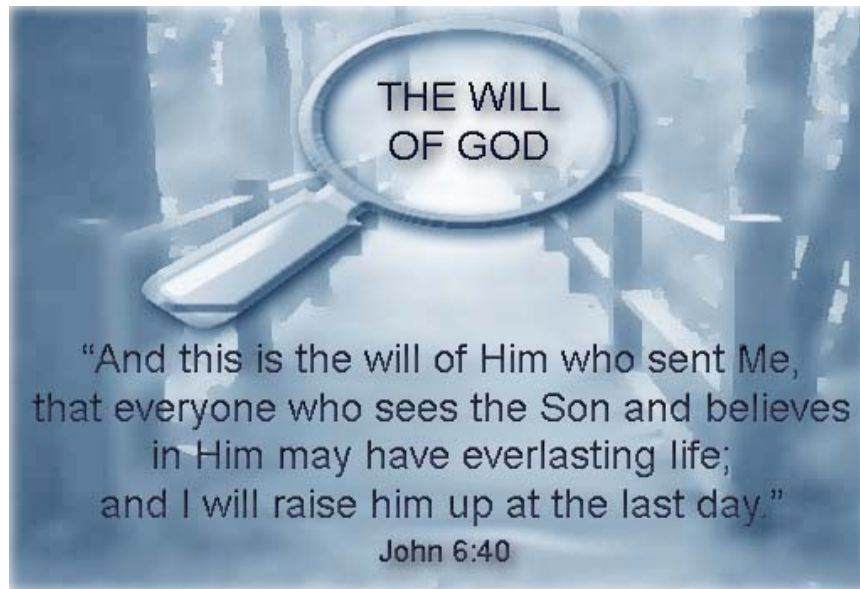


WILL OF GOD

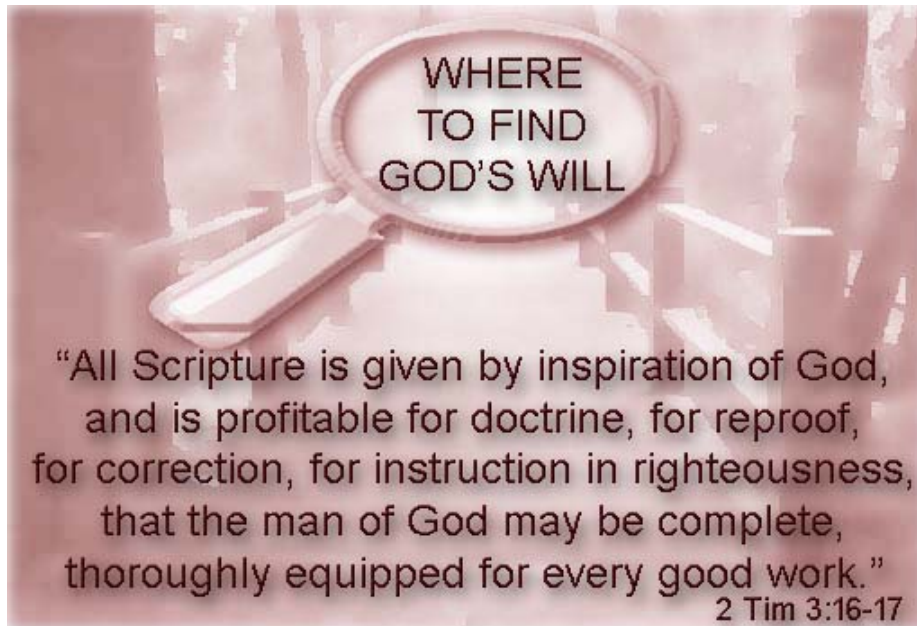


How many times in our lives, when facing challenges, have we asked God, “What is Your Will Lord”? We know that God is Sovereign, and has supreme authority. Did God ever express how we must apply His supreme will to our lives? The prophet Micah said: “He has shown you, O man, what *is* good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God?” (Micah 6:8) We can conclude that God demands humility, to be just and merciful, a few of the very attributes that Jesus demonstrated.

In the model prayer that Jesus taught His disciples in Mat. 6, He said, “Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as *it is* in heaven.” Indeed, Jesus confirmed that we must submit to God’s Will for our lives. Even He demonstrated His total acceptance of God’s Will, when realizing the trials and suffering were imminent said, “O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You *will*.” (Mat. 26:39)

This wise proverb gives us the best formula to find God’s Will: “Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths.” (Pr 3:5-6)

