

“I Really Want To”

2Cor. 8:10-12

## 2Cor. 8:10-12

- “And in this I give advice: It is to your advantage not only to be doing what you began and were desiring to do a year ago; 11 but now you also must complete the doing of it; that as there was a readiness to desire it, so there also may be a completion out of what you have. 12 For if there is first a willing mind, it is accepted according to what one has, and not according to what he does not have.”

# How Can I Know The Will Of God?

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

# Forms Of God's Will

- 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.
- 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

# Forms Of God's Will

- God's particular will - He has a will that is particular and peculiar to our individual lives or specific events. This particular will varies from one person to another
  - Acts 9:15 - “But the Lord said to him, Go, for he is a chosen vessel of Mine to bear My name before Gentiles, kings, and the children of Israel.”

# Forms Of God's Will

- His sovereign will created us
- His moral will gave us His word and His Son
- His particular will operates in this world to shape and use events and people to His glory

# Myths Concerning The Will Of God

- God will personally give you directions
- He gives everyone the same guidance through His word
  - Rom. 2:11 - “For there is no partiality with God.”
- Everyone in Israel had the same pillar of fire and cloud to follow
  - Ex. 13:21

# Myths Concerning The Will Of God

- God doesn't want you to have any fun.
  - Luke 11:11-13 - “If a son asks for bread from any father among you, will he give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent instead of a fish? 12 Or if he asks for an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? 13 If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!”



# Myths Concerning The Will Of God

- You have to wait for a Damascus road experience.
- Saul's experience was dramatic, and it was unique
  - 1Kings 19:11-12 - "Then He said, Go out, and stand on the mountain before the LORD. And behold, the LORD passed by, and a great and strong wind tore into the mountains and broke the rocks in pieces 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; 12 and after the earthquake a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire; and after the fire a still small voice."

# Myths Concerning The Will Of God

- 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!
  - Acts 17:27 - "So that they should seek the Lord, in the hope that they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us"
  - Rom. 1:20 - "For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse"

# How Am I Guided By The Will Of God?

- 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

# How Am I Guided By The Will Of God?

- Be willing to obey Him
  - Matt. 13:13-16 - “Therefore I speak to them in parables, because seeing they do not see, and hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand. 14 And in them the prophecy of Isaiah is fulfilled, which says: 'Hearing you will hear and shall not understand, And seeing you will see and not perceive; 15 For the hearts of this people have grown dull. Their ears are hard of hearing, And their eyes they have closed, Lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears, Lest they should understand with their hearts and turn, So that I should heal them.' 16 But blessed are your eyes for they see, and your ears for they hear”

# How Am I Guided By The Will Of God?

- Be willing to obey Him
  - Luke 10:21 - “In that hour Jesus rejoiced in the Spirit and said, I thank You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that You have hidden these things from the wise and prudent and revealed them to babes. Even so, Father, for so it seemed good in Your sight.”

# How Am I Guided By The Will Of God?

- Have the spirit of meekness; be teachable
  - Psalm 25:9 - “The humble He guides in justice,  
And the humble He teaches His way.”

# How Am I Guided By The Will Of God?

- Be ready to act
  - Acts 9:8-9 - “Then Saul arose from the ground, and when his eyes were opened he saw no one. But they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. 9 And he was three days without sight, and neither ate nor drank.”
  - Luke 14:26-27, 33 - “If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and his own life also, he cannot be My disciple. 27 And whoever does not bear his cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple... 33 So likewise, whoever of you does not forsake all that he has cannot be My disciple.”

# God's Guidance Is Practical

- God has revealed His will in ways that are plain to see and understand.
- The revealed word
  - Psalm 119:89, 98-100, 105 - “Forever, O LORD, Your word is settled in heaven... 98 You, through Your commandments, make me wiser than my enemies; For they are ever with me. 99 I have more understanding than all my teachers, For Your testimonies are my meditation. 100 I understand more than the ancients, Because I keep Your precepts... 105 Your word is a lamp to my feet And a light to my path.”



# God's Guidance Is Practical

- The created world
  - Psalm 19:1 - “The heavens declare the glory of God; And the firmament shows His handiwork.”
  - Acts 14:17 - “Nevertheless He did not leave Himself without witness, in that He did good, gave us rain from heaven and fruitful seasons, filling our hearts with food and gladness.”

# God's Guidance Is Practical

- His people
  - Acts 9:8-16
  - Phil. 3:17 - “Brethren, join in following my example, and note those who so walk, as you have us for a pattern.”
  - Prov. 24:6 - “...in a multitude of counselors there is safety”

# God's Guidance Is Practical

- Providential wisdom
  - James 1:5-6 - “If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him. 6 But let him ask in faith, with no doubting.”

# God's Guidance Is Practical

- By practice
  - John 14:21 - “He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him.”
  - Heb. 5:14 - “But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, that is, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.”

# How Can I Want To Do The Will Of God Even More?

- Jesus wanted to do the will of His Father
  - John 8:28-29 - “Then Jesus said to them, When you lift up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am He, and that I do nothing of Myself; but as My Father taught Me, I speak these things. 29 And He who sent Me is with Me. The Father has not left Me alone, for I always do those things that please Him”

# How Can I Want To Do The Will Of God Even More?

- David took delight in doing the will of God
  - Psalm 40:8 - “I delight to do Your will, O my God,  
And Your law is within my heart.”

# How Can I Want To Do The Will Of God Even More?

- Become more aware of your indebtedness
  - 2Cor. 8:9 - “For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich.”
- Love God more
  - 1John 4:19 - “We love Him because He first loved us.”

# How Can I Want To Do The Will Of God Even More?

- Write the word on your heart
  - 2Cor. 3:3 - “Clearly you are an epistle of Christ, ministered by us, written not with ink but by the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of flesh, that is, of the heart.”
  - Heb. 8:10 - “For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put My laws in their mind and write them on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.”



# How Can I Want To Do The Will Of God Even More?

- Give yourself to God
  - Rom. 12:1-2 - “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. 2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.”

# How Can I Want To Do The Will Of God Even More?

- Pray for help
  - Eph. 3:20 - “Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us”
  - Psalm 51:10 - “Create in me a clean heart, O God, And renew a steadfast spirit within me.”

# How Can I Want To Do The Will Of God Even More?

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