

## Small Group & Personal Study Guide

### This Week's Memory Verse: **Philippians 2:13**

It is God who works in you to will and act according to His good purpose.

### This Weeks Daily Reading:

- Day 1 - Ephesians 1 (His will = verse 9 & 11)
- Day 2 - Colossians 1 (His will = verse 9)
- Day 3 - 1 Thessalonians 4 (God's will = verse 3)
- Day 4 - 1 Thessalonians 5 (God's will = verse 18)
- Day 5 - 1 Peter 2 (God's will = verse 15)

### Small Group Questions:

Henry Blackaby, in his book, *Experiencing God*, points out that if you ask the wrong question you may get the wrong answer. We often ask, "What is God's will for my life?" but the first question we should ask is, "What is God's will?" In this week's study we are going to spend time identifying God's will. Then we will apply that truth to your life as you examine your own willingness, desire to know God's word, inner peace from the Holy Spirit, counsel from godly people around you, and the circumstances God has placed upon your life.

Once I know God's will, then I can adjust my life to Him. In other words, what is it that God is purposing where I am? Once I know what God is doing, then I know what I need to do. The focus needs to be on God, not my life. Jesus understood this truth and taught us in as recorded in John 5:17, 19-20.

1. After reading through the scriptures this week what would you determine to be God's will?

Answers will vary based upon what God is revealing to each person. Allow everyone to share openly. What I get from God's word is that it is His will that I live a life of worship to Him. My worship comes in many forms. (service, love, obedience, holiness, righteousness...)

2. If you had to list five things that are required to live within God's will what would they be? (Again, answers will vary. No right or wrong as there may be far more things or maybe just one thing to sum up God's will)

- (1) Seek To Know and Love Him More
- (2) Obey His Word
- (3) Bring Him Glory by My Actions and My Service
- (4) Repent and Turn From Sin
- (5) Make Him the Center and Purpose of My Life

3. After making this list (question 2), are any of these points things that God is convicting you of that you are not currently following in His will for your life?

This is personal but allow people to share as they are willing. Be ready to pray if needed. For some, making God the center of our lives is difficult because we have built in so many priorities before Him. For others, a specific sin continues to keep us from living according to His will. In this case we need to experience repentance. Repentance is more than just confessing and accepting forgiveness. That is the first step. Repentance is forsaking the sin, allowing God to take away the desire to sin.

4. After reviewing this list (question 2), has God's direction for your life been clarified? If so, how?

This will be no means give clear direction but as we move away the barriers to knowing and doing God's will, we will be able to respond in action.

One of my favorite all time Bible Studies is *Experiencing God*. It has shaped my spiritual life and understanding of how God works. I highly recommend this 12-week study but be warned, it is very challenging and it might change your life forever. The subtitle of the book is, “*knowing and doing the will of God*”. In this study, Henry Blackaby teaches about the seven realities to experiencing God.

1. God is always at work around you.
2. God pursues a continuing love relationship with you that is real and personal.
3. God invites you to become involved with Him in His work.
4. God speaks by the Holy Spirit through the Bible, prayer, circumstances, and the church to reveal Himself, His purposes, and His ways.
5. God’s invitation for you to work with Him always leads you to a crisis of belief that requires faith and action.
6. You must make major adjustments in your life to join God in what He is doing.
7. You come to know God by experience’s you obey Him and He accomplishes His work through you.