"GOD'S WILL IS GOOD; DON'T RUN FROM IT"

(Topical Message)
3/14/2010

INTRODUCTION: God's will for you is:

1.	**SALVATION (I Tim. 2:4; II Pet. 3:9)**	(God wants you to be saved)
2.	**SPIRIT-FULLNESS (Eph. 5:17-18)**	(God wants you to be Spirit-filled)
3.	**SERVICE (Eph. 6:6; Heb. 13:20-21)**	(God wants you to serve Him sincerely)
4.	**SACRIFICE (II Cor. 8:5; Rom. 12:1-2)**	(God wants you to surrender your life to Him)
5.	**SANCTIFICATION (I Thess. 4:3-8)**	(God wants you to be sexually pure)
6.	**SUPPLICATION (I Thess. 5:16-18)**	(God wants you to seek Him daily)
7.	**SUBMISSION (I Pet. 2:13-15)**	(God wants you to submit to authority)
8.	**SUFFERING (I Pet. 4:12-19; cp. 3:17)**	(God wants you to be willing to suffer for His sake)

- God is concerned about the significant details of your life - Luke 12:6-7
- God has a specific plan & purpose for you to fulfil
  Examples: Jeremiah - Jeremiah 1:5 & Paul – Gal. 1:15
- God's will is not a "bitter medicine" - Psalm 16:11

***DON'T RUN AWAY FROM GOD'S WILL FOR YOUR LIFE!**

4 examples of men who left the will of God!

1. JONAH
(Reason: Prejudice towad the pagans)
Motive: Animosity see: The Book of Jonah

2. ELIJAH
(Reason: Persecution of the adversary)
Motive: Fear see: I Kings 19:1-f

3. JOHN MARK
(Reason: Pressures of the ministry)
Motive: Immaturity see: Acts 12:25, 13:5; 13:13

4. DEMAS
(Reason: Pleasures of the world)
Motive: Selfishness see: Col. 4:14; II Tim. 4:10

If we fight against God's will, we will not succeed, but will fail miserably.

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INTRODUCTION:

God's will is not difficult to find. It is clearly revealed in the pages of your Bible.

--Basically, His will is His Word.
(the commands that apply to the Christian are His will for the Christian)

--Specifically, His will is stated for us by the word "thelama." This word points to the desire of God, His specific wishes, plans, goals for your life.

We will study Bible passages that use the word "thelama."

Paul prayed continually that the Colossian Christians might be "filled with the knowledge of His will" (Col. 1:9; cp. Col. 4:12).

(Note: A knowledge of God's will will affect your practical everyday walk with God - v. 10).

***You need to know what God's specific will is for your life!**

God's will for you is:

I. <u>SALVATION</u> (I Tim. 2:4; II Pet. 3:9)
(God wants you to be <u>saved</u>)

1 Timothy 2:4
Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.

2 Peter 3:9
The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

SEE: Eph. 1:5, 9, 11 - God's will in <u>planning</u> for your salvation.

Jn. 6:40 - "And this is the will of Him that sent Me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on Him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day."

You <u>cannot</u> do <u>any</u> of God's will until you are saved!

Those who do the will of God <u>evidence the fact</u> that:

1)They have <u>eternal life</u>

--Mt. 7:21
--I Jn. 2:17

2)They are <u>related to Jesus Christ</u>

--Mt. 12:50

II. SPIRIT-FULLNESS (Eph. 5:17-18)

(God wants you to be Spirit-filled)

Ephesians 5:17-18

Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is. And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit;

"Filled" = to be completely filled with the result that what fills you controls you.

NOTE: Sin prevents filling--grieves Spirit.

Filling =

1. Not a spiritual gift (Ephesians had all spiritual blessings [1:3] already but were commanded to be filled)
2. Not baptism or indwelling (all Christians are baptized in Spirit and indwelt, but not all are filled) (we are never commanded to receive the Spirit)
3. Present tense (continuous filling)
4. Passive imperative (God fills as believer yields)
5. Command (not to be filled is disobedience, sin) (it's not optional, just as commands to forgive, not be unequally yoked, etc.)
6. "Filling" = control for biblical living

It's not getting more of the Holy Spirit, but the Holy Spirit getting more of you!

RESULTS OF SPIRIT'S CONTROL (v. 19-21)

1. Inward evidence (v. 19)
2. Upward evidence (v. 20) (Thanksgiving to God)
3. Outward evidence

III. SERVICE (Eph. 6:6; Heb. 13:20-21)

(God wants you to serve Him sincerely)

Ephesians 6:6

Not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but as the servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart;

Hebrews 13:20-21

Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, Make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is wellpleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

Paul continually makes reference to his apostleship as having been given to him by the will of God.
(I Cor. 1:1; II Cor. 1:1; Ga. 1:4; Eph. 1:1; Col. 1:1; II Tim. 1:1)
God gave you gifts to use for Him, not to waste (II Pet. 4:10-11).

To know God's will and not to do it is terrifying (Lk. 12:47).

Phil. 2:12-13 - "Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of His good pleasure."

Man's part (v. 12b) - "Work out your own salvation" [NOTE: God does not say work for it, but rather work it out - life it out - Eph. 2:10]

God's part (v. 13) - He works in you to:
"will" - He gives you the desire to do His will
"do" - He gives you the ability to do His will

IV. SACRIFICE (II Cor. 8:5; Rom. 12:1-2)

(God wants you to surrender your life to Him)

2 Corinthians 8:5

And this they did, not as we hoped, but first gave their own selves to the Lord, and unto us by the will of God.

