

“I Really Want To”

(Compiled by Paul R. Blake from multiple Internet sources)

Introduction:

A. 2Cor. 8:10-12

1. Have you ever come to the realization that your ought to's and your want to's are two different matters?
2. Is it possible that at some level you want to do the will of God, but you wish you wanted to even more than you now do?
3. How can we know the will of God for ourselves and be guided by it?
4. How can we want to do the will of God even more than we now do?

I. HOW CAN I KNOW THE WILL OF GOD?

A. Saul on the road to Damascus - Acts 9:1-6

B. Forms of God's will

1. God's sovereign will - The decisions of God that are always carried out, and nothing in the universe is ever able to stop them. God is God, and He accomplishes what He wishes.
2. God's moral will - This is forever settled and is unchanging. Some things are right and some things are wrong, and they always will be, regardless of what others think or say about it
3. God's particular will - He has a will that is particular and peculiar to our individual lives or specific events - Acts 9:15. This particular will varies from one person to another
4. His sovereign will created us, His moral will gave us His word and His Son, and His particular will operates in this world to shape and use events and people to His glory

C. Myths concerning the will of God

1. God will personally give you directions; He gives everyone the same guidance through His word - Rom. 2:11
 - a. Everyone in Israel had the same pillar of fire and cloud to follow - Ex. 13:21
2. God doesn't want you to have any fun. Cosmic killjoy, that is, if you surrender to do His will, you will have a hard and an unhappy life.
 - a. How do you treat your children? Isn't He better at this than we can hope to be? - Luke 11:11-13
3. You have to wait for a Damascus road experience. Saul's experience was dramatic, and it was unique - 1Kings 19:11-12.
4. God's will is hidden from us, and we have to find it all by ourselves. The absurdity of a Father hiding His will from His children!
 - a. Acts 17:27; Rom. 1:20

II. HOW AM I GUIDED BY THE WILL OF GOD?

A. God's guidance is provisional; He expects certain things from us. Unless we meet these expectations, we will fail to know the will of God

1. Be willing to obey Him

- a. Saul of Tarsus was mistaken about the will of God, but He willingly did what he believed it was
 - b. Why should the will of God be open to us when, we aren't going to do it anyway? - Matt. 13:13-16; Luke 10:21
 - 2. Have the spirit of meekness; be teachable - Psalm 25:9
 - a. If you aren't teachable and think you know it all already, then you will probably not come to know His will.
 - 3. Be ready to act - Acts 9:8-9.
 - a. As soon as Saul heard the will of God, he got busy doing it.
 - b. Luke 14:26-27, 33
- B. God's guidance is practical; God has revealed His will in ways that are plain to see and understand.
 - 1. The revealed word - Psalm 119:89, 98-100, 105
 - 2. The created world - Psalm 19:1; Acts 14:17
 - 3. His people - Acts 9:8-16; Phil. 3:17; Prov. 24:6
 - 4. Providential wisdom - James 1:5-6
 - 5. By practice - John 14:21; Heb. 5:14

III. HOW CAN I WANT TO DO THE WILL OF GOD EVEN MORE?

- A. Jesus wanted to do the will of His Father - John 8:28-29
- B. David took delight in doing the will of God - Psalm 40:8
- C. How do we get to that point?
 - 1. Become more aware of your indebtedness - 2Cor. 8:9
 - 2. Love God more - 1John 4:19
 - 3. Write the word of God on your heart - 2Cor. 3:3; Heb. 8:10
 - 4. Give yourself to God - Rom. 12:1-2
 - 5. Pray for help - Eph. 3:20; Psalm 51:10

Conclusion

- A. Understand that your life is constantly undergoing transformation into the nature of the Lord
 - 1. This transformation will require time
 - 2. This transformation requires your cooperation
 - 3. This transformation demands that you work at it every day