

**Introduction** (Acts 2:42, 6:4, Matt 7:21)

I was telling someone about this series that we are starting today, and I mentioned that I am glad that I have set aside a whole month to look at Discovering God's Will For Our Lives. I said that there is so much to cover. His response was that we could probably spend a whole year on the topic, and I believe that he was correct. It is a big topic.

Discovering God's Will For Our Lives is also a very complex topic. It is a little bit like math. Some things in math are quite simple. My son David was doing three-digit Monopoly math in his head at age four. But, when you get away from simple addition and subtraction and go into differential equations, it can get quite complicated. There are some parts of God's will that area as easy as simple math, but there are some questions that are very complicated and difficult to answer. I don't have all the answers, but I have diligently studied this topic for many years.

Charles Schwabb made headline news this week because they are offering free on-line trading. The founder, Charles Schwabb, the founder of the stock brokerage company, was at one time a consultant. He was asked by the President of Bethlehem Steel to give some advice to their senior management. Charles spoke to them about priorities. He told them to write down all the things that they needed to do and then prioritize them. He said for them to start on their highest priority each day and not to go to the second priority until they finished their first priority. It was good advice. The early church had priorities. In Acts 6, it is very clear that the priority of the apostles was prayer and the ministry of God's word. In Acts 2, it is very clear that the priority of the church was the apostles' teaching, prayer, fellowship, and the breaking of bread.

I want to talk about another priority – doing the will of God. In Matthew 7:21, Jesus said that only those who do the will of the Father will enter into heaven. Lots of people may say, "Lord, Lord," but it is those who do the will of the Father that will enter in. That tells me that doing the will of God is of utmost importance. It must be a priority in our lives. No matter how easy or complex discovering God's will is, it must be a priority in our lives. This series on Discovering God's Will In Our Lives is an important series of messages.

(Matt 7:21) "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven *will enter*."

One of the most frequent questions that I have been asked in my years as a pastor is for help in discerning God's will. People want to know what is their will and what is the will of God. Believers want to do the will of God, and they want help and understanding. In this series we will define our will and God's will, look at God's general will that applies to everyone, God's specific will for our lives, and then proving God's will in our lives. I am looking forward to sharing what I have learned over many years of studying this subject, and I pray that it is very practical and helpful to all of you. In this introduction to God's Will, we are going to define God's will. Then we will talk about living for God's will, knowing God's will, and the reward for doing God's Will.

**Introduction To Discovering God's Will**

1. Defining Will
2. Living For God's Will
3. Knowing God's Will
4. Reward For Doing God's Will

## 1. Defining Wills (John 6:38-40, Luke 22:42, John 18:7-9)

In defining wills I think the best place to start is in John 6:38-40. Jesus said that He came down from heaven, not to do His own will, but the will of the Father who sent Him. We see that Jesus, who came in the flesh, had a will of His own. We also see that God the Father had a will. There were two distinct wills. God has a will and we have been created in God's image, and we also have a will. But, Jesus was only going to do the Father's will, not His own will.

(John 6:38) "For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me."

The Greek word that is used for "will" is *thelema* (Strong's G2307), which means a desire or will. The root word is *thelo*, which means to determine, desire, or choose. In simple terms, your will is the things that you desire and that you have chosen to do. One theologian defined God's will as God's "*conscious deciding, willing, and choosing to do something.*" Normally we choose to do the things that we desire to do; we do as we please. But that was not the case of Jesus, He did not come here to earth to do as He pleased or what He willed to do; Jesus came here to carry out the desires or will of the Father.

*Thelema* (Strong's G2307), Desire or will, from *thelo*, (Strong's G2309) which means to determine, desire, or choose.

When Jesus was praying in the garden right before He was arrested and went to the cross He prayed, "Father, if You are willing, remove this cup from Me; yet not My will, but Yours be done," We see the possibility of two distinct wills. Jesus' earthly desire was not to die on the cross, or suffer the painful death of crucifixion. None of us want to go through suffering. Yet Jesus was determined to carry out the will of the Father, not His own earthly desires or will. He refused to make a choice based on His desires; He was going to carry out the Father's will, which was for Him to die for our sins and establish a new and better covenant with us.

