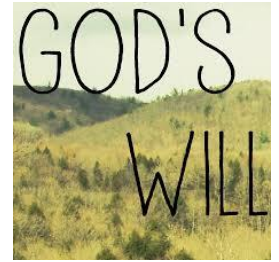


THE IMPORTANCE OF KNOWING AND FOLLOWING GOD'S WILL FOR OUR LIFE



Pursuing God's will for our life is a great key to:

- i) Having great purpose and meaning in life
- ii) Enjoying God's peace and joy on an ongoing basis, and



- iii) Fulfilling God's destiny and plan for our life

For this reason it is crucial that we continually know and follow God's will for our life

This is why the Apostle Paul wrote,

**“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)**



**“And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit,”
(Ephesians 5:18)**

Continually knowing God’s will for our life is crucial to fulfilling our full potential in Christ

- During His time here on earth Jesus' primary concern was to do the will of His Father in heaven and to finish all that He had planned for His life

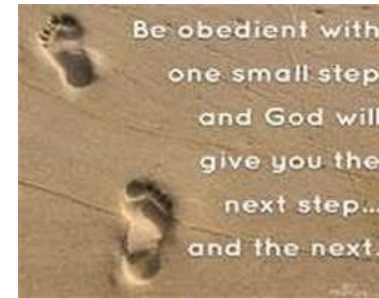


Jesus Himself said,

“My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to finish His work.” (John 4:34)

- Like Jesus, what will continually fulfil us and energise us in our walk with the Lord is to flow in God's will and plan for our life

- God's plan for our life unfolds one step at a time



- As we are faithful in the little, then God entrusts to us greater responsibilities

In the book of Psalms we read, “The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD and He delights in his way. Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down; For the LORD upholds him with His hand.” (Psalm 37:23-24)

- As God's will for our life continually unfolds over time, it is crucial that we always maintain an intimate walk with the Lord



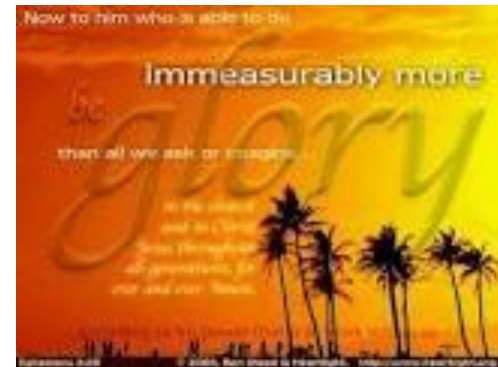
- Intimacy with the Lord will also ensure that we always have a freshness and vibrancy in our walk with the Lord
- God's ways are so often different to our ways

- We must never put God in a box



- To continually remain in the centre of God's will for our life we must always be ready to:
 - i) Embrace new things in our life, and
 - ii) To do things in new and different ways
- God knows the blueprint for our life from the beginning to the end – We need to simply learn to flow in His plan for our life and let Him lead

- It is in allowing God's plan for our life to unfold one step at a time, that we begin to see the exceedingly abundantly above all that we could ever ask or think plan that He has for our life coming to pass.



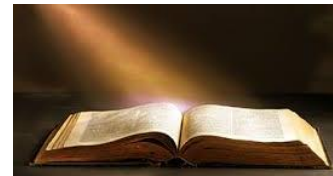
The Apostle Paul wrote,

**“Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us,”
(Ephesians 3:20)**

- I will now look at six important keys that can help us to continually remain in the will of God for our life. These are;



- i. Depending on the Holy Spirit's guidance and power as we pray for and seek God's help and direction for our lives

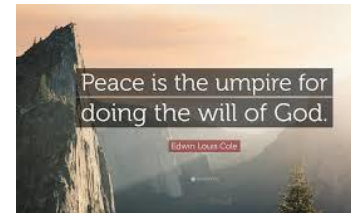
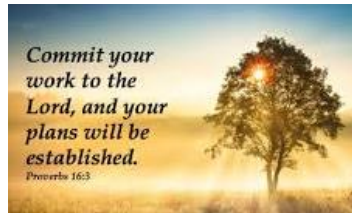


- ii. Mediating on the Word of God on a daily basis
- iii. Being connected in fellowship with other mature believers

iv. Maintaining intimacy in our walk with the LORD through having a lifestyle of worship



v. Continually *committing our plans to the LORD* and seeking His will for our life, and



vi. Continually allowing the peace of God to be our umpire when making decisions in life

