

## The Pattern for Spirituality: The Will of God(2)

### Introduction

- A. One of the sources of comfort for the Christian is to know he is in the will of God. When we so live the infinite blessing of God is ours.
- B. The will of God, Biblically, designates how the Christian is to live. The primary emphasis is on the "inner man." It is the issue of the heart.
- C. Because it is rather easy to be externally conformed to the will of God, one of the most searching questions we could ever be asked is: "Are you in the will of God?"

### I. The Biblical Theme and Emphasis on the Will of God.

*After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. Matthew 6:9,10*

Comment: In this blueprint for prayer the Lord Jesus teaches us to keep His will continually before us. This is not to cause anxiety and undue introspection – but to remind us of the importance of love and faith and fellowship and obedience.

### II. The Importance of the Will of God.

*Wherefore be ye not unwise but understanding what the will of the Lord is. Ephesians 5:17*

Comment: The teaching of this passage has to do with how to walk with God. Paul indicates wisdom is found in knowing and doing God's will.

### III. The Content of the Will of God.

- A. It is the will of God for the believer to be delivered from the world.

*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*

Comment: One purpose in the atonement is described as deliverance from the sin of self-centeredness or worldliness (I Jn. 2:15,16). The issue here is again the heart. Worldliness begins with our view of life. It's the view that we need more than God to find fulfillment.

- B. It is the will of God for the believer to live worthy of God.

*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 in all wisdom and spiritual understanding. That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful, in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God, strengthened with all might, according to his glorious power, unto all patience and longsuffering with joyfulness, giving thanks unto the Father .... Colossians 1:9-12*

Comment: Paul here states that doing the will of God will enable one to live worthy of God, please Him, be fruitful, grow in the knowledge of God, and be strengthened unto patience, longsuffering, joyfulness, and thanksgiving. What person would not want this?

- C. It is the will of God for the believer to be sanctified.

*For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication. I Thessalonians 4:1*

Comment: Sanctification is living in God's will regarding personal holiness. It is being truthful, loving, and righteous. In all

our temptations we must learn to say by faith, "Thy will be done!"

D. It is the will of God to be joyful, to pray, and to be thankful.

*Rejoice evermore. Pray without ceasing. In everything give thanks, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.* I Thess. 5:16-18

Comment: What would the Christian life be without these benefits? Many of us know – because we live with such tragic deficiency. The choice is ours, God has promised to lead us into His will if we honestly will seek Him (John 7:17). Note where these begin – with the inner man.

IV. The Promises Related to the Will of God.

A. The promise of equipment.

*Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is wellpleasing in his sight through Jesus Christ ....*  
Hebrews 13:20,21

Comment: The word "perfect" is better translated "equip." God has made it possible for us to do His will. We must learn – with trials and testing – but He has made promised equipment.

B. The promise of answered prayer.

*And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask anything according to his will, he heareth us.* I John 5:14

Comment: The greatness of this promise cannot be comprehended. Here we have a pledge from God to do anything for us – found in His will! That would include all described in this lesson and much more.

V. The Instruction Related to the Will of God.

*Not with eyeservice, as menpleasers, but as the servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart.* Ephesians 6:6

Comment: This verse put the finger on the problem – our hearts! Does our heart leap with expectation and praise as we read these verses? Is the answer "No." If that's the case then we can hardly call ourselves spiritual. To be honest we must ask God – in mercy – to reach our heart.

Victor M. Matthews