

Series: Simple Faith

Message: Knowing God's Will Made Simple

September 30, 2012

## God's Will: Paul's prayer for believers. A Different Perspective

Colossians 1:9-14

He asks for knowledge of God's will,

He wants us to know how to please God,

### God's will made simple

Colossians 1:10-14

Do good deeds that bear fruit.

Colossians 1:10; Ephesians 2:10; 1 Peter 2:11-12; Matthew 5:16; Matthew 6:1-21

Get to know God better.

Colossians 1:10; Philippians 3:7-16; Ephesians 1:17-19; 2 Peter 1:2-4

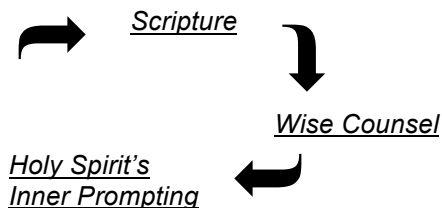
Toughen up.

Colossians 1:11; Acts 14:21-22; 1 Peter 5:7-10; Colossians 3:13-15; 1 Corinthians 13:4

Be thankful.

Colossians 1:12-14; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18; 1 Corinthians 10:1-6, 10; Ephesians 2:1-5

## God's Will: God's Decision Cycle



### How to make some really Bad decisions

Trust your *feelings* above all else.

1 Corinthians 4:4; Proverbs 12:15 & 14:12; Romans 1:28-32

Don't bother God with *obvious decisions*.

Joshua 9:1-27; John 8:44; 2 Thessalonians 2:9-12

Forget what your ultimate goal really is.

Colossians 3:1-4

## Food for Thought

For the week of September 30, 2012

(Questions and Scriptures for Life group study)

Review the questions below before your group meets.

### GETTING TO KNOW YOU

If you walked into your place of employment tomorrow and were given the afternoon off and a \$200 bonus that had to be spent that day how would you spend the time and money?

### DIGGING DEEPER

In order to live out the simple will of God we need more than knowledge, willpower and effort. We need the power that only God provides. How does each verse below connect our obedience to God's will with God's provision of power?

Philippians 2:12-13

Ephesians 5:15-21

John 15:4-5

Can you think of any common challenges people face in tapping into God's power to live the Christian life?

God's will often unfolds very differently than we expect. One example of this is found in an interesting story in 2 Kings 5:1-15. After reading the story, answer the following questions.

How do Naaman's expectations of how God would heal him compare to how it actually happened?

Why do you think Naaman was so angry at how God chose to heal him?

What can we learn about how we and others respond to God's will from this story?

This Sunday we explored God's Decision Cycle and discovered that good decisions flow out of continually checking three major components – *Scripture, wise counsel, and the inner promptings of the Holy Spirit*. Below are some verses that shed additional light on each of these components. Read each one and then jot down your insights.

**Scripture:**

Psalms 119:9-11; 59:61; 97:105

Proverbs 2

**Wise Counsel:**

Proverbs 15:22

2 Chronicles 10:1-11

**The Inner Promptings of the Holy Spirit:**

Acts 16:6-10

Acts 20:22-23

John 16:12-14

**Fall Life Groups**

Our Life Groups help promote spiritual growth and maturity in the Real Life community through the development of significant Christian relationships centered on the study of God's word. (Hebrews 10:24-25 & Romans 8:29)

**SHARING** Each week we'll take time to share what is happening in our lives. At first this sharing will include some planned "sharing questions". But after the first few weeks, it will become more informal and personal, as our group feels safer and more comfortable.

**STUDY** Each week we'll study a portion of God's word that relates to the previous weekend's sermon. Our goal is to learn how to apply and live out our Christianity in our day-to-day experiences and relationships.

**SUPPORT** Each week we'll learn how to take care of one another as Christ commanded (see John 15:9-13). This care will take many forms such as prayer, listening, meeting needs, encouraging and even challenging one another as needed. We also have ongoing Bible Studies available at Real Life: See the calendar at [www.seekreallife.com](http://www.seekreallife.com) for details.

**Prayer requests:**