

# Understanding the Will of God

Rob Hagerty – July 18, 2010

## 1. We are to understand God's will for our life.

Ephesians 5:17, "Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is."

This is a **command!** We are to know God's will for our life.

Ephesians 5:15-16 "Be very careful, then, how you live – not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil."

Psalm 40:8, "I desire to do your will, O my God..."

God's will is not something that is cleverly **hidden** for us to try throughout our lifetime to discover.

## 2. God's will is clearly presented in His Word.

1 Thessalonians 4:3, "It is God's will that you should be sanctified..."

This is a **process** by which God changes us by making us less and less like me and more and more like Him.

Ephesians 4:22-23, "You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness."

Sanctification involves two things: \***Reject** those things that don't make me more like Jesus. \***Embrace** those things that do make me more like Jesus.

*See also Romans 12:2*

## 3. Practical ways to become more like Christ (Holy/Sanctified)

### A. Are you in God's Word Daily?

John 17:17, "Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth."

Psalm 119:105, "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path."

1 Peter 2:2, "Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation."

"You are what you **eat!**" Let's actively **pursue** spiritual fitness with everything we've got.

### B. Are you faithfully praying?

1 Thessalonians 5:17, "Pray continually."

Jeremiah 33:3, "Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know."

God **desires** to commune with us. Are you developing **your part** of the relationship?

### C. Are you obeying the Lord?

Luke 6:46, "Why do you call me, 'Lord, Lord', and do not do what I say?"

God does not **expect** perfection, but He does desire our **committed** heart.

God's will for your life involves a heart attitude. It's not enough to have head knowledge. (Don't tell me you love me, **show** me!)

#### 4. **Our main responsibility as sanctified Christians**

2 Peter 3:9, “The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.”

1 Timothy 2:1-4, “I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone – for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good, and pleases God our Savior, who wants all men to be saved and to come to knowledge of the truth.”

**It is God’s desire that all are saved.**

Being in God’s will involves vocation and location. Are you doing exactly what God would have you to do in the place you can be most effectively used by Him?

God doesn’t want to be **included** in your plans. He wants you to be included in **His** plans!

Be encouraged! Read Ephesians 1:15-20. This is Paul’s prayer to the believers in Ephesus for spiritual wisdom. This is also our prayer for our brothers and sisters in Christ.