

Foundations — My Life In Christ's Service — Unit 4

MLICS — 4.3

Finding God's Will

I. **Introduction:** the purpose of this lesson is to provide an understanding of the process involved in personally living in the will of God. Generalities and specifics will both be addressed with importance placed on, fundamental principles, healthy local church placement, and laying on of the hands of the elders. **Key Text: Romans 12:1,2** I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. 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.

A. God has a _____ for each of us.

1. 2 Timothy 1:9 who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began,
2. Purpose/map - Greek - to set before oneself, to purpose. God has set before us His goal and His purpose – this is the will of God.

B. God has a general will and specific will for every believer.

1. General Will - Equally true for all of us
2. Specific Will - unique to you

C. God wants us _____ his will.

1. Ephesians 1:7-9 In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace 8 which He made to abound toward us in all wisdom and prudence, 9 having made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure which He purposed in Himself,
2. Good pleasure - Greek – that which seems good or pleasing to God, - to be pleased with something, to think something good.
3. Will – Greek – desire which stems from the heart, to desire something from the heart

II. **Principles for discerning God's will:** The term “The Will of God” has a variety of applications. Application of key principles determine whether our perception of God's will is strange or strategic for the Kingdom. There are healthy and safe procedures to determine the will of God. Therefore they try

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“page pointing” or taking scriptures out of context to defend views held by them. At times it has become a magical formula to sanctify anything a person does.

1. The will of God is never _____ to the Word of God . Psalm 119:1-11, 30-33 Interpret the Bible in context.
2. The will of God is never contrary to the _____ of God.
3. God reveals His will to His children. Eph 1:9, 5:17, Col1:9
4. Living in God's will is His reasonable expectation for Christians. 1 Thes 5:16-21 We do what we know to do as we move forward with God.
5. The will of God is general and _____.
6. The will of God is discovered when you are willing to yield to God's plan for your life. Rom 12:1-2

III. Confirmations that help determine what is God's will: God has not left us alone to decipher His will; He has provided many confirmations to assist us. It is confirming when a variety of confirmations surround our choices for God. It should caution us when a potential choice is surrounded by limited or mixed signals from these confirmers

1. The Word of God. 2 Tim 3:16-17
2. The Holy Spirit in our life. 1 Cor 2:12; Eph 4:30
3. The gifts and talents in your life. Rom 12:3-6
4. The authority over us in the Lord. Heb 13:17
5. Our parents and family. Eph 6:2
6. The peace of God within. Col 3:15
7. The opened and closed doors. 1 Cor 16:9; Rev 3:8
8. The prophetic words over you. 1 Tim 4:14
9. The desire given to you to do certain things. Psa 40:8; 1 Chr 28:2
10. It expresses love for God and people. Matt 22:37-40

IV. Placement in the local church: “Finding Gods Will” through proper placement in the local church is fundamental to healthy Christian living. At ACF we believe God places believers in local churches and gives them

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specific assignments or responsibilities to perform in connection with the body of believers.

Eph 4:16 “from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.”

A. We are set into the body or local church by God

1. Set – Greek – “to put or to place, to set or to establish, fit in a certain place”
2. God sets the members in their place — **1 Corinthians 12:18** But now God has **set** the members, each one of them, in the body just as He pleased.....
3. **Psalms 68:6** God **sets** the solitary in families; He brings out those who are bound into prosperity; But the rebellious dwell in a dry land.
4. **Proverbs 27:8** Like a bird that wanders from its nest Is a man who wanders from his place

B. Great enemies to living in the will of God are:

1. Comparing ourselves with other believers — **2Cor. 10:12** ... But they, measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise.
2. Carnal reasoning — **1Cor. 2:14** “But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, ...”
3. Not esteeming others highly — **Phil 2:3-4** “... but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself ...”
4. Generosity rooted in a will not fully yielded to God — **Matt. 7:21-23**
“Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. 22 Many will say to Me in that day, “Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name ...”

V. **Laying on of Hands of the elders:** To lay hands upon something was to transfer what you were to the thing on which you laid your hands. The hand is considered the extension of the person, his power to labor, his power to give, his power to fight, etc. The hand lifted up in oath is important in creating a

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covenant. The hand speaks of identification, impartation, blessing and strength. Genesis 48:14-16

A. In the Old Testament laying on of hands was used to:

1. To ordain Levites to the ministry. Num 8:5-22
2. To identify and transfer guilt. Lev 1:4, 3:2, 4:15, 24 29, I Timothy 5:22
3. To impart anointing and wisdom to young leadership. Deut 34:9
4. To ordain leadership to the ministry. Num 27:18-23

B. In the New Testament the laying on of hands is used to:

1. Ministry of healing to the sick. Lk 4:40
2. Minister the baptism of the Holy Spirit. Acts 3:15-17, 9:17, 19:6-7
3. Bless and to release ministry. Acts 13:1-3
4. Place and set leaders into their God given ministry. Acts 6:1-6
5. Impart spiritual gifts. I Tim 4:14
6. Minister signs and wonders . Acts 5:12, 14:3
7. Bless the children. Mt 19:15, Mark 10:16
8. Confirm or establish believers in the faith, in their place of service in the House of the Lord. Heb 6:2

C. God often gives His Rhema or “spoken word” to guide us.

D. The local church elders laying on of hands for placement in the body of believers: This occurs when the Local Church eldership (Presbytery) prays and ministers over those in the local body.

E. **Elders from the Greater Body of Christ laying on of hands:** This would be a “Presbytery Meeting” or possibly an ordination service. This level of meeting includes fasting and prayer and the ministry of Apostles and Prophets. These meetings would be for the ordaining of Pastors, placement of Elders, Deacons or sending out Missionaries. Eph 4:11,12

1. Presbytery-Greek – “presbuterion” – a body of elders, council or senate of elders gathered together
2. I Timothy 4:14 Do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given to you by prophecy with the laying on of the hands of the eldership.
3. Let faith begin to arise in you to receive through the laying on of hands