(Luke 22:42) "saying, "Father, if You are willing, remove this cup from Me; yet not My will, but Yours be done."

But Jesus was aware that there are two wills, our own will and the will of God. He was also aware that these wills might not always line up. In this case, He knew that His desires and the will of the Father were sometimes different. It is a scary thought to think that Jesus' earthly desires did not always line up with the Father's will. It also shows that Jesus was fully man and fully God. As a man, His desires could be different. But Jesus was without sin, so He always did the Father's will. He had a desire to have the cup removed, but according to John 6:38 He was going to carry out the Father's will, not His own will.

In John 6:39, Jesus tells us the Father's will. Jesus knew that the will of the Father was for Him to lose nothing of those that the Father had given to Him. When Jesus was being arrested, He asked the soldiers, "Whom do you seek?" After they told Him that He was the One they wanted, He told them to let the others go. John tells us that He said this to fulfill the word which He spoke, "of those whom You have given Me I lost not one." Jesus knew the will of the Father, and it was not to lose any of those that the Father had given to Him, so even in His arrest He was seeking to carry out the will of the Father.

(John 6:39) "This is the will of Him who sent Me, that of all that He has given Me I lose nothing, but raise it up on the last day."

(John 18:7-9) "Therefore He again asked them, "Whom do you seek?" And they said, "Jesus the Nazarene." {8} Jesus answered, "I told you that I am He; so if you seek Me, let these go their way," {9} to fulfill the word which He spoke, "Of those whom You have given Me I lost not one."

Jesus also knew that it was the will of the Father that everyone that looked to Him and believed in Him would have eternal life, and that Jesus would raise up these believers on the last day. Jesus knew that the Father had sent Him to redeem us and to save us from our sins. He knew that He was the Passover Lamb and had to die for our sins. He knew that even though He did not desire to undergo a painful crucifixion; it was not His will, He carried out the Father's will.

(John 6:40) "For this is the will of My Father, that everyone who beholds the Son and believes in Him will have eternal life, and I Myself will raise him up on the last day."

So, our will is our desire or wishes that we have chosen to be carried out. A good example of this is a person's last will and testament. That is "*a legal document that communicates a person's final wishes pertaining to possessions and dependents. A person's last will and testament outlines what to do with possessions, whether the deceased will leave them to another person, a group or donate them to charity, and what happens to other things he or she is responsible for, such as custody of dependents, and management of accounts and interests.*"

## 2. **Living For God's Will** (Matt 6:9-10, 1 Pet 4:1-6)

Jesus did not come to do His will but the will of Him who sent Him. Jesus gave an example for us to follow. He also instructed us to carry out the Father's will. When Jesus taught His disciples to pray, He taught them to pray, "Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven." We are to pray for the will of the Father to be done on earth. That means that all of us should be seeking to carry out God's will in everything that we do here on earth. We should be carrying out God's will in our school work. We should be carrying out God's will in our family life. We should be carrying out God's will in the work place. We should be carrying out God's will in our neighborhoods. We should be carrying out God's will in the local church.

(Matt 6:9-10) "Pray, then, in this way: 'Our Father who is in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. {10} 'Your kingdom come. Your will be done, On earth as it is in heaven.'"

Danny Daniels preached at our church last week. When he arrived we were talking in the parking lot and he said that after he received Christ, the Lord spoke to him and said, "Danny, you need to choose between Me and music." Danny said it was a hard choice, but he told the Lord that he had to choose God above his music career. Then the Lord spoke again, saying, "Because you chose me and not your music, I will use your music to glorify Me." And God did use Danny. He wrote and published hundreds of songs. Danny had to choose to do God's will, not his own will.

When I received Christ, my goal was to play professional golf. I made a decision at the age of seven to play professional golf. That was my will. After I received Christ, the Lord said that I had to make a choice between my golf and Him. I wrestled and struggled that day and finally released my will to play golf and chose to serve God. The Lord then allowed me to play golf, and

He used me to reach a lot of people through golf. But, I had to choose to do the will of God, rather than do my own will.

