

#### 14. What is God's Will for You?

How do we know what God's will is for us? We can start with scripture.

Paul spelled it out in his letter of encouragement to the Thessalonians. At the end of the letter, Paul gave final instructions, explaining what God's will is for us all.

1 Thessalonians 5:12-18 Now we ask you, brothers and sisters, to acknowledge those who work hard among you, who care for you in the Lord and who admonish (warn, caution) you. Hold them in the highest regard in love because of their work. Live in peace with each other. And we urge you, brothers and sisters, warn (admonish) those who are idle and disruptive, encourage the disheartened, help the weak, be patient with everyone. Make sure that nobody pays back wrong for wrong, but always strive to do what is good for each other and for everyone else. Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

If we do these nine things, we will be living God's will. Easy, right? No! No one can do all these things all the time; we all fall short. But we can put forth an effort. If we live by these 9 ways, then we will grow close to God and He will be able to lead us on our own personal journeys.

- 1) admonish (warn, caution) the undisciplined
- 2) accept warnings from others graciously
- 3) comfort the discouraged
- 4) help the weak
- 5) be patient with all
- 6) don't render evil for evil, but do that which is good
- 7) always rejoice
- 8) constantly pray
- 9) in everything give thanks

We also need to be careful not to let worldly ideals form our lives.

Romans 12:2 Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is – His good, pleasing, and perfect will.

If we do these things listed above, then the Lord will be able to reveal His unique will for each of us. God's will for us individually is personal and unique. We all have different talents and experiences. We think we know what is best for ourselves or what we are capable of, but we really don't. We don't know what the future will bring, or what is in each person's heart. If we follow and obey the Lord, we are often times astonished at what God can do through us. God can use each of us in a very special way. We just need to follow Jesus. In every circumstance, every decision, every need, every stronghold; follow Jesus – and His will for each of us will be revealed. There is a wonderful peace and joy when we live in God's will.

Hebrews 12:2 We must keep our eyes on Jesus, who leads us and makes our faith complete.