I will now quickly look at these six keys in turn

- i. Depending on the Holy Spirit's guidance and power as we pray for and seek God's help and direction for our life. What God has planned for our life can only be achieved in the power of the Holy Spirit. Jesus Himself depended on the Holy Spirit in His ministry here on earth



In the book of Acts we read,

“how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him.” **(Acts 10:38)**

- The Holy Spirit will also continually give us guidance to stay in the will of God for our life. As life is full of choices we need to continually seek the Holy Spirit for His guidance and direction so that we make right choices that are in line with His will for our life



Jesus Himself said,

“However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come.” **(John 16:13)**

ii. Mediating on the Word of God on a daily basis. The bible is full of wisdom to help us to make right choices in life. God's general revealed will for our life is clearly seen in the Word of God

- As we prayerfully seek the Lord for direction with an open bible, He will also invariably speak to us through His Word to give us clarity in specific areas of our own life.



- **Each day God wants to speak to us through His word to help us to stay in His will for our life**

- Just like the bread (Manna) from heaven was only good for one day (except for the bread collected on the 6th day) – See Exodus Chapter 16:16-24, so too every day we need a fresh word from heaven to help us with today's issues and tasks so that we can fulfil God's plan for our life.



- What God revealed to us about yesterday's circumstances is no longer relevant for today
- Daily we need fresh spiritual insight from heaven
- Every day God has new things to share with us

In the book of Psalms we read,

“Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.” (Psalm 119:105) “Direct my steps by Your word, And let no iniquity have dominion over me.” (Psalm 119:133)



- Continually meditating on the Word of God helps us to get wisdom to make right choices in life so that we do not stumble and fall in our walk with the Lord and also gives us insight into God's future direction for our life. It is also a great key to staying in the centre of God's will for our life

iii. Being connected in fellowship with other mature believers.

- There is safety in a multitude of counsellors. Having mature Christians speaking into our lives helps us to continually make right choices in life.
- Especially when it comes to the things of the emotions our own sense of judgement can be clouded.



- Being accountable to and prepared to have other mature Christians speaking into our life is a great key to avoiding much unnecessary pain that comes from making wrong choices and helps us to continually remain in the centre of God's will for our life





In the book of Proverbs we read,

“Give instruction to a wise man, and he will be still wiser; Teach a just man, and he will increase in learning.” (Proverbs 9:9)

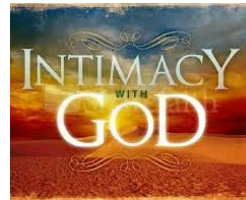
“Where there is no counsel, the people fall; But in the multitude of counsellors there is safety.” (Proverbs 11:14)

“Without counsel, plans go awry, But in the multitude of counsellors they are established.” (Proverbs 15:22)



iv. Maintaining intimacy in our walk with the LORD through having a lifestyle of worship

- The more intimate we are in our walk with the Lord the more instinctively we will know the will of God for our life



- Worship helps us to connect with the heart of God so that we can more easily understand His will for our life as He births things in our heart

King David wrote, “*Delight yourself also in the Lord, And He shall give you the desires of your heart.*” (Psalm 37:4)

v. Continually committing our plans to the LORD and seeking His will for our life

- To know God's will for our life we must continually choose to commit our plans to Him
- If we do not purposely commit our plans to the Lord, we will more likely be influenced by our own desires and the opinions of others and miss God's will and plan for our life



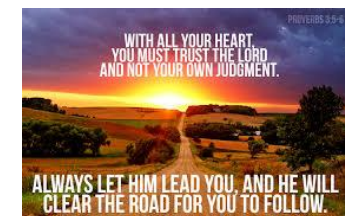
- When we purposely acknowledge the LORD in all that we do in life, *we can be assured that He will reveal His will for our life and direct our paths*

In the book of Proverbs we read, “Commit your works to the Lord, and your thoughts will be established.” (Proverbs 16:3)



In the book of Proverbs we also read, “Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths.” (Proverbs 3:5-6)

AND



vi. Continually allowing the peace of God to be our umpire when making decisions in life

- It is important that we always allow the peace of God to be our umpire when making decisions in life



- Whenever we lose God's peace over a proposed course of action, we must immediately stop and ask Him if this is His will for our lives. He will either say no or that it is the wrong timing

- God knows what is best for us at all times. We must never pursue a course of action if we have no peace. If we do there will always be ramifications down the track



- We see this in chapter 27 of the book of Acts where the Apostle Paul perceived that the ship that he was on would come to grief if it sailed off. This was obviously the Holy Spirit warning him.



