

THE ACTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

CHAPTER 21:1-14

MEDIA REFERENCE NUMBER SM - 213

TITLE:

WHAT IS GOD'S WILL FOR YOUR LIFE?

BEING READY TO SHARE THE LORD

THEME:

Acts 1:8

*"But you shall receive **power** when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and **"you shall be witnesses to Me"** in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."*

Luke is Giving a blow by *blow account of Paul's Missionary Travels*
The book of Acts was Actually written by the Holy Spirit and is Kept by Him too.

2 Timothy 3:16

All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness,

Jesus Himself Said;

John 15:26

"that the Holy Spirit, when He comes, He will **testify of Me.**

&

John 16:13

"when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will **guide you** into all truth... and He will tell you **things to come.**

John 14:26

"But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will **teach you** all things, and **bring to your remembrance** all things that I said to you.

There is a Great debate over

this passage of the Bible whether or not Paul was obedient to God's will

The Debate is because...

Paul makes it very clear what it is what he wants to do!

But Then

So do The Disciples, Their desire is that Paul not go on.

Then There is the clear will of God
revealed in the Bible.

The Debated Views Are

- 1 The Disciples are Wrong for trying to stop Paul *vv. 4-5*
- 2 Paul was wrong for not listening to the disciples *vv. 13-14*

WHAT IS GOD'S WILL FOR YOUR LIFE?

The Pastor who loved to Golf,

That week had been extra hard and not being able to get to the golf course he woke up Sunday morning to a great sunrise, clear skies, birds singing... so he calls the assistant pastor and says "@#&\$#%& am so sick - I've got to get back to bed. instead, he drove an hour out of town to tee off - just then two angels arrived, invisible, sitting in a tree when one of them said 'Watch this' as the pastor teed off and the ball began to soar then the angel took hold of it and flew it around trees into the sand traps and through the lake up over the clubhouse and right into the first hole... 'why did you do that asked the other angel, Who's he going to tell?' was the response*

- If you're a Young Child, it is to obey your parents
- If you're a Teenager, it is to learn respect *Prov 30:17*
- If you're a Young Adult, it is to stay pure
- If you're a Husband or Wife it is to be faithful
- If you're a Parent it is to instruct your child
- If you're a Grandma or Grandpa, it is to impart wisdom
- If you're a Christian, it is to know the Lord

Mark 3:35

"For whoever does the will of God is My brother and My sister and mother."

We can Know and are Expected to find

"WHAT IS GOD'S WILL FOR YOUR LIFE?" & the Bible has the answer!!

1.) Finding God's Will in His Bible vv. 1-4

A. The Holy Spirit was Speaking for Sure vv. 4

"not to go?"

- ALL OF PAUL'S REASONS WERE GODLY REASONS TO GO - SEE 20:16
- HE WAS BOUND BY THE "S"PIRIT TO GO TO JERUSALEM 20:22-23
- HE HAD COUNTED THE COST - 20:24A
- HE HAD RECEIVED A MINISTRY - A RACE, A COURSE 20:24B

Even After All This, Paul had Assurance

Acts 23:1

Then Paul, looking earnestly at the council, said, "Men and brethren, I have lived in all good conscience before God until this day."

B. Good Intentions are Not Always Good Reasons v.4b

They told Paul through the Spirit not to go up to Jerusalem.

His companions were afraid for him.
They didn't want harm to come his way.

But Paul Had The Word of God

Psalms 139:2

You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you recognize my thoughts from far off

"not to go - (without realizing that it will be tough)"

- A Reminder of the Warnings

But Paul Had The Words of Jesus

Paul's Ministry was foretold of... and it was going to be tough

Acts 9:15

Regarding Paul at his conversion, Jesus said "Go, for he is a chosen vessel of Mine to bear My name before Gentiles, kings, and the children of Israel. :16 "For I will show him how many things he **must suffer** for My name's sake."

Be careful that your emotions and feeling do not speak louder than the reviled will of God and His Bible...

"I am leaving my husband because I believe that
God wants me to be happy"

God spoke to me and told me to....

And then the whole thing fails and falls apart and you get bitter
God didn't speak to you - he makes no mistakes

Proverbs 14:12

There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death.

Hebrews 4:12

For the word of God 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.

* **Discerner** *GRK kritikos (krit-ee-kos')*
to judge, to determine a ruling to *critic*.
it's where we get the English word, critical *as in thinking*

The 'Thoughts' and 'Intents' of the Heart "The Center of Human Soul-Personality"

The THOUGHTS;

The Greek Preposition EN is here meaning the inward passions and Fantasies, dreams and wants.

The INTENTS;

the inward reasons, purposes and Ideas

Jeremiah 17:9

"The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked;
who can know it? (God Alone)

Psalm 44:21

Would not God search this out? For He knows the secrets of the heart.

