

## **Pursuing God's Will and Way**

- ❖ The Will of God is:
  - Perfect – Rom. 12:1-2
  - Pure – 1 Thes. 4:3
  - Purposed – Heb. 13:20-21; 1 Thes. 5:18
  - Settled – Jer. 29:11; 1 Pet. 2:15; Rom. 9:1-11
  
- ❖ The will of man is:
  - Flawed – Rom. 8:7
  - Messy
  - Conditional
    - Often based on who he is or where he is at the time – Gal. 2:11-14; Mat. 18:32-35; Mat. 26:64-75
    - Based on their perception of right – Phil. 3:2-4
  - Subject to change – Mat. 26:73
  - Is not enough – John 1:10-13
  
- ❖ We must choose to walk in the will of God
  - God's Will is at work in us – Philippians 2:12-13
  - Because of this, we must have some choices to make
    - Phil. 2:14-16
  
- ❖ Let's look at some other common choices we must make to pursue the Will of God  
Gal. 5:16-17
  - God relationships and spouse or relationships and spouse based on will of man or flesh – 2 Cor. 6:14
  - God calling and purpose or calling and purpose based solely on things of the world or flesh – Luke 16:23-25
  - God's principles of stewardship or world's – Luke 14:28; Pro. 13:22; Pro. 21:20; Pro. 13:11; Mal. 3:10; Lev. 27:30; 2 Cor. 9:6-7
  - Literally God's way and will or yours – 1 John 5:3; Isa. 1:1-20

## Doing Things God's Way

- ❖ There is usually more than one way to do things
- ❖ Multiplicity of ways doesn't mean multiplicity of God ways – Prov. 14:12; Pro. 16:25-33
  - We confuse free will with His will – John 1:12-13; Jos. 24:15; Gen. 2:16-17
    - Although we are chosen, we still have choices – Eph. 1:4; Gal. 5:13-15; Rev. 3:20
    - The Lord knows our choices – 2 Peter 3:9; Pro. 16:4
- ❖ In the Kingdom of God, it's God's Way or no way
  - Jesus is the way – John 14:6
  - God's way is perfect – Psa. 18:30-32; Isa. 55:8-9
  - My thoughts and ideas do not supersede God's Word – Psa. 37:23; Proverbs 16
  - Marriage – Pro. 18:22; Eph. 5:22-33
  - Sex – Gen. 2:24; Heb. 13:4; 1 Cor. 7:2
  - Judging – John 7:24; Mat. 7:1; Rom. 2:1-3
    - 1 John 4:1; Rom. 16:17-18; Heb. 5:14; Rom. 12:2

## Whose Will Matters Most to You?

I am going to list some words and I want you to think about the first reaction you have when you see them.

- ❖ SUBMIT – Rom. 13:1-2; James 4:7
- ❖ OBEY – Heb. 13:17
- ❖ DENY – Mark 8:34
- ❖ GRATIFY – James 4:1-3
- ❖ YIELD – John 15:5; 2 Chr. 30:8

## **The Pursuit Never Ends on this side**

- ❖ Words that we often admire in society that are also applicable to the Kingdom of God
  - Tenacity – ability or willingness to carry on despite danger, difficulty, or obstacle\*
  - Dedicated – devoted to a task or purpose; having single-minded loyalty or integrity\*
  - Determined - having made a firm decision and being resolved not to change it\*
  
- ❖ As believers, we should never stop pursuing more of God
  
- ❖ Our lack of pursuit could indicate:
  - A lack of desire for the things of God
    - Caused by worldly desires – Titus 2:11-13; 2 Tim. 2:22; 1 John 2:15-17
    - Caused by unrepented sin – Rom. 2:6-8; 1 John 1:7-9; James 4:8
    - Caused by disappointment and discouragement – Isa. 40:31; Gal. 6:9
    - Caused by laziness – Pro. 18:9; Pro. 20:4; John 9:4
      - Leads to missed seasons and opportunities – Mat. 7:7
  
  - A sense of feeling we have already arrived (false sense of security) – Phil. 3:12-16
    - Rooted in pride – Phil. 3:8-14
  
  - Safety by comparing ourselves to others – Luke 18:9-14
  
- ❖ There is always more to know and experience in God – Phil. 3:10-12
  - It's our responsibility to go after the more – Phil. 3:14
  - It has to be a personal conviction

*\*Definitions from Oxford Languages Dictionary*

## **The Price of Pursuing God's Purpose**

- ❖ Each of us has immense value to God – Mat. 6:26; Mat. 10:31
- ❖ Value comes from the One who give us value – 1 Pet. 1:18-19
- ❖ You realize more of your value when you walk in your God-given purpose – 1 Sam. 17:22-37
  - You lose value when you attempt to walk in someone else's – 1 Sam. 17: 38-39
- ❖ The church is most valuable when we walk in our purpose – Mat. 28:18-20; Mark 16:15-16
  - The church begins to look like a cheap organization when we attempt to operate in the ways of this world – 2 Cor. 6:1-10, 14-18; 1 Pet. 2:9; 1 Pet. 1:18-19
  
- ❖ We devalue ourselves when we choose not to walk in God's purpose for our lives
  
- ❖ God has blessed you with an anointing you to walk in His purpose
  - Appoints a time and season for His purpose – Ecc. 3:1
  - Provides for His purpose – Phil. 4:19; 2 Cor. 9:8; Mat. 6:33; Psa. 37:25
  - Strengthens you to accomplish His purpose –
  
- ❖ It is an insult to your own value to think that pursuing your purpose won't cost you anything
  - Your time
  - Your treasure
  - Your strength
  
- ❖ Let's look at Mat. 16:24-28; Luke 9:23-27; Mat. 8:18-22