However *because*:

- i) The majority advised to set sail
- ii) The harbour was not suitable to winter in
- iii) The centurion was more persuaded by the helmsman and owner than by Paul, and
- iv) The south wind at that time was blowing softly

They decided to set sail out of the harbour

- NOT LONG AFTER THE SHIP WAS SHIPWRECKED when a tempestuous (wild) head wind arose

- **We see Luke describing this event in the following passages of Scripture in the book of Acts;**



“When we had sailed slowly many days, and arrived with difficulty of Cnidus, the wind not permitting us to proceed, we sailed under the shelter of Crete off Salmone. Passing it with difficulty, we came to a place called Fair Havens, near the city of Lasea.”

“Now when much time had been spent, and sailing was now dangerous because the Fast was already over, Paul advised them, saying, “Men, I perceive that this voyage will end with disaster and much loss, not only of the cargo and ship, but also our lives.” **(Acts 27:7-10)**

“Nevertheless the centurion was more persuaded by the helmsman and the owner of the ship than by the things spoken by Paul. And because *the harbor was not suitable to winter* in, the majority advised to set sail from there also, if by any means they could reach Phoenix, a harbour of Crete opening toward the southwest and northwest, and winter there.

When the south wind blew softly, supposing that they had obtained their desire, putting out to sea, they sailed close by Crete. **But not long after, a tempestuous head wind arose, called Euroclydon.”**

(Acts 27:11-14)



“So when the ship was caught, and could not head into the wind, we let *her* drive. And running under *the shelter of* an island called Clauda,^[b] we secured the skiff with difficulty.” **(Acts 27:15-16)**

Fourteen days later the ship was run aground on the island of Malta

“But striking a place where two seas met, they ran the ship aground; and the prow stuck fast and remained immovable, but the stern was being broken up by the violence of the waves.”

(Acts 27:41)



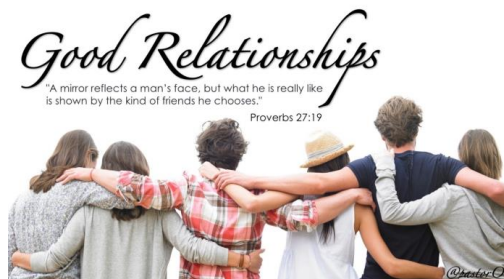
- In this account we see that even the majority can be wrong at times. That circumstances may even appear right at the time. That it may even appear logical to take a course of action.
- The simple fact is that if we have no peace about a course of action we must simply not pursue it. **Having God's peace is a great indicator that what we are doing is in the will of God for our life**



In the book of Isaiah we read, “You will keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on You, because he trusts in You. Trust in the LORD forever, For in YAH, the LORD, is everlasting strength.” (Isaiah 26:3-4)



- It is important that we have God's peace in all the decisions that we make in life, because God knows what is best for us at all times and what decisions are required for His plan for our life to come to pass
- **PARTICULARLY** when making major life defining decisions such as who we will marry and what career or ministry calling we are to pursue in life, it is absolutely crucial that we make right choices



- The enemy will continually try and complicate our lives by causing us to make wrong choices in life, particularly in the area of our relationships with others

Good Relationships

"A mirror reflects a man's face, but what he is really like is shown by the kind of friends he chooses."

Proverbs 27:19



**A HEALTHY
RELATIONSHIP WILL
NEVER REQUIRE
YOU TO SACRIFICE
YOUR GOALS,
YOUR DREAMS, OR
YOUR DIGNITY.**

THEGOODGUYBIBLE.CO

- So when we prayerfully seek God for His will and direction for our lives, it is crucial that we have His peace before pursuing any course of action.
- **Having God's peace in our heart is one great indicator that we are in the will of God for our life.**
- We must also allow the peace of Christ to control our thoughts and emotions so that we continually make wise choices in life that are in line with God's will for our life



The Apostle Paul wrote,

**“And let the peace of God rule in your hearts,
to which also you were called in one body;
and be thankful.” (Colossians 3:15)**



I will now just quickly finish with 8 reasons why it is so important that we continually remain in the will of God for our life



1) It is a key to experiencing the abundant life that Jesus spoke of – As Christians the things of this world will never satisfy us. Flowing in God's blueprint for our life is the key to experiencing the life and life more abundantly that Jesus spoke of. A life full of great purpose and meaning.

Jesus Himself said, "...I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly." (John 10:10)

2) Because God's ways are higher than our ways. God's plan for our life is far bigger than our own plan for our life. Our full potential in life will only be achieved in the centre of God's will for our life



In the book of Isaiah we read,

“For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways,” says the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts.” (Isaiah 55:8-9)

3) It helps us to avoid a lot of unnecessary pain and suffering that comes from making wrong choices.