Psalm 119:105

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.

In our Decisions
&
In our Directions

"What is God's Will in All This," is the **Auto pilot** of every True believer. - It is the Nature of a Christian to ask - "What is God's will for My Life?"

I Can Honestly Tell You That

We as a Church or myself as an Individual, the right decisions have been made every time whenever God's will was known about a matter.

- what does the Bible say ?

Not Only Are We to

1.) Find God's Will in His Bible

vv. 1-4

The Second Point is,

2.) There is a Purpose to Fulfilling God's Will

vv. 5-9

Psalm 37:23

The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD, and He delights in his way.

A. God had Confirmed Paul's Direction

The Easy Route is often Not God's Route

Doing the Right Thing is Often Painful

- When I Came to Christ - I lost all my friends

- When I wanted to Share Jesus - I stuttered
- When God called me to leave my career at **BAXTER HEALTHCARE**
*I wept all the way up the 55 fwy, up tustin ave, through the canyon and up Peyton drive
 - got control of myself and blew-up with tears*

We were doing Sunday Mornings & Wednesday Nights & Saturday Men's Mtg. & Friday Morning Prayer & 50-60 hrs a week at Baxter I had hair then, I was in shape, The Pressure to do what was right was a intense

Do You Want to Do God's Will ?

God wants you to do His will
 more than you want to do it yourself

God wants me to do His will
 more than I want to do it myself

God wants this church to do His will
 more than you & I want to do it to it

Philippians 2:13
 for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure.

No, I think Paul was Right

Turn to Acts 24:11,
 Paul went to Worship (That's God's Will)

Acts 24:17,
 Paul went to deliver the Offerings (That's God's Will)

Micah 6:8
 He has shown you, O man, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God?

1.) We Are to Find God's Will in His Bible

vv. 1-4

2.) There is a Purpose in Fulfilling God's Will

vv. 5-9

Finally,

3.) There is Peace in Obeying God's Will

vv. 10-14

Verse 10

A **Certain Prophet** - meaning that he was well known as a seer of God

Back in Chapter 11

:27 And in these days prophets came from Jerusalem to Antioch. :28 Then one of them, named Agabus, stood up and showed by the Spirit that there was going to be a great famine throughout all the world, **which also happened in the days of Claudius Caesar.**

Agabus was Speaking by **the Holy Spirit** using the Gift of Prophecy

Agabus Gave Warning of what will happen.... and it did happen

But Paul Had Peace

1 Peter 4:19

Therefore let those who suffer according to the will of God commit their souls to Him in doing good, as to a faithful Creator.

John 14:27

"Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.

Jeremiah 29:11

For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.

Philippians 3:7

But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ. Phil :8 Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ :9 and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith;

The will of the Lord was done

Paul's Prison Epistles were written

God turned Paul's prison Cell into a Pulpit

Acts 28:30

Then Paul dwelt two whole years in his own rented house, and received all who came to him, :31 preaching the kingdom of God and teaching the things which concern the Lord Jesus Christ with all confidence, no one forbidding him.

Philippians 4:22

All the saints greet you, but especially those who are of Caesar's household.

Resting In His Will

2 Timothy 1:7

For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind. :8 Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me His prisoner, but share with me in the sufferings for the gospel according to the power of God, :9 who has saved us and called us to a holy life-- not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and grace. This grace was given us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time, :10 but it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Savior, Christ Jesus, who has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.

2 Timothy 1:12

For this reason I also suffer these things; nevertheless I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that He is able to keep what I have committed to Him until that Day....

2 Timothy 3:10-12

But you have carefully followed my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, love, perseverance, :11 persecutions, afflictions, which happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra-- what persecutions I endured. **And out of them all the Lord delivered me.** :12 Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution...

2 Timothy 4:5-8

But you be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry. :6 For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure (from earth) is at hand. :7 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. :8 Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.

The Application of the Text

God's Will is, God's Word
God's Word, God's Will is

Imagine,

*If Every Christian would Now Yield to His Will
at the job, in the house, with that appointment, regarding that decision*

the result would be joy unspeakable

GOD'S WILL IS

1 Thessalonians 5:18

in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

1 Thessalonians 4:3

For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication: any form or type of sex outside of a heterosexual marriage

- The Bullock Oriole is down from the north
- The Canadian Geese are returning
- The California Gray whale is heading to Baja

But God's Will is Not Always Done

2 Peter 3:9

The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.

And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; **but he who does the will of God abides forever.** (1 John 2:17 NKJ)

John 6:28-29

Then they said to Him, "What shall we do, that we may work the works of God?" :29 Jesus answered and said to them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He sent."

What if you're not a Christian today, God's will for you is that you make that decision today...

John 6:40

And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: