

Knowing the will of God for our life

- Today I want to share about the importance of knowing God's specific will for our life
- The bible reveals the general will of God for all people in every area of life in terms of how we should relate to others and to Him and as to how we should live our life. For example that marriage is to be between a man and a woman and that as believers we are not to be unequally yoked together with unbelievers and the importance of forgiving those who hurt us.
- It is the manual for life. God knows what is BEST for us
- However God has a unique unfolding plan and destiny for every person's life that begins the moment that they come to Christ.
- We also have to make regularly decisions such as which ministry direction to take, what car to buy, which area we are meant to live in and many other important choices in life. In these areas God will still guide us through His Word but the bible does not specifically address such things as the name of the village or city we are meant to live in, the name of the company we are meant to work for and the name of the person that we are meant to marry.
- But these decisions are all important and require knowing the will of God as they will impact the degree to which God's best plan for our life continues to unfold

- **We have all been saved for a God given purpose**
- **God has uniquely created each and every person for what He has planned for their lives**
- **I will begin by looking at two passages of Scripture from the Bible**

King David wrote, “For You formed my inward parts; You covered me in my mother’s womb. I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Marvellous are Your works, And that my soul knows very well.

My frame was not hidden from You, When I was made in secret, And skillfully wrought in the lowest parts of the earth **(that is your mother’s womb).**

Your eyes saw my substance, being yet unformed. And in Your book they all were written, the days fashioned for me, when as yet there were none of them.

How precious also are Your thoughts to me, O God! How great is the sum of them! If I should count them, they would be more in number than the sand; When I awake, I am still with You.” **(Psalm 139:13-18)**

The Apostle Paul wrote,

“For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.” **(Ephesians 2:10)**

- **God’s unique plan for our life unfolds over time. As Christians we are in a marathon and not a sprint**
- **Each step of the way God is always preparing us for the next season of our life. There are different seasons in our life**

➤ **In the book of Psalms we read,**

“The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD and He delights in his way.” (Psalm 37:23)

➤ **Even before we came to Christ, God was behind the scenes preparing us for His plan and purpose for our life as a believer**

- **The parents that He chose for us**

- **The choices that we made in terms of study and other activities**

(i.e. Learning how to type when I was in year 10 and doing a course by correspondence for 6 years)

- **The people that we connected with, and**

- **Even some of the experiences that God allowed us to go through that we can now use to help others that we relate to in our ministry calling and sphere of influence**

➤ **THERE WILL BE DIFFERENT SEASONS IN OUR LIFE AS A BELIEVER.**

➤ **Knowing God’s specific will for our life in each season of our life is a key to seeing all that God has planned for our life coming to pass**

➤ **This involves spending time alone with the Lord AND journaling what God speaks to our heart to do**

➤ **In the book of Jeremiah we read,**

“For who has stood in the counsel of the LORD, And has perceived and heard His word? Who has marked His word and heard it?” **(Jeremiah 23:18)**

➤ **The LORD said to the Prophet Habakkuk** “Write the vision and make it plain on tablets, that he may run who reads it. For the vision is yet for an appointed time; But at the end it will speak, and it will not lie. Though it tarries, wait for it; Because it will surely come, It will not tarry.” **(Habakkuk 2:2-3)**

➤ **KNOWING THE WILL OF GOD FOR OUR LIFE and following God’s blueprint for our life is crucial once we come to Christ as the enemy will do everything that He can to stop us from fulfilling our God given destiny.**

➤ **The Devil will continually use;**

- **Distractions**
- **Discouragement**
- **Wrong counsel from others,**
- **Temptations to make wrong or rash choices**
- **Ungodly friends, and**
- **Fear**

to try and pull us away from our God given destiny.

➤ **Nothing can stop God's plan for our life from coming to pass except ourselves – We must simply choose to not allow any trial or challenge or disappointment or offence or pride to take us away from what God has planned for our life. WE NEED CONTINUALLY GODLY WISDOM TO MAKE RIGHT CHOICES IN LIFE AND TO USE OUR TIME WISELY**

➤ **I will now just briefly look at 6 things to consider in relation to KNOWING and following God’s will for our life**

1. Being in the RIGHT PLACE (being planted and connected where God would have us be)

This is the place of blessing and God's provision and ongoing favour

In the book of 1 Kings we see how God provided for the Prophet Elijah when he went to the place that the LORD had instructed him to go to.

