



Living By Faith Part 9—Good or God: Knowing the Perfect Will
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USING THIS SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

We have provided all the Scriptures references in the sermon and some discussion questions for you to use to discuss the weekend message.

This Sermon Discussion Guide is only a tool to aid you in meeting the needs of your group. For most groups, there are too many questions to answer in one session together. Give priority to the needs and pace of your group members.

While the questions are important, remember your group's goal is to create an atmosphere that will foster true friendships. Use the discussion questions as you see fit but emphasize the relationships.

It is not an accident that God has brought you here; He has a perfect will for you.

[Romans 12:1-2]

Therefore I urge you, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable (pleasing) and perfect.

Stop settling for good and good enough. Wait on the LORD!

[Proverbs 14:12]

There is a way which seems right to a man, But its end is the way of death.

[Jeremiah 17:9]

The heart is more deceitful than all else And is desperately sick; Who can know it?

Take you mind, will, emotions, and decisions and throw them into the fire of God, and let them burn. If your offering survives, then you know its quality has been tested by God.

How to Know the Perfect Will of God—

1. Present your bodies as a living sacrifice.

[Romans 12:1]

Therefore I urge you, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship.

[1 Corinthians 3:11]

For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ. If anyone builds on this foundation using gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay or straw, their work will be shown for what it is, because the Day will bring it to light. It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test the quality of each person's work. 14 If what has been built survives, the builder will receive a reward.

2. Renew your mind.

renew—Greek *anakainosis*

“a renewal, renovation, complete change for the better;”

“a completely new thing”

When the Spirit and the Word work together, they create something new for you.

[Genesis 1]

In creation, the Spirit was hovering over the waters and then God spoke His Word into existence. “Let there be light..”

In the presence of the Spirit and by the power of God’s word, creation came forth.

The Spirit and the Word can renew your thinking! They can change your desires! They can lead you to a place of newness!

[John 16:13]

“But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth...

[Romans 8:6]

For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace...

[Hebrews 4:12]

For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.

[Psalm 12:6]

The words of the Lord are pure words, like silver refined in a furnace on the ground, purified seven times.

[Ephesians 5:25-27]

For husbands, this means love your wives, just as Christ loved the church. He gave up his life for her to make her holy and clean, washed by the cleansing of God's word. He did this to present her to himself as a glorious church without a spot or wrinkle or any other blemish. Instead, she will be holy and without fault.

[Psalm 145:8]

The Lord is gracious and merciful; slow to anger and great in lovingkindness.

[Jeremiah 17:7]

Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord, "For he will be like a tree planted by the water, That extends its roots by a stream And will not fear when the heat comes; But its leaves will be green, And it will not be anxious in a year of drought Nor cease to yield fruit.

[Psalm 37:25]

I was young and now I am old and I have never seen the righteous forsaken.

FOR MONDAY—

1. Shed off a cloak of heaviness and rise up in victory. You are called for such a time as this!
2. Find a meal or a period of time to fast and submit to God's will in a specific area of your life right now.
3. Get washed by the water of God's Word and renew your mind. Give God time to cleanse any thinking that's drifted from biblical thinking.

TALK IT THROUGH

1. What are some things that you have seen people settle for versus holding out for what's best? How did that play out for them (or you) over the years?
2. What characterizes God's good, pleasing, and perfect will? How do you know when it's "good" or "God?" [Look at Romans 12.1-2]
3. How do I know what the will of God is? What does it take to figure it out in every season of life?
4. When have you seen something last the long haul, after being tested in the fire of God?
5. How do you present your bodies as a living sacrifice to God? What is the purpose of the fire of God? How do you lay things from your life on the altar of God?
6. Who are some mentors and trusted leaders that you turn to when making big decisions? Why is there safety in a multitude of counselors?
7. What does it look like to renew your mind? When have you had to personally follow that process to find clarity?
8. What decisions do you need to bring to God right now to be tested and approved? Take time as a Group to pray for one another. (Consider doing this even in pairs.)