In Galatians 2:20, Paul wrote, "*I have been crucified with Christ, and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me, and the life I live in the flesh, I live by faith in the Son of God who loved me and gave Himself up for me.*" When we come to Christ, we crucify the flesh and its desires. They no longer reign in our lives. We now begin to live for Christ. We live to do His will, not our own will.

In 1 Peter 4:1-3, we see that Christ suffered in the flesh and we are to arm ourselves with the same purpose. What was that purpose? Was it to suffer in the flesh? No, the purpose is to carry out God's will in our lives. Sometimes carrying out His will results in suffering. Peter taught us that we are to live the rest of the time in the flesh no longer for the lusts of men, but for the will of God. He goes on to say that the time already past is sufficient for us to have carried out the desire of Gentiles. We are not to live for and carry out our fleshly will. As believers, we are to arm ourselves with the same purpose as Christ, which was to carry out the will of God in our lives. We need to be able to make distinctions between our fleshly desires and God's will, because they are obviously not always the same.

(1 Pet 4:1-3) "Therefore, since Christ has suffered in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same purpose, because he who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin, {2} so as to live the rest of the time in the flesh no longer for the lusts of men, but for the will of God. {3} For the time already past is sufficient *for you* to have carried out the desire of the Gentiles, having pursued a course of sensuality, lusts, drunkenness, carousing, drinking parties and abominable idolatries."

In Titus 1:7 we saw that overseers or pastors were not to be self-willed; they are to be like Jesus and carry out the Father's will, not their own will. That is an example for all of us. If our will does not match up with the Father's will, we are to carry out His will, not our will. People that are bent on having their way and doing what they want to do are self-willed. God is looking for faithful men and women that He can trust to carry out His will and do His work here on earth.

(Titus 1:7) "For the overseer must be above reproach as God's steward, not self-willed, not quick-tempered, not addicted to wine, not pugnacious, not fond of sordid gain,"

In 2 Peter 2:10, Peter addresses false prophets and gives some characteristics of them. He says that they indulge the flesh in corrupt desires, despise authority, are daring, self-willed, and do not tremble when they revile angelic majesties. Being self-willed is included in a host of other bad characteristics. God's people and His leaders are to seek the Father's will. All of us are to live the rest of our days in the flesh carrying out the will of God in our lives.

(2 Pet 2:10) "and especially those who indulge the flesh in *its* corrupt desires and despise authority. Daring, self-willed, they do not tremble when they revile angelic majesties,"

In Isaiah 30, the Lord says, "Woe to the rebellious children who execute a plan, but not Mine, and make an alliance, but not of My Spirit." It is a rebuke of those who are carrying out their own plans, their own will. They were not seeking God's will and carrying out His plans. As believers our lives are to be characterized as obedient children who are seeking God's will and carrying out His desires and plans.

(Is 30:1) "Woe to the rebellious children," declares the LORD, "Who execute a plan, but not Mine, and make an alliance, but not of My Spirit, In order to add sin to sin;"

In Mark 3:31-35, Jesus makes this point very clear. His mother and brothers came to His house and they sent word to Him that they were there. Jesus answered by asking a question, Who are My mother and My brothers? Then He said, "For whoever does the will of God, he is My brother and sister and mother." Doing the will of God is a characteristic of a true believer.

(Mark 3:31-35) "Then His mother and His brothers \*arrived, and standing outside they sent *word* to Him and called Him. {32} A crowd was sitting around Him, and they \*said to Him, "Behold, Your mother and Your brothers are outside looking for You." {33} Answering them, He \*said, "Who are My mother and My brothers?" {34} Looking about at those who were sitting around Him, He \*said, "Behold My mother and My brothers! {35} For whoever does the will of God, he is My brother and sister and mother."

The apostle John addressed the issue in 1 John 2:15-17. He tells us not to love the world or the things of the world. If we love the world, the love of the Father is not in us. The lust of the flesh, the lust of the eye, and the boastful pride of life is not from the Father, but is from the world. He said the world is passing away, but the one who does the will of God lives forever. As believers, we are not to pursue the things of the world, but the will of God. It should be one of the marks of a true believer, which is why John wrote the letter. (See 1 John 5:13.)

