

Message Study Guide

(Scriptures & quotes from this week's message are available on thorncreek.church/live)

Warming up

1. Look up Bethany Hamilton's story. Why do you think she is able to do what she does? (She is a remarkable surfer who loves Jesus and underwent a traumatic experience.)

2. Have you ever surfed? If so, what was the most difficult thing about surfing? Pastor Ruben said, "Catching a wave is a lot like identifying the purpose of God for your life. You have to paddle when nobody's looking, identify where God is moving, then surrender to God's will." Outside of a "feeling", how do you determine God's will for your life?

Digging Deeper & Application

Take your time reading the scripture given. If possible look up the verses in different versions and pause at each verse and discuss it.

3. Randy Alcorn said, "The will of God is not wrapped up in the details of what we do, but the character of who we are. It is not just the large choices, but the daily small choices that cumulatively build us into who God wants us to be." Does this quote make sense to you? Do you agree or disagree with it?

4. Please read Proverbs 3:5-6.
 - a. What does it mean to "trust the Lord with all your heart?"

 - b. Compare this quote with Psalm 37:4. What does the word "delight" mean?

5. According to John 6:29; 40, what is the first will of God?

6. Proverbs 3:5 says, "Do not lean on your understanding."
 - a. The question is, not whether we shall use reason, but what are its limits of reasoning?

 - b. Shall we accept only what we can understand and explain, and refuse all which does not fit in our reason?

 - c. Are there times when God's will doesn't match up with our reasoning?

- d. What do you do in those situations?

7. Read Proverbs 19:21; and Psalm 119:105. What does this say about God's will?

8. Read Romans 8:28 and Acts 13:36. What do these verses say about God's will for your life?

Application

Below are some of the points, scripture, or quotes shared in the message.

Discuss how they apply to your life.

- "Dwelling on God's plan for the future often excuses us from faithful and sacrificial living now. It tends to create a safe zone of sorts, where we can sit around and have 'spiritual' conversations about what God 'might' have planned for our lives. Thinking, questioning and talking can take the place of letting the Spirit affect our immediate actions in radical ways."
- Francis Chan

- "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight." (Proverbs 3:5-6, NASB)

- God's will does not necessarily mean an absence of pain, comfort, ease, or convenience. It almost always involves change, pain, hurt, and perseverance. It challenges your understanding.

- "In exercising faith — trusting fully in the Lord and not leaning on our own understanding — we're not setting aside our intellect. We're resting our intellect upon the intellect of God. Nothing is wiser or saner. To do so is to allow him to direct our paths, which not only lead to ultimate joy, but also make the journey itself, even when laden with sorrow, joyful. And it preserves for us all the pleasures God provides us in the world. To not do this is the height of foolishness and the path to misery." - Jon Bloom