- We have a very real adversary, the devil, who is out to complicate our life by continually taking us out of the will of God for our life.
- The Devil's ultimate agenda is to destroy our lives.



The Apostle Peter wrote,

“Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world.” **(1 Peter 5:8-9)**



4) There is no safer place than being in the centre of God's will for our life. Nothing can happen to us apart from the will of God for our life if we simply let the Lord lead in our life



Jesus Himself said,

“Are not two sparrows sold for a copper coin? And not one of them falls to the ground apart from your Father's will.” **(Matthew 10:29)**

“Do not fear therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows.” **(Matthew 10:31)**

King David wrote,

“But know that the LORD has set apart^[a] for Himself him who is godly;

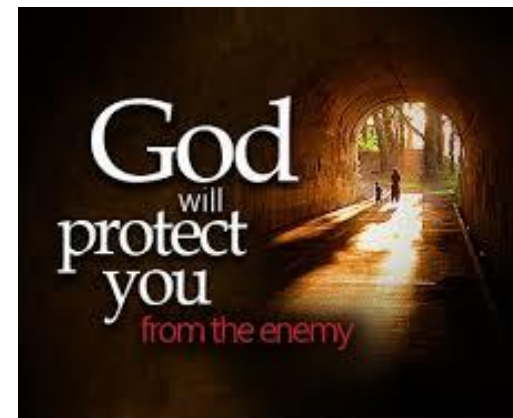
The LORD will hear when I call to Him.”

(Psalm 4:3)

“I will both lie down in peace, and sleep;

For You alone, O LORD, make me dwell in safety.”

(Psalm 4:8)



King David also wrote,

“But the salvation of the righteous *is* from the LORD;

He is their strength in the time of trouble.

And the LORD shall help them and deliver them;

He shall deliver them from the wicked,

And save them,

Because they trust in Him.”

(Psalm 37:39-40)



5) That being fruitful and experiencing God's continual assistance in our lives comes from flowing in God's will for our life. God's desire is that our lives would be fruitful and productive. That we would see our lives making a great difference in this world for eternity.

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)

6) That when we pursue God's will for our life we can be assured that every need of ours will be met. **God's will, God's bill.**



Jesus Himself made this very clear when He 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)**

7) That one day Jesus will reward us for fulfilling God's will for our life and for completing the good works which God had planned for our life here on earth



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)

- The degree to which we faithfully complete these works with a motivation of love, will determine our rewards when we stand before Jesus to give an account of our life here on earth



Jesus Himself said,

**“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 16:27)**



**How we want to here from Jesus the words,
“Well done My good and faithful servant”**

AND

8) When we flow in God's will for our life we help to see God's Kingdom expanded here on earth. Every believer has an important part to play in the Body of Christ.

- We all need one another.

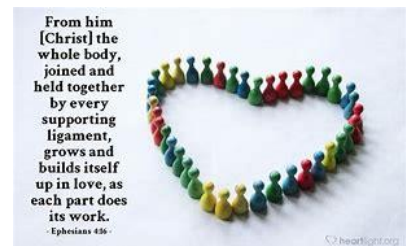


- As we faithfully fulfil God's will for our life we will also help others to fulfil their God given destiny.

- It is when all believers faithfully flow in God's will for their lives, that we see the church making a great difference in our world for eternity



The Apostle Paul wrote, “from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself IN LOVE.” (Ephesians 4:16)



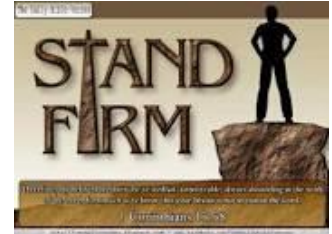
It is when all believers flow together in unity with one another, with each following their own unique God given calling for their life (God’s will), that we see God’s Kingdom being expanded here on earth

SO IN CONCLUSION:

- May I encourage you to find and follow God's will and plan for your life so that you will continually experience great peace and joy and purpose in your life as you help to see God's Kingdom being established here on earth.
- **That through pursuing God's will for your life one day you would hear the words from Jesus "Well done My good and faithful servant"**
- That through following God's will for your life you would make an eternal difference in the lives of many

God's Will

- The Apostle Paul encouraged all believers to fully invest their lives for the Kingdom Cause.



The Apostle Paul wrote,

“Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.” (1 Corinthians 15:58)

- **We have one life, one opportunity, to make an eternal difference in the lives of many others. For this reason may I encourage you to find and follow God’s will for your life from this day on**