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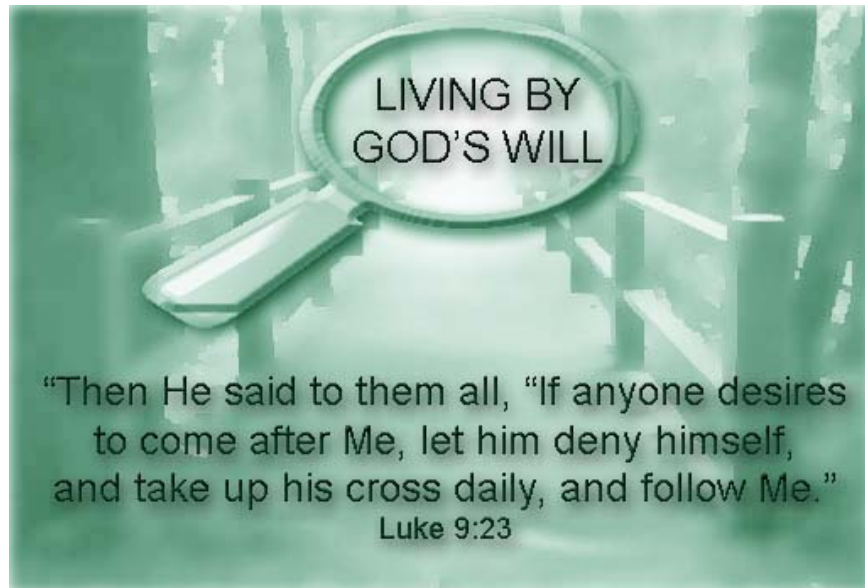


The most compelling Will of God for us is to know Christ, believe in Him, surrender our lives and follow Him. The big question is, "How do we achieve that?" We have available to us the complete outline of God's Will contained in the Word of God. That's why Paul said, "For the word of God *is* living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart." (Heb. 4:12)

God's Will, fully recorded in the bible, is our road map to follow in order to reach our destination of eternal life in His presence. In this day and age, we use our phones to direct us to any destination we choose, and it even warns us of traffic jams, accidents and even radar traps. We even use it when we know the complete trajectory for the additional benefits it gives. Yet, do we avail ourselves of this most blessed Word of God for direction and warnings about the enemy's traps?

Psalms 119:105 says, "Your word *is* a lamp to my feet and a light to my path." In other words, God's Word is able to show us both the short term and long term Will of God. Jesus said to the Father: "Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth." (John 17:17)

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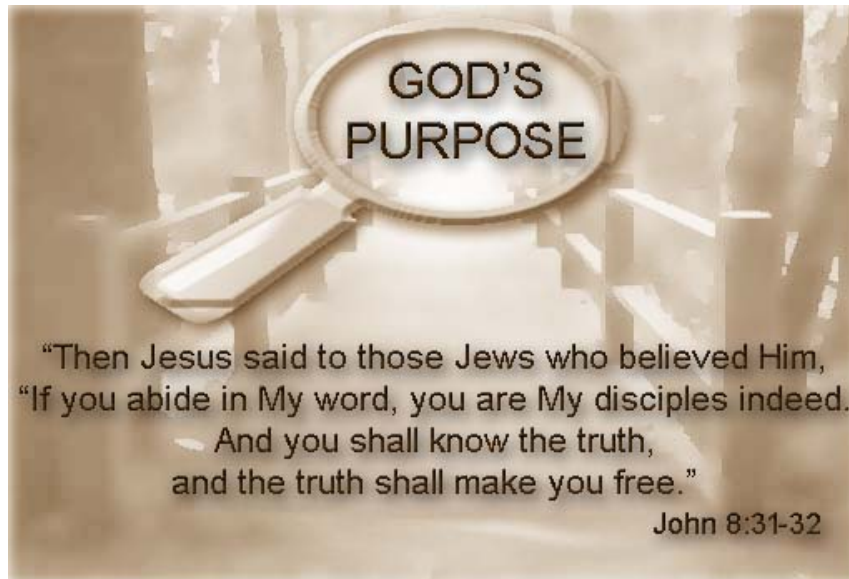


In our world, we have books on "How to Succeed" for about anything, and for every area of our short life on this earth. Additionally, even if none of us knows how long we'll live, most of us invest much time, effort and finances to prepare ourselves to succeed at it.

However, how are we preparing ourselves for eternal life? Do we just hope for the best and live like the world, or are we investing time and effort to know what God expects from us while we're on this earth? The reality is that we have the most comprehensive "HOW TO" book, the Bible, that teaches us on how to secure eternal blessings in the presence of God and Christ. Isn't it worth finding out?

In Jeremiah 29:11, God said, "For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope." (Jer. 29:11) In essence, God's wish is to give us hope and a future in His presence with all the glorious blessings, if we'll just follow His guidelines. That's why Paul said in Romans 12:2, "And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what *is* that good and acceptable and perfect will of God." Only God's Word can renew our minds, right?

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Ever since the fall, what did God purpose for mankind? As evidenced in the Bible, God's objective is to bring salvation through Christ, so we can be born of the Spirit and be reconciled to God. We all feed babies milk at birth, and then move on to solid food so they will grow into adults and be healthy. Alternatively, we must also move on to feed on God's solid food, His Word, to grow into mature Christians. As Jesus said, this translates into bearing much fruit for God. That's why in Heb. 5:14 Paul said, "But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, that is, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil." In essence, feeding on God's Word will assure our spiritual growth to mature in Christ, and bring discernment in our life. But, is there an ulterior purpose to growing in our faith? Our personal testimony as we grow in the Lord, translates into a witness of Christ's redeeming work to the world. This is the reason we need the solid food of God's Word to carry out the great commission of Christ to the world. God's eternal purpose is salvation and He has appointed us as His messengers and witnesses to carry it out. Are we living God's purpose right now?

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