

## Decisions, Decisions

### What is integrity?

1. Sameness between what you say (Proverbs 19:1)
2. Sameness between what you say and do (Proverbs 10:9)
3. Sameness between what you say and do and read (Proverbs 13:6)

**Wherever you go, let a sameness of godly character lead the way.**

#### Additional thoughts on the Will of God:

The will of God is not something you discover. It is something you discern and do in obedience to God's Word (what you read).

#### *Discern:*

Romans 12:1-2 (NKJV)

<sup>1</sup> I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, *which is* your reasonable service. <sup>2</sup> And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what *is* that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

On what basis do we discern?

#### **1. On the basis of what we read in the Bible:**

1 Thessalonians 4:3 (NKJV)

<sup>3</sup> For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you should abstain from sexual immorality;

1 Thessalonians 5:18 (NKJV)

<sup>18</sup> in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

1 Peter 2:15 (NKJV)

<sup>15</sup> For this is the will of God, that by doing good you may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men—

#### **2. On the basis of what we observe as viable needs**

2 Corinthians 8:3-5 (NKJV)

<sup>3</sup> For I bear witness that according to *their* ability, yes, and beyond *their* ability, *they were* freely willing, <sup>4</sup> imploring us with much urgency that we would receive the gift and the fellowship of the

ministering to the saints. <sup>5</sup> And not *only* as we had hoped, but they first gave themselves to the Lord, and *then* to us by the will of God.

### 3. On the basis of the refinement we learn from suffering

1 Peter 4:1-2 (NKJV)

<sup>1</sup> Therefore, since Christ suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same mind, for he who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin, <sup>2</sup> that he no longer should live the rest of *his* time in the flesh for the lusts of men, but for the will of God.

#### *Do:*

Mark 3:35 (NKJV)

<sup>35</sup> **For whoever does the will of God is My brother and My sister and mother."**

Ephesians 6:5-8 (NKJV)

<sup>5</sup> Bondservants, be obedient to those who are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in sincerity of heart, as to Christ; <sup>6</sup> not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but as bondservants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart, <sup>7</sup> with goodwill doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men, <sup>8</sup> knowing that whatever good anyone does, he will receive the same from the Lord, whether *he is* a slave or free.

We should also say something about the call of God. This is a special and unique function of His Will.

#### *Call:*

Most frequent reference to the will of God:

1 Corinthians 1:1 (NKJV)

<sup>1</sup> Paul, called *to be* an apostle of Jesus Christ through the will of God, and Sosthenes *our* brother,

(see also 2 Cor 1.1; Eph 1.1; Col 1.1; 2 Tim 1.1)

God calls men to be pastors. It is an office filled not on the basis of academic qualifications, but on the basis of God's setting aside – as evidenced by character and giftedness.

#### *Rewarded:*

All those who do God's will are rewarded.

Hebrews 10:36-39 (NKJV)

<sup>36</sup> For you have need of endurance, so that after you have done the will of God, you may receive the promise: <sup>37</sup> *"For yet a little while, And He who is coming will come and will not tarry. <sup>38</sup> Now the just shall live by faith; But if anyone draws back, My soul has no pleasure in him."* <sup>39</sup> But we are not of those who draw back to perdition, but of those who believe to the saving of the soul.

1 John 2:17 (NKJV)

<sup>17</sup> And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.