Knowing God's Will
Ephesians 5:17
ST1130

"Do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is" (Ephesians 5:17).

God's will is revealed in His Word.

How can a Christian walk wisely and know the will of God for his life? The will of God is explicitly revealed to us in the pages of Scripture. God's will is that we be:

Saved—"This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth" (1 Tim. 2:3-4; compare 2 Peter 3:9).

Spirit-filled—"Do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but be filled with the Spirit" (Eph. 5:17-18).

Sanctified—"This is the will of God, your sanctification" (1 Thess. 4:3). Submissive—"Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every human institution, whether to a king as the one in authority, or to governors as sent by him for the punishment of evildoers and the praise of those who do right. For such is the will of God" (1 Peter 2:13-15).

Suffering for His sake—"It is better, if God should will it so, that you suffer for doing what is right rather than for doing what is wrong" (1 Peter 3:17).

Saying thanks—"In everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus" (1 Thess. 5:18).

You may say, "Those are good principles, but they don't tell me where I ought to go to school or whom I should marry." But if you're saved, sanctified, submissive, suffering, and saying thanks, you can do whatever you want! That's what the psalmist meant when he said, "Delight yourself in the Lord; and He will give you the desires of your heart" (Ps. 37:4). Does that mean He fulfills the desire? Yes, but before He fulfills it, He puts it in your heart. If you are living a godly life, He will give you the right desires and then fulfill them.

Suggestions for Prayer

Give thanks to God for revealing His will in His Word so that you can live wisely, not foolishly.

For Further Study

Christ acted only in accordance with His Father’s will. Read the following verses, and note how that was so: Matthew 26:42; John 4:34; 5:30; 6:38.

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