“And Elijah the Tishbite, of the inhabitants of Gilead, said to Ahab, “As the LORD God of Israel lives, before whom I stand, there shall not be dew nor rain these years, except at my word.”

Then the word of the LORD came to him, saying,

“Get away from here and turn eastward, and hide by the Brook Cherith, which flows into the Jordon.

“And it will be that you shall drink from the brook, and I have commanded the ravens to feed you there.”

So he went **and did according to the word of the LORD**, for he went and stayed by the Brook Cherith, which flows into the Jordan. The ravens brought him bread and meat in the morning, and bread and meat in the evening; and he drank from the brook.” (1 Kings 17:1-6)

GOD IS ABLE TO OPEN UP DOORS THAT NO MAN CAN CLOSE

In the book of Revelation we read,

“These things says He who is holy, He who is true, He who has the key of David, He who opens and no one shuts, and shuts and no one opens”: I know your works. See, I have set before you an open door, and no one can shut it; for you have a little strength, have kept My word, and have not denied My name.” (Revelation 3:7-8)

In the book of Psalms we read,

“Those who are planted in the house of the Lord shall flourish in the courts of our God. They shall still bear fruit in old age; they shall be fresh and flourishing. (Psalm 92:13-14)

2. Being connected with the RIGHT PEOPLE (having the right people in our life

- It is so important that we allow God to connect us with those who have a kindred spirit and the same heart and vision as we have
- God’s plan and vision for our life will always be worked out in connection with others. We all need one another
- In this respect our obedience or disobedience has an effect on the lives of all those that we are meant to be connected with
- When we look at the human body we see that the fingers are connected to the hand
- Imagine if a finger was connected to the hip bone. How effective would it be?
- So part of being in the will of God for our life is being connected with the right people and being in the right church fellowship
- Every local church that God raises up has its own unique characteristics and strengths which help to see the entire body of Christ benefited and those in the community best reached with God’s love and the gospel message.

- **The Apostle Paul wrote,** “But now God has set the members, each one of them, in the body just as He pleased. And if they were all one member, where would the body be? But now indeed there are many members, yet one body. And the eye cannot say to the hand, “I have no need of you”; nor again the head to the feet, “I have no need of you.” No, much rather, those members of the body which seem to be weaker are necessary.” **(1 Corinthians 12:18-22)**

“Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually. And God has appointed these in the church: first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, administrations, variety of tongues.” **(1 Corinthians 12:27-28)**

- **So being connected with the right people in each season of our life is a big part of being in the centre of God’s will for our life. AS A TEAM WE CAN ACHIEVE MUCH**
- **In Psalm 127 we read**
“Unless the LORD builds the house, they labour in vain who build it; Unless the LORD guards the city, The watchman stays awake in vain.” **(Psalm 127:1)**
- **How important it is that we allow the LORD to position us and to connect us with the people that He would have us connected to**
- **As we connect with the right people we will be most effective in helping others in their walk with the Lord, whilst at the same time seeing God’s destiny for our life unfolding over time. We all need one another.**

3. Following the RIGHT PLAN for our life (God's plan for our life)

- **God has a unique plan for every believer's life**
- **The "... good works which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them." (Ephesians 2:10)**
- **As we follow God's plan for our life our lives will;**
 - I. Bear much fruit (John 15:8)**
 - II. Make the greatest impact on the lives of others as we help others to come to Christ and to be all that God has planned for their lives (Ephesians 3:20)**
 - III. We will receive eternal rewards as we faithfully follow God's plan for our life (Matthew 16:27), and**
 - IV. We will see God's continual favour and provision to enable us to fulfil His plan for our life (Matthew 6:33)**
- **Jesus Himself said,**

"You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you." (John 15:16)
- **God's plan for our life CONTINUALLY UNFOLDS step by step AS WE ARE SIMPLY OBEDIENT IN ALLOWING THE LORD TO DIRECT OUR STEPS IN LIFE (Psalm 37:23)**
- **As we are faithful in the little things God entrusts to us greater responsibilities as part of His unfolding plan for our life**

4. The importance of always knowing the RIGHT TIMING for the things that God has called us to do

- We need to have a right understanding of what season we are in
- There are different seasons in our Christian walk and ministry
- God graces and empowers us for what we are called to do in each season (1 Peter 4:10-11)
- There are seasons of preparation
- We must never run ahead of God but allow Him to do the work of preparation in our lives for what He has planned for our life in the coming season
- However we must not also procrastinate. **WHEN GOD SAYS TO MOVE IT IS SO IMPORTANT THAT WE LEARN TO STEP OUT IMMEDIATELY BY FAITH TO DO WHAT HE IS CALLING US TO DO**. Sometimes we have to move quickly or else we can miss God given opportunities to help people come to Christ and to make an impact in the world for eternity

