

'I want to do God's Will.'

'I want to do God's Will in my life', or, 'I want to do what God wants of me in this situation', or simply, 'I will do your Will oh Lord'. How many times have you said this, prayed this or heard this from others?

It is always edifying for me to witness the desire of many young adults on the Search weekends who want nothing else of their lives except that which God has 'planned' for them. It seems the easy part is to desire it, the harder part is to discern what God's Will actually IS in our lives.

One thought that floats around out there is that God has this step by step plan for each of us and that we must work diligently to decipher what that plan is and woe to those who make a misstep and somehow live our lives outside of that plan, even though they may think they are in line with God's way of 'thinking'.

That thought is scary to me. I have prayed my entire life to ask God to help me know His Will for me. I have never received a call, an email, a letter or a face to face meeting with or from God direct. (Actually, in certain ways I have, but that is another sharing for another time.) What if I misinterpret God's Will, am I locked into a meaningless life that is not pleasing to God?

I do not think our God is a God who comes up with this beautiful plan for each of us, a plan that will fulfill all that He has in store for us, and then to hide that plan from us. Can you imagine? Here is God, creating me, and then saying, 'Hey Tom, I have this beautiful plan for you and your life. I have a plan for you that will bring you a life full of hope (check out Jeremiah 29:11). I sure hope you figure it out! I'll just be over here, with my back turned and wait to see if you figure it out.'

So, with this scenario, we see each of us struggling through our lives, trying to determine what this plan is that God has for each of us, while He, God, is navel gazing in the corner and is hoping that we can catch on to what the greatest gift that He has given each of us, and that gift is the significance of our individual lives in the journey of all creation. What a bummer! Our loving God has a beautiful plan for us, but only stands by and hopes that we catch on. That just doesn't make sense to me. (By the way, God wouldn't have a navel to be able to navel gaze!)

I humbly offer you this scenario; we have a loving God, a loving Father, who created each of us individually with a specific Will for each of us, **and that Will is simply that God wants to love each of us as deeply and as intimately as is Godly possible.**

What makes God's Will for us personal and intimate is the **truth** that God created each of us as individuals with our own personal talents and gifts, talents and gifts that NO ONE ELSE has. It is by means of discovering, developing and sharing these talents and gifts, I believe, that we in a real sense live out Gods plan for our lives. We allow God to love us by using what He has gifted us with, and offering it all back to Him.

Let's go back to Jeremiah 29, this time go to verse 12. "When you call me, when you go to pray to me, I will listen to you. When you look for me, you will find me. Yes, when **you seek me with all your heart**, you will find me with you, says the Lord, and I will change your lot;"

I see three distinct directives in these verses that may be the answer to finding Gods Will in our lives. Pray, Look, Seek.

God tells us when we pray, He will listen. When we look, He will be found. When we seek, He will be with us. Be aware that He doesn't give us a time frame for each of these directives. Also be aware that these directives require effort on our part.

I believe deeply that God has a specific plan for my life. It is not a step by step plan it is more likely a direction. God has blessed me with many gifts and talents, and it is the times in my life where I have used these gifts and talents, **mindful of God in my life** at the time, that I have had the most peace and felt the closest to God.

The thing is WE have to make the first step. WE need to pray. WE need to look. WE need to seek. God has given us our free will and He WILL NOT force us in one direction or other. WE decide what our next step is. If we are in tune with God, if we live our lives in prayer, God will let us know if we are heading the right direction, usually by giving us a sense of **peace** in our decision.

God's Will for us is a moment by moment experience, not just an end result matter. God's Will is not just about where we are going to end up at the end of our lives, but rather, it is about the reason and purpose we live our lives day by day, year by year.

As you pray, look, and seek for the Grace to know Gods Will in your life, be aware that Gods Will can often feel like our own will in that we have a great desire to go a certain direction and may feel it is incorrect because WE want to do it so much. When we are in walk with our God, our thoughts start to mesh with His. Don't worry -- He will let us know through our inner peace if we are drifting toward Him or away from Him. God is very generous in allowing us U-turns throughout our lifetime.

Lets pray that each of us may seek to live God's Will in our lives, to be as close to the Mind of Christ in our life to allow God to truly fulfill His Will for our lives and that Will is to love us as deeply as is Godly possible. +peace – tom

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