

LESSON EIGHT: How to Know THE WILL OF GOD

SESSION THREE

TO THE LEADER/FACILITATOR

To help you be more effective in leading your small-group discipleship study, we have prepared the **General Leadership Guide** to help steer you through the basics of facilitating a small-group study. If you have not already done so, please read the Guide.

ABOUT THIS SESSION

During this session, Pastor Adrian Rogers continues to provide biblical insight toward knowing and applying the will of God in our daily lives. Staying within the will of God as we endeavor to serve Him is the only way to know fulfillment and to experience a maturing spiritual walk. This segment will continue to expound upon God's provisional will in our personal lives and will introduce practical ways in which we can know God's will.

PREPARING TO LEAD/FACILITATE THIS SESSION

Read through the **Session Guide**, and watch the video in advance of the session. Review the **Additional Scripture to Study** at the end of the **Guide**, along with the suggested **Personal Application**. Make sure you print out enough copies of the **Student Handout** which mirrors this **Leader's Guide**.

CONDUCTING THE SESSION

At the beginning of the session, read the **Introduction** to your group, then open discussion by asking the **Reflection Questions** before viewing the video segment. After viewing the video together, you may want to ask for comments before next leading your group through the **Amplification and Discussion** section. Feel free to add your own commentary if needed, but be cognizant of time and do not personally dominate the session. As you read through the **Amplification** section, engage your group by using the provided **Discussion Questions** to stimulate additional dialogue.

As you prepare to conclude the session, review the **Personal Application** for the week and encourage participants to engage in the suggested activity, as well as to read and study the **Additional Scriptures to Study** section. The **Additional Scriptures to Study** section contains questions or reflections intended to guide participants in their respective personal studies. This is best presented as a positive activity designed to help everyone in the group to grow spiritually through the week (as opposed to being presented as homework).

Allow participants to share prayer requests and lead your group in prayer using any of the suggested formats in the **General Leadership Guide**. Remember to provide an atmosphere of confidentiality within the group as participants share.

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INTRODUCTION

In the previous session, Pastor Rogers introduced six myths that serve to confuse our understanding of the will of God. He also explained the need to be willing to know the will of God for your life, and the need to be meek (humble, teachable, compliant) in receiving the will of God. In this session, Pastor Rogers continues to develop God's provisional will and the actions required of us if we are to stay in step with His will for our lives. He will also begin to introduce practical ways in which we can know God's will.

OUR KEY PASSAGE

Acts 9:6 "So he, trembling and astonished, said, 'Lord, what do You want me to do?' Then the Lord said to him, 'Arise and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do.'"

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- In what specific ways do you think God might reveal His will in your life?

- How can one discern the difference between what might be a personal will, desire, or ambition, and the actual will of God?

PRESENTATION OF VIDEO CLIP OF: “How to Discern the Will of God”

AMPLIFICATION AND DISCUSSION

God will speak, but you must hear His voice. **Adrian Rogers**

Amplification: An aspect to experiencing the provisional will of God in our lives is openness. Openness implies a willingness to do whatever, or to go wherever, God may direct. It means that we do not put restrictions on God; “Lord, I will do this or go there **if** you do this, or **if** You do not allow this to happen.” If we are truly open to God’s leading in our lives, we will place no limitations on Him for our obedience. Pastor Rogers also emphasized the need for us to be listening for God’s still, small, quiet voice during our daily quiet times.

For Discussion: How can we be expected to know God’s will for our lives if we are not devoting adequate time to hearing His voice?

Amplification: It is not enough to know the will of God, and it is not enough to hear the will of God, one must be willing to yield to (meaning to actually **do**) the will of God. The true level of our faith is manifested by our obedience, that is, the work we do as we yield to the will of God in our lives. We must be careful not to confuse our personal will, or our desire to do good things in the name Jesus or for the cause of religion, with the actual will of God for our lives. Too many people go to the mission field, stand in pulpits, or serve in different capacities in the church because of personal ambition rather than God’s direction. Others have run from the will of God because of fear; fear of the responsibilities God is asking them to assume, or fear of the difficulties they may face. Consider Moses who asked God to send someone else to speak to Pharaoh and deliver His people. Also consider how Moses ultimately yielded to God’s will and accepted the challenge.

