

# Better Way Apostolic Church – Bible Class

**Subject: How to know God's will for your life - Psalms 143:10-12**

This is a prayer of guidance and Deliverance King David

## A Peculiar People

**The following quotation is from the pen of D. L. Moody:**

"I suppose that if you had asked the men in Elijah's time what kind of man he was, they would have said, 'He is very peculiar.' The king would say, 'I hate him.' Jezebel did not like him; the whole royal court didn't like him, and a great many of the nominal good people didn't like him; he was too radical. Be willing to be one of Christ's peculiar people, no matter what men may say of you."

### **Patience in Obedience**

We know very well that when we prune a tree in the right manner, we prune it for fruit, and that we must wait a certain length of time for the fruit to appear; but suppose a man should take his knife and cut the branch, and look, and say, "There is no fruit here, after all?" The gardener would say to him, "Why, my friend, you must have patience, and give the fruit time to develop itself. Wait till next year, or the year after, and then you may begin to look for fruit."

And so the Apostle says, "Ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise."

The delight of the godly: --I. THE GODLY MAN'S PRAYER. Humility, teachableness, sense of his own ignorance should characterize the Christian; as also the greatness and glory, the wisdom and power of Him who is his God.

## II. THE GODLY MAN'S DELIGHT.

### 1. What is the will of God?

(1) Our sanctification (1 Thessalonians 4:3).

(2) He wills that we should render Him most hearty thanksgiving for all the mercies with which He so bountifully blesses us (1 Thessalonians 5:18).

(3) He wills that by our well-doing we should adorn the Gospel (1 Peter 2:15). "The Christian is the true evidence of Christianity" (Drummond). "Adorn the Gospel." Let the jewels be set in gold.

### 2. Knowing His will, having learnt it, we must do it, and do it heartily.

3. The more we do what we have been taught, the more will the Lord our God reveal to us of His will.

The supreme desire of the devout soul: --I. **THE SUPREME AIM OF THE DEVOUT SOUL.** The tempest blows him to the throne of God; and when he is there, what does he

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ask? Deliverance? Scarcely. In one clause, and again at the end, as if by a kind of after-thought, he asks for the removal of the calamities. But the main burden of his prayer is for a closer knowledge of God, the sound of His lovingkindness in his inward ear, light to show him the way wherein he should walk, and the sweet sunshine of God's face upon his heart. **There is a better thing to ask than exemption from sorrows, even grace to bear them rightly.** The river of the water of life that proceeds from the throne of God and the Lamb is not sent merely to refresh thirsty lips and to bring music into the silence of a waterless desert, but it is sent to drive the wheels of life. Action, not thought, is the end of God's revelation and the perfecting of man.

**II. THE DIVINE TEACHING AND TOUCH WHICH ARE REQUIRED FOR THIS CONFORMITY.** The psalmist betakes himself to prayer because he knows that of himself he cannot bring his will into this attitude of harmonious submission. **And his prayer for "teaching" is deepened in the second clause of our text into a** petition which sets the felt need and the coveted help in a still more striking light, in its cry for the touch of God's good spirit to guide, as by a hand grasping the psalmist's hand into the paths of obedience.

You and I have Jesus Christ for our Teacher, the answer to the psalm. His teaching is inward, and deep, and real, and answers to all the necessities of the case. We have His example to stand as our perfect law.

He comes into our hearts, He molds our wills, His teaching is by inward impulses and communications of desire and power to do, as well as of light to know. A law has been given which can give life.

As the modeler will take a piece of wax into his hand, and by warmth and manipulation make it soft and pliable, so Jesus Christ, if we let Him, will take our hard hearts into His hands, and by gentle, loving, subtle touches, will shape them into the pattern of His own perfect beauty, and will mould all their vagrant inclinations and aberrant distortions into "one immortal feature of loveliness and perfection."

**III. THE DIVINE GUARANTEE THAT THIS PRACTICAL CONFORMITY SHALL BE OURS.** The psalmist pleads with God a double motive -- His relation to us and His own perfectness.

"Thou art my God; therefore teach me." "Thy Spirit is good; therefore lead me," etc. Note, then, first, God's personal relation to the devout soul as the guarantee that that soul shall be taught not merely to know, but also to do His will.

**If He be "my God," there can be no deeper desire in His heart than that His will should be my will.** And so desiring, He does it, not from any masterfulness or love of dominion, but only from love to us.

And, on the other hand, if we have taken Him for ours, and have the bond knit from our side as well as from His, then the fact of our faith gives us a claim on Him which He is

sure to honour. The soul that can say, "I have taken Thee for mine," has a hold on God which God is only too glad to recognize and to vindicate.

