

25 March 2018

The will of God: Pt 3 Discern then prove His will.

This is our third teaching on the topic – The will of God. In our previous study we established the need to surrender our will, and in this teaching we establish the need to discern the will of God then prove His good, and acceptable, and perfect will.

Scriptures upon which this teaching is founded.

1. Discern the things of the Spirit of God.

“But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned” (1Cor.2: 14).

Discerning the things of the Spirit of God Includes –

i) asking the Lord, and

“Therefore David enquired of the Lord, saying, Shall I go and smite these Philistines?” (1Sam.23: 2)

ii) listening to the quiet still voice.

“And after the earthquake a fire; but the Lord was not in the fire: and after the fire a still small voice” (1Kg.19: 12).

2. Prove the will of God.

“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).

Proving the will of the Lord is –

i) is no different to proving any other truth, and

“Prove all things; hold fast that which is good” (1Thes.5: 21), c.f. – Acts 24: 13 & 14 – “Neither can they prove the things whereof they now accuse me. But this I confess unto thee, that after the way which they call heresy, so worship I the God of my fathers, believing all things which are written in the law and in the prophets.”

ii) to step out in faith.

“After they were come to Mysia, they assayed to go into Bithynia: but the Spirit suffered them not” (Acts 16: 7), c.f. – 2Cor 5:7 – “(For we walk by faith, not by sight:)”.

Be as certain of knowing God’s will as you would when you prove any other truth, as the scriptures themselves do where they prove “both Jews and Gentiles, that they are all under sin” (Rom.3: 9).

An illustration to help apply the teaching to our life today.

If we assay to take a train into town and the train crashes then one Christian could discern that it was not the will of the Lord whilst another could discern that Satan hindered them.

Question to think about.

Our adversary and his ministers do not “cease to pervert the right ways of the Lord?” (Acts 13: 10), and he attacks, and corrupts our minds (2Cor.11: 3), so how can we ever be sure that our discernment of God’s will is not a corruption of our mind by our adversary?

My answer to our question from the scriptures.

Discernment of the will of God is by faith (2Cor.5: 7), but we can optimise our ability to discern if it is our adversary, or the will of the Lord when we – (i) “die daily” – 1Cor 15:31, (ii) remain “obedient in all things” – 2Cor.2: 9, and (iii) “by the renewing of your mind” (Rom.12: 2).

Let us remember that God knows our mind (Matt.9: 4), He knows whether we earnestly seek Him to know His will, and prove His will. Therefore, IF you do seek, wait, listen, discern then prove His will by stepping out and it is shown to be Satan corrupting your mind, then get back on the bike (so to speak) and do the same again tomorrow, because God is teaching you something, and He will, in His infinite love and mercy, show you His will when you are ready.

And never give up the process of discerning and proving the Lord’s will, remembering that you will be rewarded at the judgment seat of Christ for the good and bad which you do (2Cor.5: 10). So, when you discern then prove the will of God do so with your whole heart. Amen.