

Surprises About God's Will

(Insights from 1 Corinthians 16:5-24)

Pastor Bob Johnson, Grace Point Church, June 19th, 2016

What Can Be Part of "God's Will":

(1 Cor 16:5-24)

- **U** _____ (v5-7)
- **O** _____ (v8-9)
- **S** _____ (10-11)
- **D** _____ (v12-14)

What to do when not sure what to do?

1. **G** ... Pv 18:13, 19:2-3, 28:13,18
Two Types:
2. **P** ... Ps 43:3, Ps 143:10
3. **S** ... Pv 20:18, 19:20
4. **D** ... Pv 16:3, 9
5. **A** ... Acts 16:6-10, Js 4:13-15

Three Truths About Open Doors:

1. **An open door** ...
(1 Cor 16:8-9, Acts 19, 1 Cor 15:30-32, 4:11-13, Judges 1:19)
2. **God's hand is best seen** ...
(1 Corinthians 13:12)
3. **Following God** ...
(1 Corinthians 15:58)

This Week's Discussion Guide:

Welcome to the last week of this season of our small groups at GPC! For several months we have been studying and discussing insights found in 1 Corinthians that can relate to our every day lives. After this meeting, we will be taking a 'summer break' and look forward to starting back in the fall.

Getting Started:

1. Before we get back together again, the Summer Olympics in Rio will be in August. If you could compete in any two events, which would they be and why?
2. Bob noted that God's hand is often most clearly seen in the 'rear view mirror'. Have you ever had a situation where you had no idea if God was leading, only to look back later and realize he clearly was? How about something you were sure he was leading you to do, only to find out later he wasn't?
3. Looking back over your sermon notes, was there a particular point or passage of Scripture that most challenged, confused or caught your attention?

Digging Deeper:

1. This past Sunday, we heard about a "GPS" to help us determine the difference between an 'open and closed door'. After these three steps, we were encouraged to 'do what you believe God is leading' and 'adjust along the way as you are following God'.

Which of the five components to consider when discerning God's will regarding open and closed doors comes most naturally to you? Is there one you tend to overlook?

How might each of the following passages impact your decision about whether God is opening or closing a door?

Colossians 3:17

1 Thessalonians 4:11-12

2 Peter 1:5-8

2. As we heard last Sunday, life can become quite messy even when we're in the center of God's will. How might an understanding of the following verses build our confidence even in the midst of life's storms?

Psalms 33:6-11

2 Corinthians 4:16-17

What point or concept is more important for you to remember and why?

3. Most of us would like to be considered wise and insightful when it comes to our decision making. What do the following verses suggest it takes to grow in wisdom and to become effective in making good decisions?

Proverbs 3:7

Proverbs 13:20

Proverbs 16:1

Proverbs 19:20

4. As you look back on this 'small group season', what has encouraged you about being in our group? What has stretched you? From studying 1 Corinthians and digging deeper in our weekly studies, how have you grown these past few months?

What summer plans do you have that you would like to share?

Are there any decisions you're facing this summer that you would like prayer for?