

FINDING GOD'S WILL

(Bro. Bakht Singh, Balance of Truth December 1957)

"Epaphras, who is *one* of you, a servant of Christ, saluteth you, always labouring fervently for you in prayers, that ye may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God."(Col. 4:12). The prayers of Epaphras were not just ordinary prayer, but an agonizing in prayer that the believers might stand complete in all the will of God. The burden for prayer increases as we begin to see God's plan. God will not be satisfied in us till we stand perfect and complete in all the will of God. That is God's desire for all of us, and that requires constant exercise of heart that we may know for surety and certainty the just will of god. Now some of us use the words "will of God" very often. Preachers speak of it in their messages, but in practice both preachers and believers often fail to find God's will on every small detail; and when we put this question: "How can we be certain? How can we know? Very few are able to answer.

From the Word of God we see that Rom 12:2, we have to prove what good and acceptable will of God is. If a man wants to buy pure gold he will not satisfied with one test. He will keep on testing it on the touchstone, and even that will not completely satisfy him. But when the gold melts in the fire he will really satisfied. Testing is necessary also when putting together parts of machinery. Such delicate things as watch springs also need thorough testing before use. In the same way if you want to enjoy fully What God has for you then you have to prove what is the good and acceptable and perfect will of God. Some pray concerning some desire of their hearts, "Thy will be done", and because no hindrance comes, they decide that desire is the will of God. That is why very few truly find or live in the will of God. In John 7:17 we read how some who heard the teaching of the Lord Jesus Christ failed to understand (verse 15 and 16). So He told them: "If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God". The Bible will be closed book to you unless you can learn to recognize God's perfect will. It contains hidden mysteries that will not be understood by those who refuse to do God's will. All the reading of the Bible will not teach you those mysteries. Once I never knew how to find God's will, - I just prayed in the general sense, but never knew how to go to my Lord and

ask Him questions and find His perfect will. It was only in 1932 that I learned something of learning and knowing God's will in prayer. Then it was a joy to know how God speaks through every verse of His Holy word. Now most of you have a hunger in your hearts to learn God's mind, but you will find many passages which you will not be able to understand. Many precious truths will be kept hidden from you even if you read the portion many times, but when you understand and determine to be in God's perfect will, at any cost, the Holy Spirit will teach you what is hidden from the wise. So it is very important to learn what the perfect will of God is. We cannot learn this in a few days or weeks, but by practice and patient waiting upon God we can do so. If you have an ambition to learn music or any other art will you learn it in a week? Patience and practice will be needed.

You will find that after you are born again things will not be very smooth. Some of you will be tempted or humiliated by the devil; you will make mistakes and everything will go wrong. Then you will understand that you failed because you did not find God's will, otherwise you would not have been humiliated. Perhaps you have counted it a waste of time to pray. But when you have learned this lesson you will ask God daily to show you what His perfect will is. This should be your prayer every day: "Teach me thy will, for thou art my God" (Psa. 143:19). "If Thou hast redeemed me by paying a heavy price, I know Thou hast some plan for me. Oh God! I want to do Thy will. Only give me patience to learn Thy will." Some become very impatient when God's will is not revealed in a certain period, they cannot wait; but when you know the meaning and value of God's will, you will know it is worth waiting for, because when you go against it everything will go wrong. You must also believe that God will speak to you. He will not fail you. (Isa. 31:21). Say to yourself: "God has promised that He will make me hear His word. He will tell me: 'this is the way, walk ye in it'". And when you have made this determination a habit, you will find the rest easy. In the beginning it may be difficult, but by practice it will become easy. But you must believe in the promise of God. "He said that He would shew me His word, so I must wait". This principle of Divine guidance was brought to my notice before my baptism, and how precious God's word became to me. At that time I did not know where that particular verse was by which God was pleased to speak to me; I heard it when somebody was praying. God word can come to you like this when you do not know where to turn, and you will soon learn whether it is God's voice or your own. In 1 Kings 19:12, we read that it is a still small voice. God had to take Elijah

out into the desert to teach him how to hear His voice. The voice being a still small voice you have to live very close to God to hear it. Those who do not live close to Him find it hard to hear it. Just a few hurried moments of Bible reading will not suffice, you must make it a point to give God sufficient time to speak to you (Ps. 46:10). After our own voices are quieted we will be able to hear God's voice. Having learned how to be still, learn how to acknowledge Him in everything (Pro. 3:6). Even if it is a small matter, ask God to make it clear to you. Say; "I am determined. Oh God! To do everything according to Thy will alone!" For any matter go to God first. "In all thy ways acknowledge Him." This is the law of God for all those who want to be in His perfect will, for those who want to stand complete and perfect in all the will of God. For them this law is revealed. "Lord Jesus, Thou art my Lord and Head, and as all my natural members listen to my head, how can I live without consulting Thee, my spiritual Head! Just as your body is governed by your head, recognize the Lord Jesus Christ as the head of everything and you will then be in a better position to find God's will.

