

18 March 2018

The will of God:
Pt 2 To know His will – first surrender your own will.

This is the second study on our topic – The will of God. In our first study we established that – according to the scriptures God's ways are past finding out, but for those who are "spiritually discerned" (1Cor.2: 14) they can know the will of God by proving His will. In this study we will establish a method to prove the Lord's will where we present our body, be not conformed to this world and renew our mind.

Scriptures upon which this teaching is founded.

1. Present your bodies a living sacrifice unto God.

"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" (Rom.12: 1).

The first step in proving the will of God is to present our bodies before God as a living sacrifice. A sacrifice to the Lord is given unreservedly and as such is "holy and acceptable unto God". The act of offering our bodies is one of surrender. Christ is our perfect example of what it means to present ourselves before God as a living sacrifice where the Lord Jesus offered Himself as a one-off sacrifice and in the process said to the Father "if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done" Lk.22: 42). An act of total surrender to the Father.

2. Be not conformed to this world.

"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" (Rom.12: 2).

The second step in proving the will of God is to be not conformed to this world.

3. Be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind.

"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" (Rom.12: 2).

Rather than being conformed to this world we are to be conformed "to the image of his Son" (Rom. 8: 29). Hence it would not surprise you that the third step in proving the will of God is to be transformed by the renewing of our mind. When we renew something we take off the old and put on the new. And this takes place when we seek to renew the spirit of our mind (Eph.4: 23), where the preceding verse says "put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt" (verse 22) and then verse 23 that follows says "that ye put on the new man" (verse 24).

Applying the teaching to our life today.

I remember at Bible College listening to a testimony of a person who, before they moved in a particular direction of ministry spent months seeking the Lord, on what was His will.

Question to think about.

What is a common theme in each of our three points?

My answer to our question from the scriptures.

The answer is surrender which is evident in the example of our Lord and Saviour – Lk 22:42 "Saying, Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done", and in our illustration.

Each of our three points has an element of "nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done"

i) Presenting ourselves as a living sacrifice is an act of surrender before an Almighty God, and

ii) when we conform NOT to this world we die to the flesh which is of this world, and

iii) when we seek to be transformed by the renewing of our mind we again die to self, and surrender to the will of the Lord. Therefore, to prove the will of God be prepared to surrender what you want, offering your body, being not conformed to this world, and renewing your mind.