

11 06 23

The will of God– Pt 1 Discern and prove

Following on from our previous teaching on the Spirit we look at the will of God. We cover four points– (i) Discern God's will by first doing what scripture says is His will, (ii):the Lord Jesus Christ gave himself for our sins because it was the Father's will, (iii) the Spirit of God guides us to do the will of God, and (iv) we can PROVE what is that good, acceptable and perfect will of God.

More detail from scriptures on our points –

1. Discern God's will by first doing what scripture say is His will

i) our sanctification– abstain from the fornication–1 Thes.4: 3– “For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication”.

ii) in everything we give thanks– 1 Thes5:18– “In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you”.

This is the will of God– that with well doing we may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men– 1Pet 2:15– “For so is the will of God, that with well doing ye may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men”.

The will of God is that we suffer for well doing than for evil doing– 1 Pet 3:17– “For it is better, if the will of God be so, that ye suffer for well doing, than for evil doing”.

Let them that suffer according to the will of God commit the keeping of their souls to him in well doing– 1 Pet 4:19– “Wherefore let them that suffer according to the will of God commit the keeping of their souls to him in well doing...”

2. The Lord gave himself for our sins because it was the Father's will

“Who gave himself for our sins, that he might deliver us from this present evil world, according to the will of God and our Father” (Gal.1: 4).

Christ is our example, let us follow Him and be servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart– Eph.6: 6– “Not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but as the servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart”.

He that does the will of God has eternal life– 1 Jn.2: 17– “And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever”.

3. The Spirit of God guides us to do the will of God

“After they were come to Mysia, they assayed to go into Bithynia: but the Spirit suffered them not” (Acts 16:7).

The Spirit speaks (“small still voice” (1 Kgs 19: 12).

“And the Spirit bade me go with them, nothing doubting. Moreover these six brethren accompanied me, and we entered into the man's house” (Acts 11:12).

The Spirit of truth will guide us unto all truth

“Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come” (Jn.16: 13).

The Spirit of God makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God

“And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what [is] the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to [the will of] God” (Rom.8: 27).

Let us pray for the brethren that they may be filled with the knowledge of **His will**
“For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will...” (Col.1: 9).

4. We can **PROVE** what is that good, acceptable and perfect will of God
“...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” (Rom.12: 2).

Q WHY?

A That we redeem the time

“Redeeming the time because the days are evil” (Eph 5: 16).

For Gideon, who had the Spirit of God (verse 34) he proved the Lord’s will– if it was God’s will to save Israel by his hand.

[36] And Gideon said unto God, If thou wilt save Israel by mine hand...

[39] And Gideon said unto God, Let not thine anger be hot against me, and I will speak but this once: let me prove, I pray thee, but this once with the fleece; let it now be dry only upon the fleece, and upon all the ground let there be dew.

(Jud.6: 36 & 39).

Illustration

I remember when I met Karen my wife at BCNZ, she was in married quarters with her daughter Hope and I was in single mens. There was a hallway from each that joined and a single hallway led to the kitchen and lecture rooms. Each morning during the week we “happen” to meet at the junction of mens and married quarters. We sat next to each other, we ate together, we left together I ended up going up to married quarters for a coffee. Within two weeks we had discerned that the Lord had placed a love for the other in our hearts, and it was the Lord’s will for us to be married. Proving the Lord’s will was relatively easy– even for a blind person.

Question of the scriptures

How do we prove what is that good and acceptable, and perfect will of God?

Answer from the scriptures

Romans.12: 2 begins– “And be not conformed to this world” BUT
“Be transformed by the renewing of our mind”

Q How do we renew our mind?

A We put off the old man, and put on the new man (purging ourselves)

[22] That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts. C.F.

[24] And that ye put on the new man...(Eph.4: 22 & 24).

Last week we mentioned that some believers tend to give weight to the scriptures and deny the Spirit’s still small voice because of the risk that it could be Satan, it is safer to stay solely with the light of scripture. BUT today we learn from the scriptures that we can **PROVE** what is His good, acceptable and perfect will, which can **NEVER** contradict the scriptures. Given that discernment begins with “our sanctification” and proving His will includes being **NOT** conformed to this world and putting off the old and putting on the new man, it tells us that those who refuse or struggle to discern the will of God have unrepentant sin that troubles their spirit.

Therefore, if you struggle to prove to yourself God’s good, and perfect and acceptable will that does not contradict the Holy scriptures then seek God to show you your unrepentant sin. So when you next need to discern the Spirit’s direction you will know, that you know, His will for you that does not contradict scripture.