

Using Your Talents and Gifts in the Kingdom of God

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In the church today many Christians find themselves discouraged or frustrated because of pressure to be something, do something, or perform in some fashion in the Body of Christ. In society there is the pressure to succeed, keep up with the neighbors, climb the promotional ladder, make the best grade, or be the best athlete.

In the church there is a very similar pressure that often goes un-noticed and is often self inflicted. **There is an innate desire to know within the Body of Christ exactly what your purpose, function and place is.** For some it is simply just to know what their lot in life is and what the will of God is from decision to decision and day to day. **Because they are uncertain and do not know how to seek the answers they become frustrated.**

In the church we have quit often said, “*You have a purpose and destiny*”, “*Follow God's Will*”, “*You can do all things through Christ, Just do it.*” These are all true statements but without adequate instruction and understanding of supporting principles and Kingdom concepts that come with maturity in Christ, these are **statements that create frustration and dis-disillusionment.** I have seen some take such statements to mean that they can or should have the same faith and ability to heal the sick, preach, prophecy, play an instrument, sing or dance as someone else they consider an icon or successful in an area of ministry. When they do not measure up to someone else they have identified with then they allow themselves to be discouraged. They began to measure themselves against the success and talents of others.

Not everyone can be or do the same things to the same measure. I may have a desire and ambition to be as good of a basketball player as Michael Jordan, however, I am lacking in a few areas. Not because I did not apply myself to the disciplines required of a talented basketball player but because God simply did not make me to be a 7 foot, NBA bound , Michael Jordan. What I have to do is be okay with that and be content to be the best soldier, employee, father, husband, and pastor that God has designed, gifted, and called me to be.

Rom 12:1-3

1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye **present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God,** which is your *reasonable service*.

2 And be not conformed to this world: but **be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind,** that ye may *prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.*

3 For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to **think soberly,** according as God hath dealt to every man *the measure of faith.* (KJV)

Too often we make Life in Christ more complicated than we ought. We say, “How do I know the WILL of God in my life? How do I know what God's will is?” In **Micha 6:8** Father tells us, “*He hath showed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the LORD require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?” Father's first desire is for you to learn the principles of **His Kingdom value system.** That the **precepts (laws) and principles (intents)** of His Kingdom **habitually govern your perceptions, interpretations, responses, actions, behavior, and decisions considering God first in all you say and do.** You say, “Well what does that mean? How do I do that?” Let me show you how much you probably already know but do not know that you know.*

If you were faced with the decision to abort a child or let it live which do you think would be the right choice based on what you know of the heart, intent, and principles of God? If you say to choose life then you have correctly chosen **the WILL of God based on His Kingdom precepts and principles.**

The point is that **in every situation or decision there are precepts and principles (selfish or Godly) that are governing the way you live. The will of God is found in allowing the Word of God to identify those elements of decision and conduct and responding to them with the right precepts and principles of God's Word.** All too often we make the will of God about a particular achievement or end result. Often the will of God is clouded with our own emotional desires, ambitions or even apathy to be submissive to His will even if we knew it for sure.

The will of God does not seem easy but in obedience brings the most peace. So it was with Abraham, Jacob, Moses, David and many others who were willing to sacrifice their wills for the will of God.

In **verse 1** Paul tells the first precept and principles of the will of God for your life. (“...**present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God.**”) What does this have to do with serving God and His will for my life based on my daily circumstance or situation? Everything! It is **a question of whose you are**. It is a question of whose pleasures rule over your flesh? Yours or Fathers? It is about whose preferences take priority and what mindset is reflected through you? Paul goes on to say, “this is your reasonable service or the least you can do in knowing and fulfilling the will of God in your life. It is, as Micha put it, the right thing to do and a service of humility in your life in Christ.

In **verse 2** Paul tells us the second precept and principle of serving and knowing God's will. He says to “**be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind**,” What is the precept? **Change your thinking**. Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word. The Word of God has to be heard in order for it to become revelation to your spirit man. It has to be heard in the right spirit and context. It has to be taught to you, you have to seek it out. To know the will of God you have to **learn how Father thinks and learn to think like Him**. Paradigms, preconceived ideas and interpretations, doctrinal barriers, selfish and childish thinking has to be identified and transformed into a Christ-like mind. You have to discipline the mind to think on the things of God and not the things of the flesh bringing every thought into captivity unto the obedience of Christ and casting down every **vain** (*unprofitable or counter-productive*) imagination or humanistic thinking. Then and only then can you in any life situation or circumstance spontaneously know and embrace the right Kingdom precept and principles and apply them that ye may **prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God**.