And whosoever, humbly trusting to that great Father in the heavens, feels that he belongs to God, and that God belongs to him, is warranted in saying, "Teach me, and make me to do Thy will," and in being confident of an answer. And there is the other plea with Him and guarantee for us, drawn from God's own moral character and perfectness. The last clause may either be read, "Thy Spirit is good; lead me," or "Let Thy good Spirit lead me." In either case the goodness of the Divine Spirit is the plea on which the prayer is grounded. The goodness here, referred to is, as I take it, not merely beneficence and kindness, but rather goodness in its broader and loftier sense of perfect moral purity. So that the thought just comes to this -- we have the right to expect that we shall be made participant of the Divine nature. So sweet, so deep, so tender is the tie that knits a devout soul to God, that nothing short of conformity to the perfect purity of God can satisfy the aspirations of the creature or discharge the obligations of the Creator.

### **Value of Obedience**

Years ago a famous children's specialist said to me: "When it comes to a serious illness, the child who has been taught to obey stands four times the chance of recovery that the spoiled and undisciplined child does." Those words made a lasting impression upon me. Up to that time I had been taught that one of the Ten Commandments was for children to obey their parents. Never had it entered my mind that a question of obedience might mean the saving or losing of a child's life.

**Romans 12:1-2** tells us the steps of how to know God's will for your life: "Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God - this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer 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."

Romans 6:13 and do not go on presenting the members of your body to sin as instruments of unrighteousness; but present yourselves to God as those alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God.

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**Romans 6:16** Do you not know that when you present yourselves to someone as slaves for obedience, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin resulting in death, or of obedience resulting in righteousness?

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**1 Corinthians 1:10** Now I exhort you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all agree and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be made complete in the same mind and in the same judgment.

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**1 Corinthians 6:20** For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body.

[2 Corinthians 10:1](#) Now I, Paul, myself urge you by the meekness and gentleness of Christ-- I who am meek when face to face with you, but bold toward you when absent!

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[Ephesians 4:1](#) Therefore I, the prisoner of the Lord, implore you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called,

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[Hebrews 13:15](#) Through Him then, let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that give thanks to His name.

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[1 Peter 2:5](#) you also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

The very first verse in this passage tells us we are to offer our bodies as a living sacrifice to God. A sacrifice was a very common part of worship among the Old Testament Israelites. Sacrifices were offered to God for a variety of reasons, but the sacrifice must contain blood. Is it any wonder, then, that the ultimate sacrifice which was Jesus on the cross, would naturally shed blood for the atonement of sins? Because He offered His body as a sacrificial offering for the reconciliation between God and the children of God, we too should offer our bodies as a sacrifice. He showered His mercy upon us by giving us His Son.

There is no better sacrifice than for us to offer ourselves to God. This includes surrendering our lives, both spiritual and physical, to Almighty God, who is Creator over us all. Hebrews 13:21 says that Jesus will "equip you with everything good for doing his will, and may he work in us what is pleasing to him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen."

Next, we are NOT to conform to the pattern of this world. The dictionary defines conform as "to be in agreement or accord." That means we must turn our backs on what the world may offer us that is not in accordance with the Word of God, especially if the world is condoning blatant sin which God would not want us to participate in. And, we should be transformed which means to change the nature, function, or condition of, by the renewing of our minds. When something is renewed, we bring it into being, we restore, regain, or replenish.

When we have done all of this, the Scripture says we will be able to test and approve what God's will is. We will know His good, pleasing, and perfect will. His perfect will is what He ordains for our lives, but if we miss the mark on His perfect will, He does not throw us away as misfits. Rather, if we choose his pleasing will, we are making the second choice God will condone. The last choice is pleasing to God. He would rather His perfect will be established, but because of His abundant love for us, we are still loved and desired as His children.

To reiterate, the steps to know God's will for your life from the Romans 12:1-2 are: surrendering our lives, not conforming to what the world offers; and renewal of our minds so we will be transformed.

To renew our minds, we study God's Word to know Him better, to learn His laws and precepts. We are then transformed into being more Christ-like.

Not conforming to the world is not easy especially since we are raised in the world, and there is so much pressure from family, friends, etc., to live life as they live it. It takes prayer and perseverance to turn our backs on the world when we know it is wrong. We must love God with all our heart, soul, and mind in order to make that change.

Surrendering is not easily attained because surrender means to give up control. Many of us feel we have lost ourselves if we give up control. Yet, the Word says in Matthew 10:39, "Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it." It is best to ask the Holy Spirit to guide and direct you.

Also, another way to know God's will for your life is to listen to that still small voice inside of you. The burden of the call upon your life will outweigh your ambitions which you have established. If the Lord wants you to do a specific work for Him, He will give you a burden for that work. Your heart will keep drawing you to that specific task or work. As the day draws closer for you to accomplish and know God's will for your life, your burden will become heavier to accomplish it. If you run away from God's will, you will always go back because the burden will not go away. The burden also has love attached. And, of course, when we pray for His will to be made known in our lives, He will tell us. As Psalm 143:10 says, "Teach me to do your will, for you are my God; may your good Spirit lead me on level ground."