

GOD'S WILL MADE SIMPLE

GOD'S WILL

A Different Perspective

God's will is not so much about **the decisions we make** as it is about the **life we live**.

PAUL'S PRAYER

A Different Kind of Prayer

Colossians 1:9-14

He asks for **knowledge of God's will**, not the **solution to life's problems**.

He wants us to know how to **please God**, not **where to live** or **what job to take**.

GOD'S WILL

Made Simple & Crystal Clear

Colossians 1:10-14

① Do **good deeds** that **bear fruit**.

Colossians 1:10/ Ephesians 2:10/ 1 Peter 2:11-12/ Matthew 5:16 & Matthew 6:1-21

② Get to know **God better**.

Colossians 1:10/ Philippians 3:7-16/ Ephesians 1:17-19/ 2 Peter 1:2-4

③ **Toughen** up.

Colossians 1:11/ Acts 14:21-22/ 1 Peter 5:7-10/ Colossians 3:13-15 & 1 Corinthians 13:4

④ Be **thankful**.

Colossians 1:12-14/ 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18/ 1 Corinthians 10:1-6 & 10/ Ephesians 2:1-5

TAKING IT HOME

1. Larry listed four simple and crystal clear components of God's will. As you look back at these, which one is most challenging for you right now?

2. Take a minute and use one of Paul's prayers in Digging Deeper question #1 as a guide for praying for someone else.

Prayer is an important part of the Christian life which is why we desire for prayer to be a priority in Growth Groups. Good group prayer often takes effort, so here are some guidelines to help make your Growth Group prayer time more effective.

- **WE PRAY FOR ONE TOPIC AT A TIME-** Anyone in the group is free to introduce a prayer request either before prayer begins or during the prayer time. Once a topic is introduced, the group focuses on that request alone. Once it's covered, the group moves on to the next topic.
- **EACH PERSON PRAYS MORE THAN ONCE-** Because the group is focusing on one topic at a time, each person is encouraged to pray several times during the prayer time for those topics they feel most led to pray about.
- **WE KEEP OUR PRAYERS SHORT AND SIMPLE-** Group prayer goes better when members keep their prayers short and to the point. When someone prays for a long time, it's hard for the other members to stay focused and long prayers tend to intimidate those who are just learning to pray out loud in a group.

Prayer Requests



GOD'S WILL MADE SIMPLE

GOD'S WILL

A Different Perspective

God's will is not so much about _____ as it is about the _____.

PAUL'S PRAYER

A Different Kind of Prayer

Colossians 1:9-14

He asks for _____,
not the _____.

He wants us to know how to _____,
not _____ or _____.

GOD'S WILL

Made Simple & Crystal Clear

Colossians 1:10-14

① Do _____ that _____.
Colossians 1:10/ Ephesians 2:10/ 1 Peter 2:11-12/ Matthew 5:16 & Matthew 6:1-21

② Get to know _____.
Colossians 1:10/ Philippians 3:7-16/ Ephesians 1:17-19/ 2 Peter 1:2-4

③ _____ up.
Colossians 1:11/ Acts 14:21-22/ 1 Peter 5:7-10/ Colossians 3:13-15 & 1 Corinthians 13:4

④ Be _____.
Colossians 1:12-14/ 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18/ 1 Corinthians 10:1-6 & 10/ Ephesians 2:1-5

Growth Group Homework

For the week of January 20, 2008

QUICK REVIEW: Looking back over your sermon notes from *God's Will Made Simple*, what was most challenging, helpful or interesting to you?

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

1. If you walked into your place of employment tomorrow and were given the afternoon off and a \$200 bonus that had to be spent that day how would you spend the time and money?
2. Can you think of a time when you thought you had a good idea of what God's will was for your life (or someone else's life) only to discover later that He had something very different in mind?

DIGGING DEEPER

1. In addition to the prayer we looked at this weekend, Paul also records similar prayers for people in the other churches he planted. As you read each passage, jot down what he prays for.

Passage	What Paul Prays For
Ephesians 3:16-18	
Ephesians 1:15-19	
Philippians 1:9-11	

What stands out to you most about how God wants us to live from these prayers?

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. After reading the story, answer 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. In order to live out the simple and clear will of God we need more than knowledge, willpower and effort. We need the power that only God provides. How does each verse below connect our obedience to God's will with God's provision of power?

Philippians 2:12-13

Ephesians 5:15-21

John 15:4-5

Can you think of any common challenges people face in tapping into God's power to live the Christian life?