In the book of Ecclesiastes we read, “To everything there is a season, A time for every purpose under heaven:” (Ecclesiastes 3:1)

5. The importance of having a RIGHT UNDERSTANDING OF OUR GIFTS AND CALLING

- We are most anointed and effective when we flow in our own unique gifts and calling.
- We will also operate with different anointings for different areas of our ministry calling.
- Sometimes I flow more in my pastoral anointing when I am encouraging people in our drop in centre, but at other times more in my evangelism gift when I am preaching in the streets
- We need to learn to be led by the Holy Spirit and to operate in His power and anointing as we flow in God's gifts and calling for our life (John 16:13) (1 Corinthians 2:4-5)
- Being continually filled with the Holy Spirit is also a key to being continually empowered for ministry and to ministering in the gifts of the Spirit (Ephesians 5:18)
- **BEING LED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT IN ALL THAT WE DO IS A GREAT KEY TO CONSISTENTLY OPERATING IN OUR OWN UNIQUE GIFTS AND CALLING**
- Using our spiritual gifts and operating in our calling energises us as the Holy Spirit empowers us for ministry

- **The Apostle Paul wrote,** “For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function, so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another.” **(Romans 12:4-5)**
 “Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them: If prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith; or ministry, let us use it in our ministering; he who teaches, in teaching; he who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness. **(Romans 12:6-8)**

- **The Apostle Paul also wrote,**
 “And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the **EQUIPPING** of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God.” **(Ephesians 4:11-13)**

- **God has uniquely distributed to every believer the gifts that they need to fulfil their ministry calling**

- **Every believer has a ministry calling. Some Christians are called into the five-fold ministry. The five ministry offices listed in Ephesians 4:11 are gifts that Christ gave for the nurture and equipping of His church**

- **Knowing and flowing in our own unique gifts and calling is a great key to fulfilling our God given destiny and to making a great impact in this world for eternity**

6. The importance of having a RIGHT HEART

- **God is more concerned about our character than what we do for Him.**
- **When our character is in place God can open up great doors of effective ministry and entrust to us much so that we can be a great blessing to many**
- **There are some character traits that are crucial to being prepared for the great tasks that God has planned for our life. (Ephesians 3:20)**
- **These character traits include:**

- Obedience

In the book of Samuel we read,

“So Samuel said:

“Has the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, As in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold to obey is better than sacrifice, And to heed than the fat of rams.” (1 Samuel 15:22)

- Humility

In the book of James we read, “Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up.” (James 4:10)

- Having a servant heart

Jesus Himself said,

“You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and those who are great exercise authority over them. Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant. And whoever desires to be first among you, let him be your slave - just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.” (Matthew 20:25-28)

- Having a simple childlike faith in God

In the book of Hebrew we read

“But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.” (Hebrews 11:6) **AND**

- Being fully surrendered to Jesus Christ

Jesus Himself said,

“If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it. For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul? For the Son of Man will come in the glory of his Father with His angels, and then He will reward each according to his works.” (Matthew 16:24-27)

CONCLUSION

As we follow God's will for our life we can be assured that all that we have need of in life will be provided for us as we see God's plan and purpose for our life coming to pass.

Jesus Himself said, “Therefore do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ Or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.” (Matthew 6:31-33)

King David wrote, “Trust in the Lord, and do good; Dwell in the land, and feed on His faithfulness. **Delight yourself also in the Lord,** And He shall give you the desires of your heart. Commit your way to the Lord, Trust also in Him, And He shall bring it to pass.” (Psalm 37:3-5)

KNOWING AND FOLLOWING THE WILL OF GOD FOR OUR LIVES IS THE KEY TO SEEING OUR LIVES MAKING A GREAT IMPACT IN THIS WORLD FOR ETERNITY

For this reason continually knowing the will of God in every area of our life, in each season of our life, is crucial if we are to see all that God has planned for our life coming to pass

Knowing the will of God in areas such as who to marry, where to work, where to live, what ministry opportunities to pursue and many other significant choices will greatly impact and influence the degree to which we walk in victory as a Christian. God knows what is best for us and what He has planned for our lives. I will finish with the words of the Apostle Paul,

“See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is.”
(Ephesians 5:15-17)