
DISCOVERING GOD'S WILL

STUDY NOTES FOR CARE GROUPS

The following are resource questions that you can use with your Care Group for discussion. They are based on the sermon preached on Sunday, February 7, 2010 by Rev Dr Arnold Wong at the Grace Baptist Church, Singapore. The sermon is available online at <http://www.gracebap.org.sg/worship/series.html>.

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Introduction: Discovering God's will and doing it should be the lifestyle of the believer. God wants the best for us we need to know how we are to discover His will for our lives. We will be considering different verses in Scripture that will help us in our study. The first verses we need to consider are Proverbs 3:5, 6:

"Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight."

The central New Testament teaching about the subject is found in Romans 12:1-2, which presents a summary of what the Lord expects of us, and an appeal based on His love and mercy:

"Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will."

These words from Solomon and Paul gives us clear instruction on what the basis should be in discovering God's will for our lives. We must make Jesus our Lord and be genuinely willing to do his will.

► **Discuss** these verses and share how they have affected your own Christian walk.

I. DISCOVERING GOD'S WILL INVOLVES SUBMISSION.

- *Submission to God's will with all your hearts Eph 6:5,6*
- *Submission in prayer and patience Matt 7: 7,8*
- *Submission to change 1 Thess. 5:16-18*

We should respond as God would in any given situation and be obedient to his will. (Psalm 25:10)

► **Discuss** this whole subject of submission and share how this is foundational in discovering God's will for your life.

II. DISCOVERING GOD'S WILL INVOLVES ACTION.

- *Soaking yourself in prayer and listening to God. Phil 4:6,7. Prov 8:34*
- *Searching God's Word. We must spend time in his words daily. This is the most simple and powerful, yet most forgotten or ignored fact. Study the bible, not just read it.*

- a. *God's Word is more like a compass than a map. Ps 119:105*
- b. *God's Word is God's way of communicating today. 2 Tim 3:16*
- c. *God's Word uses phrases that we should use as guiding thoughts 1 Thess 4:3*
- d. *God's Word offers precepts 1 Thess 5:14*
- e. *God's words give principles 1 Cor 10:31, Ps. 119:66*

► **Discuss** how we can incorporate these principles in our daily living.

III. - SEEKING GODLY COUNSEL

Peace of mind should attend the doing of God's will. We are promised "the peace of God that passes all understanding." (Philippians 4:7, Psalms 119:165). If this is absent, there is something wrong, and we had better go again to the Word of God and to prayer, or re-examine the circumstances.

IV. - SURVEYING THE CIRCUMSTANCES

Every means we have used to learn the mind of the Lord should be in agreement with every other means. He cannot deny Himself, and therefore the teaching of the Scripture, the answers to our prayers, the providential position in which we find ourselves and our own intelligent convictions should be in harmony. John 7:17

Conclusion: Probably no better statement on how to discover the will of God has ever been written than that by which **George Mueller**, one of the outstanding Christian leaders of the last century, guided his own life for Christ. I leave this for your **meditation and discussion**.

"I seek at the beginning to get my heart into such a state that it has no will of its own in regard to a given matter. Nine-tenths of the trouble with people is just here. Nine-tenths of the difficulties are overcome when our hearts are ready to do the Lord's will, whatever it may be. When one is truly in this state, it is usually but a little way to the knowledge of what His will is."

"Having done this, I do not leave the result to feeling or simple impression. If I do so, I make myself liable to great delusions. I see the will of the Spirit of God through, or in connection with the Word of God. The Spirit and the Word must be combined. If I look to the Spirit alone without the Word I lay myself open to great delusions also. If the Holy Spirit guides us at all, He will do it according to the Scriptures and never contrary to them."

"Next I take into account providential circumstances. These often plainly indicate God's will in connection with His Word and Spirit. I ask God in prayer to reveal His will to me. Through prayer to God, the study of the Word, and reflection, I come to a deliberate judgment according to the best of my ability and knowledge; and if my mind is at peace, and continues so after two or three more petitions, I proceed accordingly. In trivial matters, and in transactions involving most important issues, I have found this method always effective."