

LifeGroup Questions

Based On: Colossians 1:9

October 29, 2017

Overview

Do you know God's will? God has a general will for all mankind which is spread throughout the pages of the whole Bible. God's general will is summarized in 2 Peter 3:9: "The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance." God will is that He wants everyone to come to repentance and have a relationship with Him. He has had His fingerprints on all of human history leading up to the cross and beyond for this to happen. To accomplish this in the Old Testament He spoke specifically into people's lives, through judges, and prophets. In the New Testament He spoke through Jesus and the apostles. Today He speaks through His word and by the Holy Spirit He speaks to you and through you.

All the way back in Genesis 12 when God told Abraham that all the people of the earth will be blessed through him you can hear the echoes of His will that none would perish. In probably the most well-known Bible verse, John 3:16, God sent His son that none would perish but have eternal life. Even with all this we still find God's will hard to understand. Ephesians 1:9-10 states: "With all wisdom and understanding, ⁹ he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ, ¹⁰ to be put into effect when the times reach their fulfillment—to bring unity to all things in heaven and on earth under Christ." What was once a mystery has been made known in Christ.

So what does all this mean for each of us specifically? The mystery is not in God's general will, but is determining what purpose each of us serve. Our purpose in God's will is different for each one of us. Ultimately our purpose is to point people to Jesus and repentance. God can use each one of us differently to fulfill His will. In 1 Corinthians 12 it states that we are all part of one body, but each of serves a different function. Your purpose could be to be a stay-at-home-mom investing in the lives of your children. Your purpose could be to be a teacher. No matter your purpose make sure you are pointing people to God's ultimate will that none will perish.

Bible Study: Colossians 1:9

1. Read Colossians 1:9. Why is it important to pray for people to have knowledge of God's will?
2. What do you do when you find yourself struggling to discover your purpose within God's will?
3. Paul is praying for the church. Read James 4:2-3. If you find yourself wanting in your prayers is the answer to just ask more? Why or why not?
4. Read Proverbs 11:14. Why is it important to seek the guidance of godly advisors when determining God's purpose for your life?
5. Read Romans 12:1-2. Part of knowing God's will is to not conform to the pattern of this world. What role does Christian community have in keeping you from conforming to the world?

6. Read Proverbs 3:5-6. How can you learn to not lean on your own understanding so God directs your path?

7. Read 1 Timothy 2:3-4. How are you fulfilling God's will of all people coming to a knowledge of Him?