

## Simple Church Series Part 13

### Knowing God's Will Acts 9 [NKJV]

Then Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest<sup>2</sup> and asked letters from him to the synagogues of Damascus, so that if he found any who were of the Way, whether men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem.

<sup>3</sup>As he journeyed he came near Damascus, and suddenly a light shone around him from heaven.

<sup>4</sup>Then he fell to the ground, and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?"

<sup>5</sup>And he said, "**Who are You, Lord?**" Then the Lord said, "I Am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. It is hard for you to kick against the goads."

<sup>6</sup>So he, trembling and astonished, said, "**Lord, what do You want me to do?**" Then the Lord said to him, "Arise and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do." Acts 9:1-6

The two greatest questions anyone can ask is..... 1) Who is Jesus? 2)What does He want me to do?

*I know, Lord, that our lives are not our own. We are not able to plan our own course. Jeremiah 10:23*

## Three Things to Know the Will of God

### #1 God's Will is Promised—(6)"Arise & go into the city, & you will be told what you must do."

.....so we can do the good things He planned for us long ago. Ephesians 2:10

The Lord directs the steps of the godly. He delights in every detail of their lives. Psalm 37:23

The Lord says, I will guide you along the best pathway for your life. I will advise you and watch over you. Psalm 32:8

The Lord will guide you continually, giving you water when you are dry and restoring your strength. Isaiah 58:11

Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. <sup>6</sup> Seek His will in all you do, and He will show you which path to take. <sup>7</sup> Don't be impressed with your own wisdom. Proverbs 3:5-7

### Three Aspects of His Will For Us

>His **Sovereign Will** The Lord our God has secrets known to no one. We are not accountable for them, but we and our children are accountable forever for all that He has revealed to us, so that we may obey all the terms of these instructions. Deut 29:29

>His **Moral Will** Right and Wrong i.e. Ten Commandments *thus saith the Lord!*

>His **Particular Will** But the Lord said [to Ananias], "Go, for Saul is My chosen instrument to take My message to the Gentiles and to kings, as well as to the people of Israel. And I will show him how much he must suffer for My name's sake." Acts 9:15-16

### Six MYTHS about the Will of God

1. That God will give you a road map for your life it's a not road map it's a relationship
2. That God is a celestial kill joy His will make me miserable
3. That God only speaks to Apostles and Pastors
4. That God shows you His will in a big Dramatic Way "Go out [Elijah] and stand before Me....mighty wind storm hit the mountain ..but the LORD was not in the wind.... earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake.... a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire. And after the fire there was the **sound of a gentle whisper.**" I Kings 19:11-12

5. That God shows His will only to the young not the old
6. That God hides His will

## #2 God's Will is Provisional

> **Willingness** (vs 6) "Lord, what do You want **ME TO DO?**"

> **Humility** (vs 6) "**LORD**, what do You want me to do?"

*He leads the humble in doing right, teaching them His way. The Lord leads with unfailing love and faithfulness all who keep His covenant and obey His demands.*

Psalm 25:9-10

> **Openness** (vs 6) "Lord, **WHAT** do You want me to do?"

> **Yieldedness** *Saul picked himself up off the ground, ....his companions led him by the hand ....* Acts 9:8

## #3 God's Will is Practical

1. By **Miracles** of God (1-3) Visions Dream Voice But be sure it is in line with WORD of God

2. By **Word of God** *Then the Lord said, "I Am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. It is hard for you to kick against the goads."* Acts 9:5

> He heard one of the greatest sermons ever preached by godly spirit filled man

> He heard a message from God's Word

> He saw sinful hellish reaction of anger, envy & murder of religious leaders- stones

> He had seen the face of Stephen shone like an angel

> He heard the voice of Stephen, Lord receive my spirit and forgive these that stone me

*Your word is a lamp to guide my feet and a light for my path.*

Psalm 119:105

3. By **Prayer** (10-11) Annanias..... *He is praying to me right now.*

4. By **Godly Counsel** (17a) *So Ananias went and found Saul.....* see also Prov 24:6

5. By **Spirit of God** (17b) *....be filled with the Holy Spirit.*

6. By **Providence** of God (25)