

Three Truths for Knowing the Will of God

Ephesians 5:15-17 (NIV) 15 Be very careful, then, how you live--not as unwise but as wise, 16 making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. 17 Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is.

Last Sunday I opened this series of sermons saying, The will of God is not hidden, but rather it is revealed to us through the Word of God. God does not bypass our minds when it comes to His will for us. That's why Paul said in *Ephesians 5:17 (NIV)*

17 Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is.

We also spoke on the one of the truths for knowing the will of God which was : **Nothing is the will of God if it is not in accordance with the Word of God.**

Today we are going to talk about:

Before you can know the will of God for your life, you must be willing to do the will of God.

A. God wants us to be ready and willing to do anything He should ask.

1. Ex. in the military, when the commanding officer issues a command he expects immediate obedience. There is no room for discussion or arguments. NOTE: The purpose of boot camp is to shape and train young men and women to obey orders immediately. On the battlefield, hesitation to obey could result in disaster.

2. We are in a battle! Our enemy is real! When we are unwilling to accept God's way or hesitate in our obedience to our Master, we open ourselves up for disaster in our lives.

3. We must be ready and willing to obey our Lord. NOTE: When my wife or I would call our Children's names they were to come to us immediately. For to answer "yeah!" was not acceptable. They came immediately to us to receive whatever instructions we had to give. Now that isn't natural, they had to be trained to respond in that manner. God wants us ready and willing to obey Him. We must let God train us to respond to His gentle voice and obey His commands.

B. ***Acts 9:6, "Lord, what do You want me to do?" (NKJV)***

1. That question will go unanswered unless we are ready and willing to serve Him.

2. God will never reveal to us His will for our future if we aren't obedient to His will for our present.

3. Many times our prayers are not to find the will of God but to see if God will let us do what we want instead of what He has said.

C. *Eph. 4:30, "And grieve not the Holy Spirit of God..."*

1. When we continually refuse to do what God wants and we repeatedly do what we want, Then the Holy Spirit - who was given to be our guide into all truth - is grieved!

2. At that point you can be sure that you are not in the will of God.

3. But as the Verse continues *Ephesians 4:31-32 (NIV)*

³¹ *Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice.*

³² *Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.*

Then you will be in the will of GOD.