The **third command** that Paul gives us in knowing the will of God is like the second but deals with the issue of pride, self-confidence, haughtiness, or hypocritical religiosity. He says to “**think soberly**,”. It is okay to think well of yourself but be cautioned not to think too highly of yourself. It is a **principle of mature balance**. Wisdom and knowledge without humility and soberness can lead to arrogance and haughtiness which brings strife, division and self destruction. It is important to note that Paul continues to say that we should think, relative to the will of God concerning our service, talents, and gifts to Him, to think and serve “according as God hath dealt to **every man the measure of faith**.”

The principle emphasized here is that of distribution. First God is the distributor. You do not choose what gifts, talents, and service to God you are to offer. You are to offer all that God has given you and allow God to choose what He desires to use, when, where, and how He chooses to use them. Second, each and everyone is given both gifts and abilities to serve and to obtain said gifts and abilities. There are some abilities I have acquired to fulfill needs in the House of the Lord that are not necessarily gifts. I am not naturally gifted in them but I seek to excel in them to serve and bring increase to the cause of the Kingdom and fill the gap until God sees otherwise. There is no pressure to perform or compare these to another except to bring increase to them in my service to God and not to man.

And finally, to each is given by God according to “**the measure of faith**”. God does not refer to multiple measures but a single measure. The same faith it took for me to be saved and step out, grow and fulfill my reasonable service to the King is the same **measure of opportunity He distributed to you**. It is not a question of measure. Did one get a greater measure than another. Instead, it is **a question of faith or obedience to employ the principle** of service and increase to the measure given and fulfill the will of God in your life.

The greatest gifts God has given to you is not to sing, dance, or play an instrument but to embrace and apply His precepts and principles in all you say and do. This is the will of God in every life circumstance. (**Read the rest of Romans 12 if time permits**)

Now the true measure of a man or woman's Godliness is found in how you deal with conflict, confrontation, trials, persecution, discouragement and frustration.

(I Chronicles 22) Here is why God chose to build the New Tabernacle after the heart and mind of David. After being told, in **Chapter 17**, that it was **not the will of God** that he build God a house but for Solomon to be the one, David says, “I am okay with that. What can I do? I can prepare and bring increase to my son that he may fulfill to the fullest and most excellent magnitude the perfect will of God.” I will not become frustrated. I will not be discouraged. **It is not about my will but God's will**. To know God's will is to truly desire God's will and not your own and then respond according to Father's precepts and principles. **Can you handle the NO will of God?** Can your flesh handle and will your will submit to the restraints and accountability of His precepts? When the lifestyle of God says don't do that does you will do what it wants to do? Does your mouth

say what it wants to say? Does your heart and mind think on it's own or with the mind of Christ? **Do you embrace what Father values more than what you value in this life? Do you value the will of God in the lives of others more than even your own?** It is to say to God, "I will take whatever you have in me and given to me and use it with humility, bring increase and excellence to it, that I may bless you, bring increase to your Kingdom and continuity for the fulfillment of your ultimate will in the lives of others." David understood that what God had given him was not his own or his own to do with as he desired. As a result, God chose to use the heart and surrendered will of David to fulfill the larger will of God, to model the Spiritual House of God after.

You want to know the will of God for your life? Start with learning first, to know the principles that define God's expectation for living. What is God's ultimate will? For you to live and live as He lives. It is not about the gifts and talents but your perception of them and what you do with them. I know lots of talented people who have no clue of what the will of God is or have no desire to know. Second, take what God has given you and humbly do something with it and bring increase in service to God and God alone. And lastly, submissively allow God to use whatever He has given as He so chooses and not as you desire. **The greatest gift God gave you is LIFE. The greatest talent is to LIVE IT FOR HIM.**

Pray with me, "In this hour, say to Father, teach me your ways Oh Lord that I might know Your will. Reveal in me your heart that your ways may be my gift and reasonable service to you. That I may take your values operating in my life and employ them to bring increase to the lives of others and your Kingdom. Take my talents and make them yours to do with as you so choose, when and where you so choose. Lord, I consecrate and lay at the alter all that is within me and that comes from only You." AMEN