

CHRISTIAN PRINCIPLES COURSE PAPER 9

GUIDANCE

Bible Memory Verse: Ephesians 5:17

"Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lords will is."

Many times we are encouraged in the Bible to discover and do the will of God, not because we have to...or else; but rather because we love Him and we know that He loves us. We may trust that His desire and will for our life is only good. Our desire, like that of Jesus, should be that we want to please Him.

Write out the following verses:-

John 6:38

John 17:4

In a similar way we find the apostle Paul following Jesus' example of knowing and fulfilling God's will in his life. Look at Acts 22 verses 10 and 14, and 2 Timothy 4:7, and answer these questions:

1. Was Paul told what God's will for his life was? Yes/No
2. Was there a role that Paul was chosen for? Yes/No
3. Did Paul set out to fulfil God's will? Yes/No
4. Did he know when the job was done? Yes/No

When we read 1 Corinthians 2:1, we see that both Jesus and Paul are examples for us to follow. Our number one priority is to know and do the will of God, it is a constant exercise in discovering and obeying it, for God will lead us one step at a time.

Why is God's will important?

1. God wants to fulfil His purpose in our generation through us, as He did with King David Acts 13:36 cp verse 22, John 15:16.
2. We bring praise and honour to God when we do what He wants us to do - John 17:4, Ephesians 1:9-12.
3. We miss opportunities to share the life of Christ with others when we don't do His will. Ephesians 5:15-17.
4. God's promises are fulfilled to us as we do His will. Hebrews 10:36

5. We are assured of eternal life as we fulfil His will. 1 John 2:17

6. We find entrance into God's kingdom as we obey His will. Matthew 7:21

7. We please God as we exercise faith in Christ by finding and doing what He wills for us. Colossians 1:9-12

Many other verses throughout the Bible speak of the importance of both knowing and doing His will.

How can we discover the will of God?

There are many things which Jesus has commanded us to do:

In John 15:12 we are commanded to

In Matthew 28:19 we are told to go and

In Luke 10:2 to ask him to

Principle No.1.

Without regularly reading God's word we will not discover His will. He wants to speak to us through His word. Psalm 119:105.

Principle No.2.

Without prayer we have no communication with our Father and cannot discover the joy of knowing the will, or mind, or plans and intentions of God for and in our lives, what was it that Jesus taught His disciples to pray in Matthew 6:10.

Principle No.3.

Be willing to do whatever it is He wants you to do. Someone has said, "Jesus will only lead you where you are willing to go." A submitted life is the greatest sacrifice we can make to the Lord.

Romans 12:1 says:

and 1 Samuel 15:22 likewise states:-

"_____ to obey is better than to sacrifice, and to heed is better than the fat of rams _____."

Guiding Lights by Ralph Mahoney of world M.A.P.

1. An inward conviction - guidance always starts here. Acts 20:22, 25, 29-31.
2. Confirmation in scripture - See Isaiah 8:20, test everything by God's word.
3. Prophetic Confirmation - Acts 20:23, 21:4-11 - not always required.
4. Godly counsel - Acts 21:4, Proverbs 11:4, Psalm 1. Always acts as a useful check; but may not always be right.
5. Circumstantial evidence - Does not always happen, but doors do open... usually.
6. The peace of God - Philippians 4:6-7, peace of God acts as an umpire.
7. God's provision - Isaiah 42:16-19. "God's work done in God's way will never lack God's supply." (James Hudson Taylor).

What helps do we have?

First and foremost we need to see that God has promised to guide us in our lives. Look at and consider Psalm 42:8, Isaiah 58:11, John 8:12. God's promise is our guarantee that He will speak to us if we are willing to let Him. In addition we have:

- 1 Prayer, 1 John 5:14
- 2 God's Word
- 3 Psalm 40:8
- 4 Desire to be like Jesus which means doing God's will from the heart, Ephesians 6:6.
- 5 Renewed minds, Romans 12:1-2.

If there is a secret, then maybe it can be expressed as:

COMMUNION WITH GOD AND OBEDIENCE TO GOD.