for God's glory in the normal work force.

2. However, God calls out some individuals with a shepherd's heart for pastoring. (Jeremiah 3:15, 20:34)

C. We can sometimes be in the right place though and not be doing the right things in the will of God.

III. Some specifics of the general will of God.

A. One needs to be absolutely neutral about what God does. It presupposes a walk with God and a burning desire to please Him.

B. One needs a willingness to change as well. God often alerts us that there is a change to come about with a dissatisfaction in the midst of success. (Psalm 130:6)

C. Stages to determine God's will.

1. The first stage is usually total darkness - waiting.
2. When one finds the will of God, it is like a brightness.
3. One needs to get all the facts regarding what one feels the new direction is.
4. Then one must find out whether the practice is contrary to Scriptural principles.
5. One must test it by sustained inner conviction. God is orderly and his conviction is consistent.
6. One must test it by circumstance.
7. Finally, one must take counsel from others.

D. God has His eye fixed on what He wants us to do, and He is able to communicate it to us. (Psalm 32:8)

E. We are God's workmanship for walking in God's good works. (Ephesians 2:10)

Application questions.

1. How is our value reflected in how we were created?

2. Review the steps for discerning God's general and specific will for your life. What stands out?

3. What questions do you have for God about his plan for you? Write down a plan to discover God's gifts and his general direction for your life. Begin a journal to reflect upon where God is leading you and how He is speaking to you personally.
