

DISCERNING GOD'S WILL

GROWING IN PROPHECY TEACHING SERIES (1/26/20)

“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.”

(Colossians 1:9)

I. INTRODUCTION

- A. God has a master plan to bring the nations into the fullness of redemption, but He also has plans for us as individuals. Paul prayed into both of these areas because He knew the impact it would have on the hearts and lives of the church.

“Where there is no revelation (prophetic vision), the people cast off restraint; but happy is he who keeps the law.” (Proverbs 29:18)

- B. God wants us to have clarity concerning our callings, giftings and larger decisions in each season of life so that we feel zealous and empowered to partner with Him in bringing His will to pass (James 1:5). Lack of clarity breeds passivity, confusion, fear, hesitancy and a lack of self-control. God loves conversation around the topic of His will because it brings up deeper conversations with Him.
- C. God is a good Shepherd and He knows exactly how to lead us. We must grow in the revelation of His ability to lead and His desire to lead.
- D. The larger the decision the more steps I go through before making a decision.

II. 6 WAYS TO DISCERN GOD'S WILL

“As they ministered to the Lord and fasted, the Holy Spirit said, “Now separate to Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.” (Acts 13:2)

- A. **Prophetic Encounters** – God reveals His plans through different levels of encounters with Him (dreams, visions, angels, strong whispers, timely prophetic words, encounters with bible verses). God initiates the conversation about His will by stirring us with an encounter or by stirring us with hunger to know His will. It's biblical to expect and pursue clear encounters as a way of understanding God's will (Acts 9:8-18; Acts 16:6-10)
- B. **Seeking Prayer** – This is a persistent form of asking God for clarity until clarity comes. My main way of doing this is to hold my question in my heart before the Lord and to pray in tongues as a way of communing with Him. I feel tremendous clarity come during these times with Him. As I get new levels of clarity or new questions to ask about the decision, I hold that before Him and pray in tongues until clarity rises in my thoughts and emotions.

“And after they had stayed there for a time, they were sent back with greetings from the brethren to the apostles. However, it seemed good to Silas to remain there.” (Acts 15:33-34)

“Now the Apostles and elders came together to consider this matter.” (Acts 15:4-13)

- C. **Thinking/Wrestling** – Think about your questions and options with the Lord and as you search out the Bible. I wrestle with God about what I’m sensing from Him not sensing from Him or as I weigh out options. Part of my wrestling is with my own fears, motives and desires.

“Now when they had gone through Phrygia and the region of Galatia, they were forbidden by the Holy Spirit to preach the word in Asia. After they had come to Mysia, they tried to go into Bithynia, but the Spirit did not permit them.” (Acts 16:6-7)

“Therefore we wanted to come to you, even I, Paul, time and again, but Satan hindered us.” (1 Thessalonians 2:18)

- D. **Open/Closed Doors** – God can use open and closed doors a way of revealing His will. Doors are a conversation starter with God. This actually takes some discernment because open doors can be from God, the devil or just a natural fruit of our life choices. Closed doors could be God speaking or a door may be closed because there is demonic resistance. Difficulty does not always equal a closed door.

“Where there is no counsel the people fall; but in the multitude of counselors there is safety/victory.” (Proverbs 11:14)

“The way of a fool is right in his own eyes, but he who heeds counsel is wise.” (Proverbs 12:15)

“For by wise counsel you will wage your own war, and in a multitude of counselors there is safety.” (Proverbs 24:6)

“Faithful are the wounds of a friend, but the kisses of an enemy are deceitful.” (Proverbs 27:6)

- E. **Counsel and Discussion with Mentors/Friends** – Mentors and friends may have prophetic insight for us or they may have good perspectives that are meant to challenge us in our decision making process. They can counsel, challenge or affirm as ways of helping guide us.
- F. **God’s Peace** – There is a deep and unique peace that comes with knowing you’re making the right decision that we need to be aware of. Lack of peace can come because we feel convicted of sin or unconvinced of God’s plans by the Spirit or through the Word.

III. GOING DEEPER ASSIGNMENTS

- A. Are you seeking clarity on God’s will for your life or are you being passive for any reason?
- B. What do you need clarity on? Write down a plan for you to pursue clarity.
- C. Read Mike Bickle’s Book, “The Prophetic Word in Public Worship” and, “The Prophetic Song of the Lord.”