

SMALL GROUP GROWTH GUIDE

January 24, 2002

KNOWING

GODS WILL PT2

BIG IDEA: God has a will. He wants you to know what it is. He has made His will discernable.

BELONG

1. There are some people who think God's will comes from life experiences. This and that happened therefore God wants me to do such and such. Others who think God's will is something you ought to be afraid of. Or you'll be afraid of the answer thinking you'll be doing something you don't like or aren't good at. Still more who think you have to do something to be worthy of knowing Gods will. Then those who think only people who are big time missionaries or people who succeed in life are really in God's will, the rest of us just mill around hoping to run into it. How have you understood Gods will for your life? What have you heard from others in your life?

GROW

1. Assumptions: God has a will for your life. God wants you to know what it is. God would make it discernable to you. Do you agree with these? Why or why not?
2. When you think of Gods will do you generally think in terms of the practical part, who I should marry, where I should work and so on, or in terms of the spiritual part? Why one over the other? And should one precede the other? Why or why not?
3. Read 2 Peter 3:9; 1 Timothy 2:3-4. What is the first component of Gods will?
4. The starting point is that God's will is for men and women to be saved. When you read Psalms 23 what is the picture you get of what God is doing? See Matthew 9:36. What is Jesus' concern?
5. Why is this first step of God's will therefore so vitally important? See Romans 8:14. If God is only leading, shepherding those He has saved what is He not doing for the unsaved?

From our previous study we know Gods will is that people are saved, set apart as holy, and to be filled or controlled by the Holy Spirit. Here are the next three; Gods will is for you to be GREAT, for you to live at PEACE, for you to be GRATEFUL.

6. Matthew 23:11-12. What is the means you can achieve greatness and thus fulfill the will of God in your life? How did Jesus take this spiritual truth and apply it in practicality, John 13:12? Since were not washing feet anymore in what ways can we be self motivated to humble ourselves and serve others, especially the body of Christ? (John 13:34-35) When do you find this to be a joy and when does it become a chore? And does it or should it matter? Why or why not?
7. If you truly desire to be great in the kingdom of God and fulfill Gods will in your life how does Hebrews 10:24 explicitly say to go about doing this? What is the practical application "to consider" mean?
8. Read 1 Kings 19:9-10. In what ways can your life get out of balance in pursuing greatness in this way? What should we be mindful of? What are the fears that enter your mind about being the only one? Why do you feel you are or that what your doing is so important? Why is it hard to ask for help or support sometimes?

Continue on other side.

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9. Next, God's will is that you live at peace, Romans 12:18. How does one live at peace?
10. How do you live at peace with yourself, with others, with enemies even?
11. How do you find peace in a world full to suffering? What is Gods will or expectation of every believer to understand from 1 Peter 3:13-17? How or where does peace come from in suffering?
12. It seems easy to quote Scripture and platitudes about peace such as John 14:27. This conversation is just before Jesus is crucified and going to leave them. What is Jesus really leaving them in the midst of such suffering?
13. Do you think we apply or misappropriate this aspect of God will in the wrong place such as this life? Why or why not?
14. Finally, Gods will is to be thankful, to live a life of gratitude. 1 Thessalonians 5:18. How grateful do you believe you are?
15. What happens when a people are ungrateful according to Romans 1:21? Why is this such a heinous sin or is it? If you know the story of Moses leading the people out of Egypt this was a constant battle, Exodus 16:2, 17:2. What are some foundational issue when it comes to grumbling and complaining?
16. Read John 6:40-59 and see how Jesus describes to the Jew there own history. What did they do in verse 41? Why were the Jews so offended? What are they forgetting according to John 1:1-4?
17. How can you, the church learn and grow to this area of Gods will?

REACH

Gods will from Scripture is as follows:

1. That you are saved in Jesus Christ.
2. That you are set apart, holy.
3. Filled with the Holy Spirit or controlled by Him.
4. To be great, humble service.
5. To live at peace albeit in good or in suffering.
6. Be grateful.

As you evaluate these in your own life, how are you doing submitting to the will of God? If you had to focus on one to mature in which one and why?