

KNOWING and DOING the will of God

When people seek to know and do God's will, they ask, "What is God's will or purpose for my life?" A better question is, "What is God's will and what is He doing?" Once I know His will, I can begin to adjust my life and begin to do what He is doing.

Before we talk about doing God's will, it is important that we first talk about KNOWING HIM. He is the Creator of the heavens and the earth and formed man in His image not to work for Him but *first* to relate to Him as a Father and son or daughter.

Psalm 103:7 says that *He made known his ways to Moses, His deeds to the people of Israel: ... Israel saw the great things God did for them BUT Moses had spent much time in God's Presence and knew His Heart, His way of thinking, His Character.*

The power the apostles walked in showed everyone they had been with Jesus. Acts 4:13 *When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they took note that these men had been with Jesus.*

Knowing Psalm 23 is different from knowing the Shepherd.

1. Knowing Him IS eternal life.

A. John 17:3 *Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.*

2. The Christian life in one phrase: to love God and to love people. Loving and knowing God is man's first and greatest pursuit.

A. Matthew 22:36-39 *Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'"*

3. Serving from a Biblical perspective.

- A. Even though our hearts may be pure, many of us serve God from a worldly concept of a servant. The servant/employee finds out what to do from a human master/employer and then does that.
- Our work *for* Christ can become the most important thing in our relationship as seen in Revelation 2:1-7 *...I know your deeds, your hard work and your perseverance... You have persevered and have endured hardships for my name, and have not grown weary... Yet I hold this against you: You have forsaken the love you had at first...*
- B. A Biblical servant allows God to work THROUGH him or her. This requires that we understand two things:
- 1) He forms us — God is the potter and we are the clay. As the Potter, He is forming and shaping us into a vessel He can use. A servant of God allows God to shape him or her to fit His design.
Jeremiah 18:5-6 *Then the word of the Lord came to me. He said, "Can I not do with you, Israel, as this potter does?" declares the Lord. "Like clay in the hand of the potter, so are you in my hand, Israel."*
 - 2) We remain in Him — "Remain" in this verse means to stay in a place, relation, or expectancy; to endure, to be present.
John 15:4-5 *Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.*

This week... Identify a place and time to meet with Him and spend time in His Presence without the distraction of a device (phone, tablet). You will need to guard this with your whole heart! Our enemy, the devil, does NOT want you to do this because he knows the power of waiting on God and enjoying His Presence.

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