(1 John 2:15-17) "Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. {16} For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world. {17} The world is passing away, and *also* its lusts; but the one who does the will of God lives forever."

In Matthew 7:21-23 Jesus spoke about doing the will of God. He said that not everyone who says "'Lord, Lord' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My father who is in heaven will enter." One of the marks of a true believer is that he does the will of God. The rest of the passage makes it very clear that the will of God is for us to know God and to live upright and holy lives. Are we spending time getting to know the Father? Does the Father know us? Do we know the Father? Do we spend time in His word every day? Do we spend time worshipping the Lord? Do we spend time talking to the Lord, sharing the things on our heart? Do we take time to listen to what He is saying to us? A relationship requires communication. How is our communication with the Lord?

(Matt 7:21-23) "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven *will enter*. {22} "Many will say to Me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?' {23} "And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; DEPART FROM ME, YOU WHO PRACTICE LAWLESSNESS.'

Those who do the will of God spend time getting to know the Lord. But Jesus said more than that. He said for those who practice lawlessness to depart from Him. Obedience is another mark of a believer who is doing God's will. Are we submitted to God? Are we submitted to the

authorities in our life that? Do we obey God's commands and His laws? We don't earn our way to heaven by keeping the law, but obedience to God's word should be a distinguishing mark in our lives as believers. How important is doing God's will? Jesus said that only those who do the will of the Father in heaven will enter. I would say that it is of utmost importance.

### 3. Knowing God's Will

If we are to pray God's will, we must know His will. If we are going to do God's will, then we must know God's will for our lives. In the business world, we write job descriptions and we are very deliberate to tell employees what their duties are. We have to tell them what we expect them to do, and we have to be very clear about it. It would be unfair to hold someone responsible for not doing things that the employee knew nothing about. However, if an employee is told what to do and then does not faithfully carry out those tasks, he should be held responsible. God is no different. He wants us to know His will and He has communicated His will to us. Jesus knew the Father's will and He lived His life carrying out the Father's will, not His own will. Jesus knew when His will did not line up to the Father's will, and He said, "Not My will, but Thy will be done."

If God wants us to know His will and to be able to know when our will does not line up with His will, why is discovering God's will so difficult? It was not easy in the early church and it certainly is not easy today. In Colossians 4:12, Paul wrote the church of Colosse and told them that Epaphras was always laboring earnestly for them in his prayers, that they would stand perfect and fully assured in the will of God. If knowing and doing God's will was so easy, why would Epaphras labor in prayer for them to be assured of doing God's will? The reason that he labored in prayer about this is because it is not so easy to know. Over the next few weeks we will be looking a lot more deeply into this. My prayer, like Epaphras, is that you will know and be fully assured that you are doing the will of God.

(Col 4:12) "Epaphras, who is one of your number, a bonds slave of Jesus Christ, sends you his greetings, always laboring earnestly for you in his prayers, that you may stand perfect and fully assured in all the will of God."

For us to know God's will and our will, it is important to know a little more about our will. I defined will, but now I want to talk a little more about our will. In 1 Thessalonians 5:23, Paul prayed that God would sanctify them entirely, and that their spirit and soul and body be preserved complete, without blame at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. We see that there are three parts to our lives. We have a body, soul, and spirit. Our physical body just houses our soul and spirit. Our physical body is temporal, but our soul and spirit are eternal. Our physical bodies wear out and are not eternal. However, we will all get a spiritual body that will be eternal.

(1 Thess 5:23) "Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be preserved complete, without blame at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ."

Our physical body has physical or fleshly desires. We saw in 1 Peter 4 where we were exhorted to no longer live for the lusts of the flesh but for the will of God. Our life is not to be consumed with living for the lusts of the flesh. That is characteristic of the world, but should not be the characteristic of our lives. We are to be consumed with doing the will of God. We must be able to distinguish between the desires that God has for us and our own desires. For example, we get

hungry; that is a physical desire. So, we eat to satisfy that fleshly desire. That is a normal desire and God created hunger pains to let us know when we need to eat. But, our life should not revolve around satisfying our physical desires. There is nothing wrong with eating, sleeping, and taking care of our physical needs; we must be good stewards of our bodies; they are temples of the Holy Spirit. But, we cannot let our physical bodies rule and reign in our lives. Notice what Paul said in 1 Corinthians 9:27. "I discipline my body and make it my slave." Paul did not let his body lead him; he made his body his slave. We are not to be slaves of our appetite. We are not to be slaves to any physical desire; we are to make our bodies subject to us. We eat, but food is not to rule us.