For Discussion: What are some of the different fears one may experience in yielding to the will of God? How does one overcome those fears?

Amplification: As Pastor Rogers has stated, is knowing the will of God is promised (in Scripture), provisional (dependent upon our willingness, openness, and yieldedness), and practical. There are several practical ways in which God may reveal, or confirm, His will. He may choose to use one or a combination of these to make clear the path He wants us to follow. Understanding these principles and applying them correctly can help us avoid much pain and frustration in trying to discern God’s specific will for our lives. The first practical way God may reveal His will is through miracles. Miracles are rare and unique manifestations of God’s supernatural intervention and should not necessarily be expected or anticipated. However, God is certainly not limited in His ability to reveal His will through dreams, signs, or wonders. The second practical method God uses to reveal His will is through His Word. The Word of God is the surest test or confirmation of God’s will. The Bible will not necessarily tell you precisely what to do, but it certainly will tell you what not to do. As Pastor Rogers stated, “Never seek the will of God concerning something that God has commanded or something that He has clearly forbidden. ... If God has said it in His Word, that is His will for you!” That is not a license to take the Word of God out of context, and then by using a weak or false interpretation to arrive at a false or inappropriate application (just because the Bible speaks of shaving the head when making a vow does not mean you must shave your head). But the Bible remains the bedrock of our faith and is “living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart,” (Hebrews 4:11).

For Discussion: How would you counsel someone who claims it is God's will for them to do something or to participate in a behavior that is clearly prohibited by Scripture?

Amplification: Another practical way that we can know the will of God is from other godly people. The Bible says in Psalm 1:1, "Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly..." The word "ungodly" literally means those "without God." The Scriptures warn us that to take counsel or advice from those who do not have God in their lives will cause us to miss His blessings. Conversely, to receive counsel and advice from godly people will cause us to reap blessings as we take advantage of their spiritual wisdom and maturity.

For Discussion: How would you recognize and identify godly people in your circle of relationships? What would be their identifying marks or traits, and would you feel comfortable approaching them for counsel or advice? Why, or why not?

PERSONAL APPLICATION

This week during your quiet time with the Lord, ask Him to reveal to you if you have in any way missed the mark with respect to His requirements of being willing, open, and yielded to His will. Confess any failure, receive His love and forgiveness, then commit to surrendering to His will.

GROUP PRAYER REQUESTS

Suggested group prayer – "Lord, help us this week to know your perfect will, and to remain obedient to your 'still, small,' quiet voice."

ADDITIONAL SCRIPTURES TO STUDY

Read Exodus chapters 3 and 4. As you do so, place yourself in Moses' shoes as he struggles with yielding in obedience to God's awesome task of freeing His people from Egypt. Note Moses' inner fears of inability and unworthiness, yet how he bowed in obedience to the Lord. Examine your own heart with respect to how you might respond if God were to call you to a seemingly impossible task.

Read Psalm 1. As you meditate upon this verse, evaluate those in your circle of relationships who are ungodly (have no relationship with God), are sinners (willfully disobey the commands of God), or who are scornful (ignore the instructions of God), and determine to:

1. Refuse to follow their counsel - Action
2. Limit your involvement - Association
3. Reject their thinking - Attitude

Be careful not to judge others, but place your delight in the law (the Word) of God so that you might know His blessings.

ADDITIONAL READING RESOURCES

- Andrew Murray, "Absolute Surrender," (Fleming, 1897)
- Brother Lawrence, "The Practice of the Presence of God," (H.R. Allenson, 1906)
- Dwight L. Moody, "Secret Power, or the Secret Success in Christian Life and Work," (Fleming, 1881)

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VIDEO PRESENTATION NOTES

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For Discussion: What are some of the different fears one may experience in yielding to the will of God? How does one overcome those fears?

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