

## The Pattern for Spirituality – The Will of God

### Introduction

- A. Every person has certain priorities that pattern their daily life. For the Christian the highest priority is to know and do the will of God.
- B. Because spirituality is the result of obedience by faith, love and hope – an understanding of the will of God is important for our growth in grace.

### 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. Matt. 6:9,10

Comment: Here the Lord Jesus gives us the blueprint on how to pray. We are to learn how to constantly seek and practice the will of God. We are to do His will as the holy angels in heaven: from the heart – not grudgingly; at once – not hesitatingly; spontaneously – not under promptings; completely – not partially; and in love – not selfishly

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

Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Matt. 7:21

Comment: The evidence that a person is a true believer is that a general characteristic of his life will be— doing God's will. Such evidence will manifest itself in a concern to know His will and an honest attempt to live that way.

### III. The Warning Regarding the Will of God.

And that servant which knew his lord's will, and prepared not himself, neither did according to his will, shall be beaten with many stripes. Luke 12:47

Comment: This parable states a serious warning for the believer. God expects us to know His will and to obey Him. When we fail we incur spiritual loss, open our life to the enemy, and force God to chastize us.

### IV. The Dedication of Jesus Christ to the Will of God.

The Lord Jesus prayed saying, Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me, nevertheless, not my will, but thine, be done. Luke 22:42

Comment: In the most difficult hour of His life, beside that of the actual Crucifixion, the Savior took refuge in choosing the will of God. It was what He wanted. It was more important to Him than life itself.

V. The Source of Personal Fulfillment: for the Savior was the Will of God.

Jesus saith unto than, My meat is to do the will of him that sent me and to finish his work. John 4:34

Comment: By use of the word "meat" i.e. daily food, the Lord Jesus indicates the satisfaction He derived from doing the will of His Father. We are here taught that the joy of the Lord is a byproduct of doing the will of God. God made (is to find our fulfillment basically in Him.

VI. The Promise to all Those Who Desire to Do God's Will.

If any man will do his will, -he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself. John 7:17

Comment: God's promise is that He will reveal His will to us - if we honestly seek to do it. This promise applies particularly to those areas of life not covered directly in the Bible.

VII. The Will of God is Known by Divine Revelation.

Behold, thou art called a JEw, add retest in the law, and makest thy boast of God, and knowest his will, and approvest the things that are more excellent, being instructed out of the law. Rom. 2:17,18

Comment: One of the great privileges of being a Jew was that they had been given the Scripture. Ibis was how we know His will - by a careful study of the Bible - not by mystical contemplation. And when we need special guidance it will come through a practice of the Word.

VIII. Personal Surrender is Where We Begin in Knowing the Will of God.

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world, but be ye transformed by the renewing of .your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God. Rom. 12:1,2

Comment: The word "prove" mean to "experience in daily life," to "put to the test with success." In order to enter into such a life of knowing and doing God's will - Paul gives us a threefold instruction.

1. We are to surrender ourselves as a living sacrifice to God. The use of "body" indicates how God's will is to be carried out in the life.
2. We are to live not conforming to the sinful world about us.
3. We are to renew our mind (via the Bible) so we can be transformed. The word "transformed" means metamorphosis and indicates how the Holy Spirit will change us as we seek God's will.

Conclusion: How important is the will of God in our daily life?

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