Afterwards you must learn this second lesson. Rom 14:8. "For whether we live, we live unto the Lord; and whether we die, we die unto the Lord: whether we live therefore, or die, we are the Lord's". This is a very necessary lesson for each one of us because the Lord is taking so much interest in me everything I do must be only for Him. (Verse 7). In this new life we are not to live for our country or family or some other cause or ambition. For us to live should be the Lord, if we want to know how to be sure what is God's perfect will. Also you will need the help of someone like Epaphras. Fellowship is a very necessary thing and without it there is weakness. There are very few like Epaphras, but when you come in touch with fellow believers, you will find that God will give someone a burden for you. Thank God for such people.

"See then that ye walk circumspectly not as fools, but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is." (Eph. 5:15, 16, 17). This is another very important lesson. Redeem the time. Most of us waste our time, just doing things because there is nothing else to do. So many people look at magazines because they have nothing else to do. But we as God's children have to redeem the time making the best use of every moment God gives to us. As believers we cannot afford to be idle or lazy. We

cannot afford to have more sleep, because the days are evil. We should recognize that time is precious, that we may have time to give to the finding of God's will. Those in the habit of talking, talking, because there is nothing else to do, will find it difficult to find God's will.

How can anyone be sure of God's will? In Heb. 13:20, 21. We have a summary of how to find the perfect will of God. These verses can be divided into seven parts. (1). The God of peace, (2) that brought again from the dead, (3) our Lord Jesus, (4) that great shepherd of the sheep, (5) through the Blood of the everlasting covenant, (6) make you perfect in every good work, (7) to do His will. In this you have the perfect principle of how to find God's perfect will.

(1) Whenever God speaks there must be in the heart a sense of reigning peace because he is "God of peace". Till that peace comes you have to wait. Sometimes it will take days, weeks, months or years, but you will have to wait till peace like a river has come into your heart. You must wait for that peace before making any plan.

(2) "Who brought again from the dead" The power of death of the Lord Jesus Christ, and His resurrection, both go together. The same power by which the Lord Jesus rose again from the dead should work freely in me if I am to be sure of God's will. Remember that the revelation of God will depend on the working of the power of the resurrection in my life. The power of resurrection depends on the power of death. They go together. Unless I die to myself, how can God give me ideas? So when you begin to pray say; "Lord Jesus Christ, I want the power of thy resurrection to work freely in me." Then place your problems before Him saying: "Lord I am ready and willing to wait for Thee to take away this plan, idea or scheme. Now Lord, create in me by the power of Thy resurrection, Thy thoughts, ideas and schemes". But you must say that sincerely!

(3) "Our Lord Jesus" should be acknowledged in every thing I do. He should be given first place. Acknowledge His Lordship when you pray.

(4) "That Great Shepherd of the sheep" I must recognize my position as His sheep if I want to be in His perfect will. He must lead me beside the still waters (Ps. 23:2). I must feed in the green pastures of His word. If I cannot learn alone, I must go where some servant of God is expounding the Word. It is very necessary to be fed, and if you ask Him to feed you, you will find that He will conform you increasingly to His will, you may stand perfect therein.

(5) "Through the blood of the everlasting covenant." As you are waiting upon the Lord, you are being reminded of the blood of the everlasting covenant. It cleanses. If I allow any defiling thoughts God cannot speak to me? You will find your imaginations never leaving you unless you claim the Blood. The devil is so subtle he goes on bringing some thoughts, some ideas in the brain and sometimes the brain works so subtly that those thoughts never leave you, but praise God for the efficacy of the Blood of the everlasting covenant. It is available for us, and we must appropriate it, that with a good conscience I may be able to call upon the Lord to hear His voice. Many times we have selfish thoughts, wrong motives, feelings or revenge, etc., so that there is a hindrance in our spirits. We must know how to apply the Blood to our hearts so that our conscience may be clean all the time. Also the Blood speaks of abundant life. When you come before God in prayer, say "Lord Jesus I claim Thy precious blood for the cleansing and renewal of my mind. If I have grieved Thee in thought or word I am ready to confess."

(6) "Make you perfect in every good work" Not in few things only, but in all things God demands perfection from us, - an integrity and righteousness that is inside, as well as outside, in private as well as in public life.

Note very carefully there is a human peace and there is God's peace. Do not be self-deceived. It is only by practice that you will find out the difference. "Not as the world giveth." Remember the peace you had when the Lord Jesus first came into your heart, God's peace, heavenly peace like a river. It is as you go on step by step in accordance with these verses in Heb. 13, that you will be able to find God's plan for you, "that you may stand perfect and compete in the will of God." Thus only will He be able to work in you that which is well-pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory for ever and ever, Amen" Heb 13:20-21.