(1 Cor 9:27) "but I discipline my body and make it my slave, so that, after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified."

Paul also warned against being disqualified. When we satisfy our physical desires, we have to satisfy them according to the rules that God set in place. Paul is using athletic terms in this passage. He has talked about running and boxing. There are rules that athletes must abide by or they get disqualified. We have to discipline our bodies and make sure that the physical desires are met in accordance with His rules. We can eat, but we are not to be gluttons. We can drink wine, but we are not to get drunk. We need to sleep, but we are not to be lazy or slothful. We have sexual desires, but these must be carried out in accordance with God's rules. Sex is to be carried out within the context of a marriage between a man and a woman. Any sexual desire that is met outside of that marriage is sin. The world makes us out to be animals, and says that these physical desires can be met at any time with any person of any sex. They disregard God's laws and rules, His will, and live according to their own will, which is to satisfy their own fleshly lusts. We have to abide by God's rules or we will be disqualified.

When Jesus was at the well with the Samaritan woman, His disciples had gone to find food, as they were hungry. When they got back they urged Jesus to eat, but He responded by telling them that He had food to eat that they did not know about. Then, Jesus stated, "My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me and to accomplish His work." Jesus was not living to carry out the physical desires. Jesus was living to do the will of the Father. Real satisfaction comes from doing and accomplishing God's will and His work. He was our example to follow.

(John 4:27-34) "At this point His disciples came... {31} Meanwhile the disciples were urging Him, saying, "Rabbi, eat." {32} But He said to them, "I have food to eat that you do not know about." {33} So the disciples were saying to one another, "No one brought Him *anything* to eat, did he?" {34} Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me and to accomplish His work."

Some desires are physical or fleshly. I think these are fairly easy to recognize. We also have soulish desires. Our soul is made up of mind, emotion and will. Scripture teaches us to love the Lord with all our heart, mind, soul and strength. Our heart and soul are one and the same. Our heart is the seat of our intellect, which is where our thoughts originate. Our heart is the seat of our emotions, where we feel this way or that way. Our heart is where we make decisions, and it is where our will is found.

Our souls have needs and desires. For example, we have a need for love and acceptance. The gangs in America have grown substantially. One of the reasons that experts give for their rapid growth is the need for acceptance. These gangs offer a sense of belonging to these young men

that have grown up in homes without a father, and without the love, affection, and acceptance that a father can give. Knowing our make-up is key because we have earthly desires and soulish desires, and we have to choose what desires we will fulfill and how we will fulfill them. Like our physical desires, these also must be met according to God's guidelines and rules.

We also have a spirit and we have spiritual desires. God communicates His mind and His will to us through His Spirit. Our spirit is our ability and capacity to know and connect with God. True worshippers are those who worship in spirit and in truth. When we receive Christ into our lives, we are born again, and He seals us with His Spirit. God's Spirit inside us reveals the thoughts and the mind of God to us. God will place spiritual desires in us. Paul encouraged us in 1 Corinthians 14 to pray with our minds and pray with our spirits. In Romans 8: Paul tells us one of the reasons that praying in the spirit is so important. The Holy Spirit intercedes for us according to the will of God. We may not know with our mind the will of God, but the Holy Spirit always knows the mind and will of God.

(1 Cor 14:14-15) "For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays, but my mind is unfruitful. {15} What is *the outcome* then? I will pray with the spirit and I will pray with the mind also; I will sing with the spirit and I will sing with the mind also."  
 (Rom 8:26-27) "In the same way the Spirit also helps our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we should, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for *us* with groanings too deep for words; {27} and He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He intercedes for the saints according to *the will of God*."

