

ACTS 9:1-19 NIV

HOW TO LIVE THE WILL OF GOD.

Meanwhile, Saul was still breathing out murderous threats against the Lord's disciples. He went to the high priest ² and asked him for letters to the synagogues in Damascus, so that if he found any there who belonged to the Way, whether men or women, he might take them as prisoners to Jerusalem.

3 As he neared Damascus on his journey, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. 4 He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, “Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?” 5 “Who are you, Lord?” Saul asked. “I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting,” he replied.

6 “Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do.” 7 The men traveling with Saul stood there speechless; they heard the sound but did not see anyone. 8 Saul got up from the ground, but when he opened his eyes, he could see nothing. For three days he was blind and did not eat or drink anything.

10 In Damascus there was a disciple named Ananias. The Lord called to him in a vision, “Ananias!” “Yes, Lord,” he answered. 11 The Lord told him, “Go to the house of Judas on Straight Street and ask for a man from Tarsus named Saul, for he is praying. 12 In a vision he has seen a man named Ananias come and place his hands on him to restore his sight.

15 But the Lord said to Ananias, “Go! This man is my chosen instrument to proclaim my name to the Gentiles and their kings and to the people of Israel
16 I will show him how much he must suffer for my name.”

Introduction

Before we look at the story of Paul, I want us to quickly look at this story.

Genesis 12:1- The Lord had said to Abram, “Go from your country, your people and your father’s household to the land I will show you. ***Verse 10-*** Now there was a famine in the land, and Abram went down to Egypt to live there for a while because the famine was severe

Quote: someone said; “Longevity brings familiarity.” (story)

Quote: The will of God does not mean that everything will be smooth and available.

As we are going to see in this story, God is looking for people who will stop and ask him, who are you, Lord? And what do you want me to do?

No matter how wise our plans or how capable we are, we better make certain that we are in the will of God.

Jeremiah prayed this prayer, “Lord, I know that people’s lives are not their own; it is not for them to direct their steps.” (Jeremiah 10:23)

- In discussing religious ethical ideas, *Titus H Harold* says; “True religion is central to all Christian ethics”: a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, and with His enablement, living out the will of God in the world.
- **So how do we live out God’s will?**

1) We can live God's will by using some of the practical ways God has shown us

a) Look at His miracles.

As he neared Damascus on his journey, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. 4 He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" (Acts 9:3-4)

b) God may speak to you in a vision, in a dream or in an audible voice.

c) God may speak to you and guide you with a miracle.

d) God will speak to us and guide us through His Word as he did with Apostle Paul.

e) Much of the will of God for our lives is found in the Bible.

2) We can live God's will by using His promises.

a) The Lord promised to tell Saul what he must do. (Acts 9:6) “Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do.”

b) Apostle Paul writing to Ephesians said; “For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.” (*Ephesians 2:10*)

c) God has a plan for our lives, “The Lord will guide you always; he will satisfy your needs in a sun-scorched land and will strengthen your frame. You will be like a well-watered garden, like a spring whose waters never fail.” (*Isaiah 58:11*)

3) We can live God's will through the leading of His people. (Acts 9:10-15)

a) When God was speaking Saul and telling him that He would show him His will, God also took Ananias and used Ananias to confirm His will.

b) *Proverbs 24:6*. “Surely you need guidance to wage war, and victory is won through many advisers”

c) Sometimes when God is speaking to you about something, He will often confirm it to someone else.

d) We should never be so proud or arrogant that we are afraid of the counsel of other people. Talk to a Christian friend, or a counsellor.

- **4). We can live the will of God through the leadership of the Holy Spirit. (Acts 9:17) ‘The men traveling with Saul stood there speechless; they heard the sound but did not see anyone’.**
- a)) From that time on, the Holy Spirit of God was leading Paul.
- b) It was the same man who wrote Romans 8:14. (*For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God. NIV*).

c) He also wrote Galatians 5:18. “But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law”

d) The Spirit of God will lead you and you will hear His voice. “My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me.” (*John 10:27*),

e) Let us spend more time with God so that we can become sensitive enough that we can hear His Spirit and know His voice

f) The Holy Spirit will give us also wisdom.

Conclusion:

It is important to realize that we are living in a time when there is a great collision of values.

Mass communications, primarily social media and television confront us with these conflicts every day. Christians are not in a position to escape the turmoil of our times, but we can stand for God's eternal values in the midst of the world's changing values and social disintegration.

- a) Don't be afraid of the will of God.
- b) The will of God will not take you where the power of God cannot keep you.
- c) The will of God is the absolute best thing for you and your family.
- d) The best way to live the will of God for the rest of your life is to do the will of God right now.

e) someone said, It's hard to steer a ship that's not moving.

f) If you're interested in having the will of God in your life, then the first step is to know Jesus Christ