

August 2, 2015

Discovering God's Will for You

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on you own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him and he will direct your paths." Proverbs 3:5-6

"If you do away with the yoke of oppression, with the pointing finger and malicious talk, and if you spend yourselves in behalf of the hungry and satisfy the needs of the oppressed, then your light will rise in the darkness and your night will become like the noonday. The Lord will guide you always..." Isaiah 58:9-11

"I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you and watch over you. Do not be like the horse or the mule, which have no understanding but must be controlled by bit and bridle." Psalms 32:8-9

We have been discussing what God's will for our lives is and how we can discover that will. As we continue in that discussion we want to look at several Biblical principles that I believe will help us to more clearly discern the Father's will for us.

*Have
Faith
in
GOD*

Trust absolutely in the Father: The first principle is based on a passage from Proverbs which calls on us to put our faith and trust in our Lord. In writing to the Roman believers the Apostle Paul called on them to, *"...offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God..."* When we do this the Apostle tells us, *"Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will."*

James commands us, *"Submit yourselves, then, to God...Come near to God and he will come near to you...Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up."* Throughout Scripture this principle is clear; if we want to find God's will for our lives we must begin by surrendering our lives to him and to his will. As we noted last week we have tremendous power in our ability to choose. The choice to totally and completely trust the Father and to surrender to him absolutely is essential to finding and following his will.

Address the basics: The second principle demands that we begin with the basics. For the past several weeks we have been considering the most basic commands that God gives us. He wants us to love him absolutely and love others intentionally. The Father demands that we treat others as we would want to be treated. I can't really begin to seek the Father's will for my life if I haven't yet devoted myself to doing the basics

Isaiah told the Israelites that the Lord would guide them when they had begun to accomplish the most basic functions of faith in helping the poor and rescuing the oppressed. In the same way we will begin to discover the will of the Father for our lives when we are already at work following that will.

Apply intelligence: The Father has given us strong intellects and he expects us to use them. If we want to understand his will for our lives then we need to apply intelligence to that search. Obviously then we seek the will of God through Scripture, but we also seek it in common sense.

In Scripture our Lord shows us a lot about himself. As we study the Bible we can begin to understand how the Lord works and why. A little common sense based on our understanding will help us, I think, to see that there are some directions that the Father wants us to take and there are others that are not from him



*O Lord,
you are
our
Father.
We are
the clay,
you are
the potter;
we are
all the
work of
your
hand.
Isaiah 64:8*

At the same time we need to understand that his guidance and direction will never be, like a bit in the horse's mouth. Much of the Father's guidance and direction, then, will be the product of our trained intellect identifying the obvious.

So, in seeking the Father's will for our lives we begin with complete surrender to him. We go to work on the basics. And we continually train the intellects that he has provided for us so that we can see and understand where he wants us to go and why.