

KNOWING THE WILL OF GOD

Eph. 5:17

- I. THE NECESSITY OF KNOWING THE WILL OF GOD.
 - A. Must know the will of God to do the will of God.
 - B. I delight to do thy will, O God.
 - C. The most important function of our life is to do the will of God.
 - D. So much confusion on knowing the will of God.

- II. THE GENERAL WILL OF GOD.
 - A. The will of God to save us and to heal us.
 - B. The will of God for us to serve Him.
 - C. The will of God for us to assemble ourselves together.

- III. WHAT ABOUT THE SPECIFIC WILL OF GOD?
 - A. What do I do with my life? Who do I marry? Go to school or work?
 - B. Should I take this job? What about moving?
 - C. What about this house? This car?

- IV. HOW DO WE FIND THE SPECIFIC WILL OF GOD?
 - A. Prayer? Prophecy? Draw straws? Reasoning?
 - B. John Wesley's experiences of determining who to marry.
 - 1. Sophia Hopkey.
 - a. John belonged to Holy Club which discouraged marriage.
 - b. He and friend Charles Delamotte drew lots: "Marry," "Think not of it this year," and "Think of it no more."
 - 2. Grace Murray
 - a. Listed seven factors desired in wife - housekeeper, nurse, companion, friend, fellow labourer, gifts, fruits of labour.
 - b. Charles didn't agree.
 - c. "Grace Murray, you have broken my heart!" - fainted, she married another.
 - 3. At age of 47, married wealthy widow named Mary Vazeille, She left him 20 years later.
 - C. Do we look for supernatural signs? Put God to the test?

- V. WHAT ABOUT SPECTACULAR METHODS OF DETERMINING THE WILL OF GOD?
 - A. Angel visitations and visions.
 - B. Personal prophecies.
 - C. Fleeces.
 - 1. Gideon was not ignorant of God's will - "If thou deliver Israel through me, as thou hast spoken..."

- a. Not a problem of knowledge, but faith and obedience.
2. Fleece setting evidence of doubt, not faith.
 - a. I heard you, but I'm not sure I really believe you.
 - b. Demanding the Lord led me on my terms, not His.
3. Fleece setting is dictating to God.
4. Fleece setting does not really solve the problem--still element for doubt.

VI. KNOWING THE WILL OF GOD BY THE SPIRIT

- A. Intuition of your own spirit (not always in wind, earthquake, fire...still small voice).
- B. Voice of your own spirit talking to you.
- C. Voice of the Holy Spirit in your spirit.

VII. SOME BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES OF GUIDANCE

- A. Do not panic, if you come to an area in your life and you do not know what to do.
- B. God does not give us guidance as much as He gives us a Guide--fellowship with Jesus.
- C. Guidance is based on principles and precepts of the Word of God.
 1. God is more concerned about what I am, than where i am or what I am doing.
- D. Guidance confirmed through indwelling peace of God.
- E. Guidance communicated through desires God gives us.
- F. Guidance comes through godly counsel of others.
 1. Be sure of those you seek out are spiritual.
 2. Do not ask a lot of people to pray for you or to pray with you.
- G. Don't rush things--God has a time.
- H. Don't get off one horse without another one to get on.