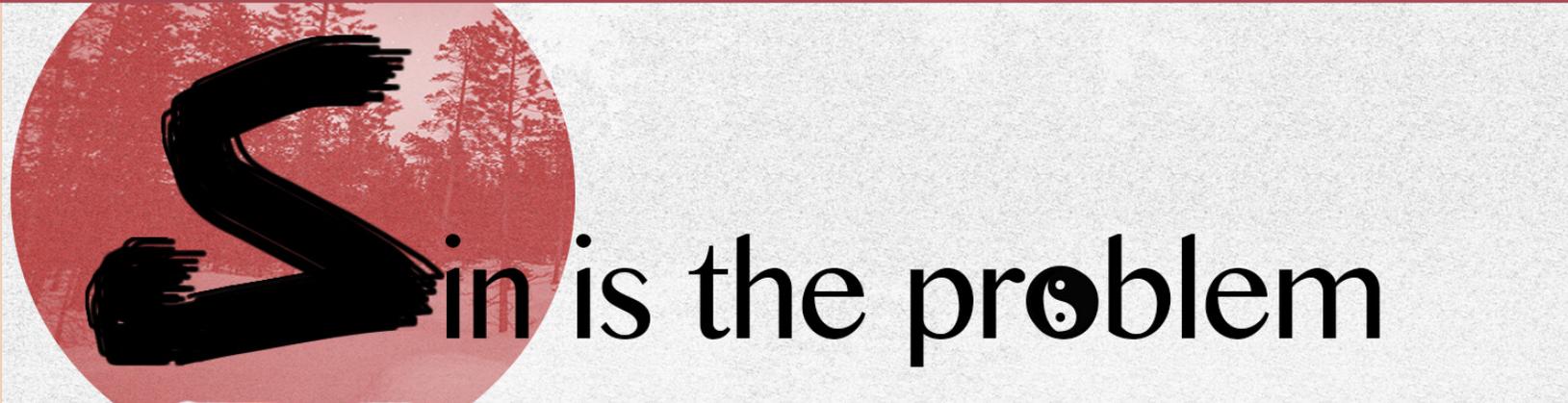


THE WILL OF GOD (PART 1)

Alignment for your Assignment



Our reading for this teaching comes from the book of Romans chapter 12, verse 1-2 (New King James Version):

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

WHAT EXACTLY IS GOD’S WILL FOR ME?

As we begin this teaching, ask yourself the following questions: Have you repented for all your sins? Have you accepted the Lord Jesus as your Saviour? If your answer is no to the above questions and you are willing to change your life, we welcome you to attend our Sunday service to give your life to Jesus or contact us at allnationschurchnorthants@gmail.com and someone from our team will begin to guide you on how you can get saved. Getting saved is as simple as repeating a prayer of salvation.

If you answered yes to both questions then you are a born again believer of Jesus Christ. God’s will for every born again believer is to witness the Gospel (also known as the good news) of the Lord Jesus Christ. Witnessing is telling other people who are not yet saved (this includes unbelievers and non-Christians) about Jesus and what He did for the salvation of mankind.

Jesus is the Son of God who came to earth and lived as a man. Jesus was ultimately crucified on the cross of Calvary and died on the cross for our sins so that we can be forgiven for all the wrong things we have done. Jesus was buried and rose from the dead on the third day and is now with God the Father, reigning from heaven with all authority.

WHY IS JESUS'S DEATH SIGNIFICANT TO ME?

Jesus's death on the cross is incredibly significant to all of mankind because when He died on the cross, He died for our sins. What does that mean? It means He took the debt of all our sins away from us so that we can be free from sin once and for all. To better understand this let gives an example of being in debt and owing someone an unpayable amount of money. If you owe someone money and are in debt and have no way of paying back what you owe, you would grateful if someone who loved and cared for you decided to help you to get out of that debt by pay what you owe once and for all. In this secular world, we don't know anyone that would willingly and happily take our debt for us. If you keep that example in mind, that is exactly what Jesus did when it comes to sin. Jesus willingly took the price for all our sins (our debt) and put them to death on the cross so that we can be saved (free) from what we deserved as sinners, which is death. When we speak of death in this case, we are referring to eternal death in hell. Jesus loved us so much that he sacrificed himself so that we can have an escape route from sin. He was able to do this because he was pure and lived a life completely free from sin. Therefore no one else could have done that for us. Only Jesus could because he never sinned.

STILL DON'T UNDERSTAND?

Ok let's explain it further. Because Jesus paid the price for all our sins, when we accept Jesus as our saviour, what we are first of all doing is being honest and admitting that we have sinned. Sin is doing anything that is not pleasing to God. That can be anything from swearing, lying, to having unforgiveness, anger and resentment in your heart to having physical relationships outside of and before marriage. No person is exempt from sin, therefore no one can say that they have never sinned. The only difference is that your sin may just be different to someone else's sin. If someone says they have never sinned, the reality is that they HAVE just sinned then and there by telling you they haven't! Only Jesus lived without sinning.

Once we have acknowledged to ourselves that we have sinned, the next step is to make the decision to ask for forgiveness. Who can forgive me? Jesus can! Jesus can forgive us and save us from the penalty of sin which is death. How do I get saved? "If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved" (Romans 10:9).

IS THIS THE ONLY WAY I CAN BE SAVED?

Yes, confessing with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and accepting him into your heart and asking Him for forgiveness is the only way to be saved from sin and death. We must understand that no amount of good deeds can make up for all the sin you have done. It is only through Jesus that we are saved because "God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him." When we accept and believe in Jesus we become born again of the spirit. The captive chains that sin once had on us are finally broken and we are free once and for all. We become a new creation that is no longer controlled by sin.