We have looked at the source of our desires and what we have to filter through when we are trying to discern God's will. But how do we know God's will? Scholars have given many different ways of finding God's will in our lives. In the coming weeks we will be looking much more in depth at these various ways. For now, I want to say that the primary way of discovering God's will for our lives is found in the Scriptures. If we have any desire that does not line up with God's word, we need to know that it is not God's will. We have to filter everything in our lives through the Word of God. God communicates His will through dreams, visions, prophecies, authorities, circumstances, counselors, words of knowledge, words of wisdom, and other ways, but all of these have to be placed under the Word of God. Any dream, vision, or prophecy that does not line up with God's word has to be discarded. The Word of God is our final authority. All the other things that we will look at are great tools and methods, but they must line up with God's word.

I will be breaking down God's will into His General Will that applies to everyone and His Specific Will, which is individually unique for each of us. I do not want to go in depth this morning, but in 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 we find that we are to rejoice always, pray without ceasing, and in everything give thanks. This is God's will for you, me, and everyone. That is His General Will that applies to all of us. There are no exceptions. Are you rejoicing always? Are you full of joy at all times? If we want to do God's will, we must learn to rejoice at all times.

(1 Thess 5:16-18) "Rejoice always; {17} pray without ceasing; {18} in everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."

The Lord told Paul that he was an apostle of the Gentiles. Peter was not an apostle to the Gentiles. He was one of the twelve apostles of the Lamb, and His ministry was primarily to the Jews. God's specific will for each of these two men were unique and different.

#### 4. Reward For Doing God's Will

As we come to a close this morning, I want to encourage you about doing God's will. There is a great reward for doing His will. In Hebrews 10:35-36, we are told not to throw away our confidence, which has great reward. We are encouraged to endure so that when we have done the will of God, we may receive what was promised. There is a reward for doing God's will.

(Heb 10:35-36) "Therefore, do not throw away your confidence, which has a great reward. {36} For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God, you may receive what was promised."

We saw earlier in Matthew 7:21 that those who do the will of God will enter into heaven. The greatest reward that we have in doing God's will is spending eternity with God. There is fullness of joy in the presence of God. Heaven is going to be far above our wildest imaginations and expectations, and it is those who do the will of God here on earth that will enter it.

#### Conclusion and Applications

We covered John 6 in our introduction and saw that the will of the Father is for everyone to behold the Son and believe in Him and have eternal life. In 2 Peter 3:9, we learn that God is not slow about His promise, but is patient towards us. He does not wish for any to perish, but for all to come to repentance. That is God's will, that all would come to repentance. It is His will for all to believe and have eternal life. This morning, as we begin our study of God's will, there is no better place to start than this step in discovering God's will.

(2 Pet 3:9) "The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance."

(John 6:40) "For this is the will of My Father, that everyone who beholds the Son and believes in Him will have eternal life, and I Myself will raise him up on the last day."

If you like to have a relationship with the Father, the criteria is pretty easy. Jesus said we must believe in Him in order to have eternal life. It is not enough to believe in Jesus. We must place our trust in Christ and confess Him to be our Lord. When we confess Him to be Lord, we are placing Him in charge of our lives. We are no longer to be living according to our own desires, but according to the will of God. If you would like to receive Christ this morning, pray along with me.

"Father God, thank You for sending Your Son so that we could have eternal life. I believe that Jesus Christ is Your Son and that He died on the cross for our sins. I believe that He rose from the dead on the third day. This morning, I ask You to come into my life, and I confess You as my Lord and Savior. I ask You to show me Your plans and purposes for my life, so that I can live my life according to Your will. I ask this in Jesus' name. Amen."

**Introduction** (Acts 2:42, 6:4, Matt 7:21)

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3. **Knowing God's Will** (Col 4:12, 1 Thess 5:23, 1 Cor 9:27, John 4:27-34, 1 Thess 5:16-18, 1 Cor 14:14-15, Rom 8:26-27)
  
4. **Reward For Doing God's Will** (Heb 10:35-36, Matt 7:21)

**Conclusion and Applications** (2 Pet 3:9, John 6:40)