

God's Will & Good Intentions

(Insights from Exodus 2:11-25)

Pastor Bob Johnson, Grace Point Church, September 25th, 2016

Moses' Confidence and Confusion

(Exodus 2:11-25, Acts 7:20-29, Hebrews 11:24-26)

Life Lessons Regarding God's Plans:

1. God's Will has a _____ .
(Genesis 12:1-6, 15:1-16)
2. God's Will has a _____ .
(Mat 4:1-11, Pv 3:5-7, Isaiah 5:21, Pv 26:12, James 1:19-20)
3. God's Will is heard through _____ .
(Acts 16:6-10, Proverbs 15:22)
4. God's Will is a _____ .
(2 Timothy 3:16-17, 1 John 2:1-2, Jeremiah 18:1-8)
5. God's Presence is not _____ .
(Isaiah 55:8-11, 2 Peter 3:8-9)

This Week's Discussion Guide:

Welcome to "Week 2" of this season of our small groups at GPC! Our small groups are where folks move from 'believers' to 'belongers'. May we receive lots of encouragement and support and deepening friendships in the weeks ahead as we meet together, pray together, study God's Word together and hopefully find other ways to connect outside of our group meetings. Our groups meet for nine months throughout the year. These nine months are broken up in three seasons or quarters. We meet from September - November, take December off, meet again from January - March, and then from April - June. After we take July and August off, we start it all over again :). This quarter our groups will meet for 10 weeks wrapping up the week of November 13th (the week before Thanksgiving week).

Getting Started:

This past Sunday, we looked at Moses' initial confidence regarding God's will but how not seeking God in the 'when' and 'how' of God's will got him in trouble. In Exodus 2:12, Moses 'looked this way and that' but didn't look up! Ok - we have all done that! On a lighter situation or a more serious one, when have you felt so confident that you rushed in and made a decision only to later regret all or part of what, when and/or how you did it?

The fourth life lesson regarding God's Plans was God's will is a path as opposed to a tightrope where once you fall, there is no getting back on. The good news is our God is a God of grace and mercy. We all learn lessons and at times face some tough consequences due to our actions, but there are also times where we are graciously given another opportunity. When have you felt you were given another chance to 'get back on the path' somewhere or somehow that looking back you are grateful for?

The fifth 'life lesson' from Sunday had to do with how God is often at work even though at times from our perspective, we don't see much of (or none at times) his involvement. When have you not felt or seen God's presence during a difficult time but now looking back, you more clearly see God's sustaining grace slowly walking you through that time where trust was difficult? Looking back, how was God faithful to you?

Digging Deeper:

1. In the letters Paul wrote to the churches he started, he included a number of his prayers for the church members. From these prayers we can get helpful insights into God's will for our lives. After reading each passage, share what Paul encourages us to pray for:

Colossians 1:9-14

Ephesians 3:16-19

From these prayers, what stands out to you most about how God wants us to live?

Which of the things Paul prayed for would you most like others to pray for you to have or experience?

2. God's will often unfolds very differently than we expect. One example of this is found in an interesting story in 2 Kings 5:1-15.

Read the passage and then reflect on the questions below.

How do Naaman's expectations of how God would heal him compare to how it actually happened?

Why do you think Naaman was so angry at how God chose to heal him?

What can we learn about how we and others respond to God's will from this story?

3. The third Life Lesson from last Sunday regarding discerning and doing God's will was to remember that God's will is heard through static. God does speak, but because of sin inside us and around us, clarity is not 100% as it will be when we see Him face to face. Acknowledging this can help us be more careful when we quickly assume we 'heard from God' and know exactly what, when and how He wants us to act. Staying humble is important when it comes to discerning God's will.

What are some specific ways we can practice humility in discerning and doing God's Will?

Along with choosing humility, choosing to develop friendships with other Christ followers can also help us stay on the right track. As this is just week 2 of this 'small group season', what do the following verses suggest about how other brothers and sisters in Christ can be a benefit to us?

1 Thessalonians 2:10-12

Hebrews 3:13

James 5:16

WRAPPING UP ...

Based on last Sunday's message and our discussion, is there any specific application that God might be prompting you to live out this week?

What prayer requests can we share so we can pray for each other before we close and until our small group meeting?