



Fulfilling God's Purpose For your Life (part 2)

Sunday April 02, 2006

Recognising God's Purpose for Your Life

Ephesians 5:15–17

¹⁵ See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, ¹⁶ redeeming the time, because the days are evil. ¹⁷ Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is.

The Scripture tells us to understand (put together, mentally comprehend) the will (purpose) of the Lord.

We can understand what the will of the Lord is!

Colossians 1:9–11

⁹ For this reason we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; ¹⁰ that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; ¹¹ strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, for all patience and longsuffering with joy.

It is possible to be filled with the knowledge of His will. None of us need to “be in the dark” concerning the will of God for our lives!

It requires wisdom and spiritual understanding to know His will.

Once we know His will we can then:

- (a) Walk worthy of Him.
- (b) Be well pleasing to Him.
- (c) Be fruitful in every good work.
- (d) Increase in the knowledge of Him.

1 Corinthians 2:9,10

⁹ But as it is written: “ Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him.” ¹⁰ But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God.

There are things that God has planned for us as His people and as individuals. The Holy Spirit reveals them to us!

1 Corinthians 2:16

For “who has known the mind of the LORD that he may instruct Him?” But we have the mind of Christ.

We have the mind of Christ because of the revealing work of the Spirit. We know the thoughts, plan and purpose of Christ.

In any given season of life, you can know the plan and purpose of God for your life accurately, completely and clearly.

You do not need to grope through life like a blind man, totally unfamiliar with the plan and purpose of God. You can understand the will of the Lord. You can be filled with the knowledge of His will. You can know the things He has prepared for you. You can walk in the “mind of Christ.”



Proverbs 4:18

But the path of the just is like the shining sun, that shines ever brighter unto the perfect day.

In most cases, God's revelation of His plan and purpose for our lives is progressive.

Hebrews 11: 8

By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to the place which he would receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going.

Once you obey God in the step He wants you to take, then at the right time He will reveal the next step.

Genesis 24:27

And he said, "Blessed be the LORD God of my master Abraham, who has not forsaken His mercy and His truth toward my master. As for me, being on the way, the LORD led me to the house of my master's brethren."

When we are on the way—moving in the direction God wants us to go—the Lord leads us on further into His plan and purpose.

How do we recognise God's plan and purpose for our lives? We will discuss nine 'guide posts' that will help us.

God will, at different times, use a combination of one or more of these guide posts to show you the way in which He wants you to go.

1. Recognise the general teaching and instruction of God's Word.
2. Recognise the 'seeds' in your life.
3. Recognise the stirring within.
4. Recognise the grace of God given to you.
5. Recognise the leading of God's Spirit.
6. Recognise the circumstances.
7. Recognise godly counsel and wisdom.
8. Recognise times and seasons.
9. Recognise God's pattern of working in your life.

2.1. Recognise the General Teaching and Instruction of God's Word

2 Timothy 3:16,17

¹⁶ All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, ¹⁷ that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

God's leading and direction for our lives will ALWAYS be in agreement with the written Word of God.

Romans 12:2

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.

'Prove' *dokimazo* (Gr.) = to test.



The word 'dokimazo' is commonly applied to metals, to the operation of testing, or trying them by the severity of fire and so on. Hence, it also means to explore, investigate, ascertain. This is its meaning here. The sense is, that a renewed mind is essential to a successful inquiry after the will of God (Barnes).

The renewing of my mind is necessary for me to prove (i.e., test) what is good, acceptable and perfect before God.

This verse does NOT teach that God has three different categories of His will. Something is either His will or not His will.

The will of God is always that which is good, acceptable and perfect.

Good = excellent, upright, honourable.

Acceptable = fully agreeable, that which will be pleasing to God or which He will approve.

Perfect = complete, that which is without flaw or defect.

The thing which is good, acceptable and perfect is the thing that is His will.

A renewed mind is able to quickly test (analyse, prove, discern) if something is good, acceptable and perfect and thereby determine if it is the will of God.

Ephesians 5:10

Finding out what is acceptable to the Lord.

'Finding out' *dokimazo* (Gr.) = to test

One of the main 'tests' we use to see if something is pleasing to God—see if it agrees with the Word of God.

Hebrews 5:14

But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, that is, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.

Through constant use of the Word, you can train your senses (organs of perception) to readily discern and distinguish between good and evil.

This is why it is so important to be constantly in the Word of God and to allow the Word of God to become an important part of our lives.

PRACTICAL EXAMPLES:

Marriage

Genesis 2:24

Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.

2 Corinthians 6:14,15

¹⁴ Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness? ¹⁵ And what accord has Christ with Belial? Or what part has a believer with an unbeliever?



Amos 3:3

Can two walk together, unless they are agreed?

God's will is that you marry a believer.

Divorce

Malachi 2:16

"For the LORD God of Israel says that He hates divorce, for it covers one's garment with violence," says the LORD of hosts. "Therefore take heed to your spirit, that you do not deal treacherously."

God does not approve of divorce.

Unrighteous acts

Ephesians 4:28

Let him who stole steal no longer, but rather let him labor, working with his hands what is good, that he may have something to give him who has need.

Psalms 23:3

He restores my soul; He leads me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake.

God will never lead you to commit sin for a 'good cause.'



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