

Knowing the Will of God

By Dr. Steve McVey

Understanding the will of God for our lives isn't intended to be a search for an illusive treasure somewhere out there in the world. God's desire is to make His will clear to us without a struggle on our part. The following principles will help enable you to know God's will for your life.

1. The will of God is primarily a Person, not a plan. The will of God for every person is Jesus Christ. Before we can properly relate to the *what* of God's will, we must know the *Who* of His will. When one rightly relates to Him, doing the will of God becomes the natural expression of our union with Him.

2. We can trust God to accomplish His will in us as we

depend upon Him. Philippians 2:13 teaches that God will fulfill His purpose in us as we are absorbed into a continuous awareness of our oneness with Christ. Doing God's will isn't something for us to figure out, but rather is something He accomplishes as we depend upon Him.

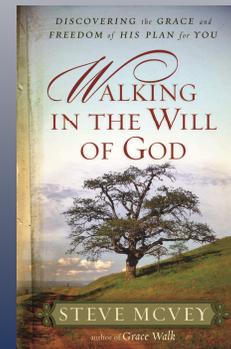
3. We can trust that our thoughts are being directed by God as we make decisions. The Bible teaches that Christians "have the mind of Christ" (1 Corinthians 2:16). As we trust Him, Jesus Christ will guide our thoughts so that we make the decisions that are in perfect line with the will of God.

4. We can trust God to keep us in the center of His will. Much emphasis is given in the modern church to the enemy's ability to

mislead us, but the Bible says that God is "able to keep you from stumbling" (Jude 24) out of His will.

Simply trust God and He will guide you into His perfect will without a struggle on your part. Grace means that He does it all as we trust Him!

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Hi, I'm Steve McVey, President of Grace Walk Ministries, and we are thrilled that you have let us send you these proven, biblical principles that will help you restore the joy in your life as a Christian. Grace Walk is a teaching and training ministry which exists for the purpose of sharing the life of Jesus Christ with others. Our mission is to help Christians discover the freedom of their new life in Christ. To this end, we use conferences, mission trips, Bible studies, books, newsletters, CD and DVD Studies and my weekly Sunday Preaching message broadcast via our website. Again, thank you so much for this opportunity to serve you. There's lots more in store at our web site. Be sure to visit us there at www.gracewalk.org. We hope you'll drop by for a visit and that you'll tell a friend about us.

In Him,

flip over for another article by Steve



Faith Isn't Thinking Positive Thoughts - by Steve McVey

Danny and I were talking one day about how depressed the real estate market has been all over the United States for the past few years. The subject has great importance to him because Danny works for a mortgage company. "Management at our company has already laid off about a third of our employees," he told me.

"Are you concerned about your job?" I asked him.

"No," he answered. "I'm believing God for my job. He knows that our oldest son, Dave, is in college now and Ted will start in the fall. If I've ever needed a steady income, it's now. They're telling us at work that we're fighting to stay afloat, but I think everything will be okay."

"I hope so," I answered. "I don't hope. I'm believing in faith," he responded with mild

irritation in his voice.

I immediately knew I had unintentionally said something wrong. I know Danny well enough to understand that his view of faith requires that he affirm with gusto that things will turn out the way he wants. From his perspective, to acknowledge that an outcome any different is even a remote possibility translates to a lack of faith. Faith means believing it will happen the way we're praying it will happen. It's that simple to him.

Danny is an example of somebody who thinks he has faith based on how I've described that people often misunderstand it. In actuality, that's not what faith is at all. Faith isn't thinking positive thoughts about a situation until you finally convince yourself that it will work out the way you want. When the three Hebrew children were threatened with being thrown into the fiery furnace because they refused to bow down to the idol of King Nebuchadnezzar, their response was one of great faith. They said, "Our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the furnace of blazing fire; and He will deliver us out of your hand, O king. But even if He does not, let it be known to you, O king, that we are not going to serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up" (Daniel 3:17-18).

The faith of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego was in their God, regardless of what the outcome of their circumstances might ultimately prove to be. They said, "Our God is going to deliver us, one way or the other. It may be that He delivers us from the fire or He may deliver us through the fire, but either way we are going to trust Him." These three weren't rebuking flames or making loud confessions that they wouldn't go into the fire. They were simply looking to God and trusting in Him.

The fact is that, like many others already have, Danny could lose His job. If he did lose it, though, that wouldn't mean his faith failed him or that God let him down. It would simply be the way His heavenly Father was working in Danny's life to move him ahead in carrying out the divine plan He has for him.

I'm not suggesting that there aren't times when we can believe with confidence that things will turn out the way we are hoping. There are some things that we know without a doubt are God's will because of His word to us. I'm discussing here the times when we can't be sure what His will is because He has been silent on the matter. At times like that, we can't try to use what we may call faith as a way to force God's hand and get Him to do what we want.

To confidently walk in God's will for your life, the only thing you need to do is trust Him. Faith is nothing more or nothing less than looking at things through the lens of confidence in God and His word. The answer, then, to feelings of weak faith is simply to focus on the truths we know about our God. Do you feel like you have weak faith? Then remind yourself of who God is and on the fact that He is always reliable. That's true no matter how things may look at the time life seems unstable. You don't have to feel great confidence about what the results of your circumstances will be. You only need to cast yourself in total abandon on the One who will determine those results and rest in Him, waiting for Him to do what He will do even though you can't make any sense of it at the time.



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