Romans 12:1-2

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

Full surrender is the key to knowing God's will
(Rom. 12:1-2)

A willingness to do God's will is the key to spiritual understanding:

"If any man will do his will, he shall know the doctrine..." (Jn. 7:17)

V. SANCTIFICATION (I Thess. 4:3-8)

(God wants you to be sexually pure)

1 Thessalonians 4:3-8

For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication: That every one of you should know how to possess his vessel in sanctification and honour; Not in the lust of concupiscence, even as the Gentiles which know not God: That no man go beyond and defraud his brother in any matter: because that the Lord is the avenger of all such, as we also have forewarned you and testified. For God hath not called us unto uncleanness, but unto holiness. He therefore that despiseth, despiseth not man, but God,

who hath also given unto us his holy Spirit.

A.THE MEANING OF SANCTIFICATION (v. 3b-6a)
(God's Plan for You to Stay Clean)

1.Sanctification is:
SEPARATING YOURSELF FROM SEXUAL IMMORALITY (v. 3b)

2.Sanctification is:
STRENGTHENING YOURSELF AGAINST SEXUAL IMMORALITY (v. 4-5)

3.Sanctification is:
NOT STEPPING INTO FORBIDDEN TERRITORY (v. 6a)

4.Sanctification is:
NOT STEALING WHAT BELONGS TO SOMEONE ELSE (v. 6a)

B.THE REASONS FOR SANCTIFICATION (v. 6b-8)
(God's Provocation for You to Stay Clean)

1.SEXUAL SIN WILL BE JUDGED BY GOD (v. 6b)
(Look ahead to what you will reap!)

2.SEXUAL SIN IS CONTRARY TO GOD'S PURPOSE FOR SAVING YOU (v. 7)
(Look back at what God did for you!)

3.SEXUAL SIN IS REJECTING (rebellion against) GOD (v. 8)
(Look up at who you are rejecting!)

VI. SUPPLICATION (I Thess. 5:16-18)

(God wants you to seek Him daily)

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Rejoice evermore. Pray without ceasing. In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.

VII. SUBMISSION (I Pet. 2:13-15)

(God wants you to submit to authority)

1 Peter 2:13-15

Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake: whether it be to the king, as supreme; Or unto governors, as unto them that are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers, and for the praise of them that do well. For so is the will of God, that with well doing ye may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men:

VIII. SUFFERING (I Pet. 4:12-19; cp. 3:17)

(God wants you to be willing to suffer for His sake)

1 Peter 4:12-19

Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you: But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy. If ye be reproached for the name of Christ, happy are ye; for the spirit of glory and of God resteth upon you: on their part he is evil spoken of, but on your part he is glorified. But let none of you suffer as a murderer, or as a thief, or as an evildoer, or as a busybody in other men's matters. Yet if any man suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God on this behalf. For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God? And if the righteous scarcely be saved, where shall the ungodly and the sinner appear? Wherefore let them that suffer according to the will of God commit the keeping of their souls to him in well doing, as unto a faithful Creator.

II Tim. 3:12 - "Yea, and all that will life godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution."

Ex. Jesus' desire to do the will of the Father and drink the cup of suffering (Mt. 26:42).

Some of the godliest people in history have swallowed he bitter waters of suffering.

A. Suffering Persecution

Mt. 5:10-12

Ex: Joseph
Ex: Daniel
Ex: The Apostles

B.Suffering Physical Ailments

Ex: Job
Ex: Paul (II Cor. 12:1-10)

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  Examples: Jeremiah - Jeremiah 1:5 & Paul – Gal. 1:15

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Acts 12:25
And Barnabas and Saul returned from Jerusalem, when they had fulfilled their ministry, and took with them John, whose surname was Mark.

Acts 13:5
And when they were at Salamis, they preached the word of God in the synagogues of the Jews: and they had also John to their minister.

Acts 13:13
Now when Paul and his company loosed from Paphos, they came to

Perga in Pamphylia: and John departing from them returned to Jerusalem.

John Mark joined the team (Acts 12:25, 13:5)

John Mark quit the team (Acts 13:13)

(Reasons unknown - maybe ear; maybe resented Paul's taking the leadership over his cousin Barnabas; maybe he didn't like Paul going to the Gentiles?)

John Mark later had a change of heart and wanted to rejoin the team.

Both Paul and BArnabas could have offered good arguments to prove their point.

Paul was task-oriented, and wanted nothing to hinder the spreading of the Gospel.

Barnabas may have been more people -oriented at this time. And time eventually proved that Barnabas made the right choice.

"John Mark is an encouragement to everyone who has failed in his first attempts to serve God" (Wiersbe, p. 150).

He fell, but he got back up on his feet and became profitable for the ministry (II Tim. 4:11; cp. also Col. 4:10)

Remember, Barnabas never "gave up" on people - because he was a man of faith, he had full confidence in God's ability to change a person.

4. DEMAS
(Reason: <u>Pleasures</u> of the world)
Motive: <u>Selfishness</u> see: Col. 4:14; II Tim. 4:10

Colossians 4:14
Luke, the beloved physician, and Demas, greet you.

"And Demas" - Why no elaboration? Why doesn't Paul call him "beloved," "faithful," etc.?

Perhaps the Holy Spirit (knowing that Demas would forsake Paul and would fall in love again with worldliness) restrained Paul from commending him (II Tim. 4:10 - "For Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world, and is departed unto Thessalonica. . .")

2 Timothy 4:10
For Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world, and is departed unto Thessalonica; Crescens to Galatia, Titus unto Dalmatia.

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