ALIGNMENT FOR YOUR ASSIGNMENT

Now that we know what it means to be saved, let us study the will of God for us as born again believers of Jesus. We must first understand that there are two parts to the will of God for us.

The first part is alignment—this is the surrender of your will to God.

The second part is assignment—which is God's will planned for you.

When we surrender our will to the will of God we become Disciples of Christ and our character becomes transformed from what is WAS when we lived a life of sin to what it IS as born again believers of Christ. Therefore it is important to understand that:

✓ **Discipleship comes when my will meets destiny (which is God's will).**

✓ **Character becomes transformed when my will meets my calling (which is God's will).**

Question: How do we align ourselves to carry out God's assignment for us?

Answer: **The secret of spiritual alignment is brokenness and surrender.**

LEARNING FROM JESUS

Jesus was a leader that taught us how to be obedient to God through both His actions and His words. Throughout His life, Jesus gave practical examples of everything He wants us to do as followers of Him. For example in Luke 22:42 Jesus showed us how to surrender to the will of God when He said, "Father, if it is Your will, take this cup away from Me; nevertheless not My will, but Yours, be done". Also in John chapter 5:30, Jesus also said "I do not seek My own will but the will of the Father who sent Me". Furthermore in John chapter 6:38, Jesus reminds us of His obedience to the will of the Father when said, "For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me". In these examples, we see that Jesus despite his position in the Godhead was still obedient to the will of the Father. He didn't want to do His own will but the will of His Father because the ultimate goal (which was the salvation of mankind and fulfilment of the Scripture) was much more important than Him doing His own will in those circumstances. As Disciples of Jesus, let us learn from everything He did and said and be obedient to God by saying "not My will, Lord, but Yours, be done".

HOW TO SURRENDER TO GOD'S WILL

So, we now know that we need to surrender our will to the will of God. If you are thinking the same thing we thought in the beginning, then you are probably thinking about how difficult it could be to surrender your will. But do not worry; if you are thinking that, then you are just being honest with yourself. However with that being said, also remember that "as a man thinks in heart, so is he". So if you think can, YOU WILL and if you think you can't, YOU WON'T. The first thing you need to do is to change your mind set from "it's too difficult so I can't do it" to, "it may be difficult but I will try anyway because I have the strength through Jesus who has saved me, to do anything I put my mind to". Do you see the difference? Now let's move on to how to align your will to God's will.

We mentioned previously that the secret to spiritual alignment is brokenness and surrender. In order to surrender we must be willing to let go of our pride and be willing to be broken. Your body and soul (mind, emotions, and will) must be broken and surrendered to the Holy Spirit in your spirit. This is crucial to understand because from the moment we accepted Jesus as our saviour, that's the moment we began to be led by the Spirit, not by the flesh.

The reason why it may not be easy to surrender or be broken is because there is a constant battle between the spirit (which has been born again) and the flesh (the old you which existed before you were saved). In Galatians chapter 5: 17, it tells us that "the flesh lusts against the Spirit and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish".

WHAT IS THE SOLUTION TO THE WAR BETWEEN THE SPIRIT AND THE FLESH?

Again the solution to this battle is Jesus. Jesus walked every moment of His life in the perfect will of God. Therefore we must ask Him to help us in every area we are struggling and ask Him to deliver us from every circumstance that is preventing us from surrendering to the will of God. Jesus told us in Matthew chapter 11:29 that we should "Take His yoke upon us and learn from Him, for He is gentle and lowly in heart, and we will find rest for our souls. For His yoke is easy and His burden is light".

PRACTICAL WAYS TO ALIGN YOURSELF WITH THE WILL OF GOD

In 1 Thessalonians chapter 5:16-24, we can see three distinct evidences of alignment. The following points will outline some practical ways that you can begin to align yourself with God's will for you:

1. Do it with Joy:

Verse 16-18 says "Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you".

The will of God will bring joy. Your body and mind may not be comfortable, but you have intense, inward pleasure. It is also important to do His will WITH JOY. This is repeated throughout other chapters within the bible. For example Romans chapter 15:32 says "That I may come to you with joy by the will of God" and Psalms chapter 40:8 says "I delight to do Your will, O my God". So if His will is for you to witness, not only will the person who you are witnessing to be given the opportunity to change their life, but you will also experience joy knowing that you have helped someone. Do not be discouraged if they do not accept the Lord on the spot. By witnessing to them, you have just planted a seed in them that will keep growing and may lead to their salvation at a later point in their life.

2. Discernment:

In verse 19-21 it says that we should "not quench the Spirit. Do not despise prophecies. Test all things; hold fast what is good").

The will of God will come to you by the Spirit (prophecy, dreams, visions, Scripture, inward voice, and inward witness). Discerning is something you do in your mind and it involves making a conscious decision to distinguish between what is right and wrong. You must continually discern whether you have drifted away from God's assignment for you personally. Only then will you be able to identify when you have drifted away and make the right turn to get back on the right track.

3. Surrender:

Verse 22 says that we should "Abstain from every form of evil. Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful, who also will do it"

In surrender, you are like the clay to the potter. You are also like the ship to the rudder. At this point, you are broken and have stopped trying to wiggle out of hard assignments, challenges, and corrections. You are relaxed in spite of storms and difficulties.

4. Realignment:

Realign yourself and come back to the will of God! This may be a constant thing you do or a onetime act. No matter how far off you drift away, it is never too late to realign yourself with the will of God. Realigning yourself can be as simple as making a U-turn on the motorway! Identify where you went wrong and make a U-turn!