

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP – **Discovering God's Will for Your Life.**

Session two – November 19, 2013

God's Will is Relationship

“Whoever does the will of God, is my brother and my sister and mother”

Clearing the cobwebs: What relationships in your life have most shaped your Christian walk? What did these people help you to see?

Have you ever had to fill out a form? You know the kind: name, birthdates, Addresses and phone numbers. Then there comes a line that is always cause for pause. “What is your religious affiliation?” With furrowed eyebrows, I think back and consider my options. Some of my first memories are of long wooden pews and stained-glass windows. Then my parents enthusiastically switched to a completely different church where hands were raised and worship was rather rowdy. Then, as a preteen, I was sent to a conservative school where boys' hairlines and girls' hemlines were strictly monitored. If Christians were given pedigrees, I would be considered a mutt.

So how do we fill in the blank? Do the makers of these lists really want that much information? Do they care? So do we declare a denominational preference? With a sigh, I carefully print the word *Christian* on the form.

The makers of such lists simply categorize us as an adherence to one of the many different religious groups out there. They have no idea what that single word entails. We are not just Christians, as opposed to people of other religious groups. We are Christians—chosen, forgiven, redeemed, saved, changed, filled, sealed, adopted, and thankful. To them, it is the answer to a fill in the blank question. To us, it is everything. Christianity is not just a religion—it is a relationship.

1. God has promised to fill in the blanks in our relationships. He is a parent to the orphan, a husband to the widow, a friend to the lonely, a brother to the believer. Doing God's will secures our relationship with God. How has God met your need for Him?

2. Look up **Mark 3:35**. What kind of relationship results from doing the will of God?

Sheila Walsh: *If I could say only one thing, it would be simple and to the point. God knows all about you. He knows our good days and your bad days. He knows the noble thoughts and the shameful thoughts. He sees your devotion and your indifference. And, He loves you—totally, completely, passionately, boundlessly, forever.*

3. So you are a believer and you have a relationship with God. Great! The next logical question seems to be “So what do I *do* now? The answer is surprising! **John 6:29** says, “The work God wants you to do is this: Believe the one He sent. God wants believers to *believe* him. What does that mean?

4. If we really take God seriously and take Jesus at His word, how should our beliefs affect our everyday lives? Have you allowed what you believe to transform you?

Luci Swindoll: *Getting into heaven isn't dependent on our doing anything correctly, praise God! Redemption rests on the finished work of Christ on the cross. When Jesus died, he did so for you and me and our deceitful heart that can never get it right.*

Sometimes a parent can look into the face of their child and they are struck to the very core of their being with love. The emotion is so intense that it almost hurts, and often that sweet sting brings tears to the eyes. Mother-love must be one of the strongest feelings possible, It can cause moms to do the strangest things

Yet God loves us *more* than that. “In His goodness, He chose to make us His own children by giving us His true word. And we, out of all creation, became his choice possession.” (James 1:18) He did some pretty wild things on our behalf too. How astonishing to find the Master of the universe taking

time to build relationships with friends and disciples. “No longer do I call you servants . . . but I have called you friends.” (Matt 15:15) That hand of friendship has been extended to us as well.

5. Look up **1 Timothy 2:4**. This is a pretty clear statement of what God wants. What does Paul say here?

6. In fact, God is so anxious for our salvation that he is allowing time to pass so that more and more of us can become Christians. According to **Matthew 18:14**, what does Jesus say is *not* God’s will?

7. Don’t you get frustrated with people who can’t seem to read a clock? The kids dilly-dally around when their rooms need tidying. Our less than punctual friends can’t seem to remember what time we agreed to meet at the park. Peter faced people who were criticizing God for being too slow. Look up 2 Peter 3:9. Is this a case of pokiness? Who can you think of that can still benefit from God’s delay?

As a Christian, the spirit is drawing you in God’s direction. There is a longing for His Word, for prayer. Those are the building blocks of a relationship. And a divine one at that. Thought you cannot see this new Father, this new Brother, this new Friend, there is no doubt about his presence. He has chosen you, and welcomes you to know him better. God assures us, He has a plan for our lives. A purpose in our place here.

Though his purposes may only become clear to you in hindsight, you can walk forward in confidence. He who has led you safely thus far will surely lead you on.

8. Many women have taken **Jeremiah 29:11** as their life's verse. Look it up. Why do God's words here bring us such comfort and confidence?

9. What is another aspect of God's will as found in **1 Corinthians 1:1**?

Patsy Clairmont: There is no guarantee that if we had done a part of our lives differently things would end up any different. We have to trust the God of the universe who directs the outcome of all things that he will do that which ultimately needs to be done (In spite of us if necessary).

10. Calling does not always entail full-time Christian ministry. Some women are called to be wives and mothers. Others are called to be friends, helpers, encouragers, intercessors, listeners, teachers, advisors, protectors, leaders, and motivators. Do you feel a calling of God in your life? What niche have you found in this season of life?

Trinket to treasure: The trinket is a reminder of the lesson that we share together. It will serve to remind you of the things you have learned.

Closing Prayer: Dear Lord, tonight we have pondered how we can have a relationship with an unseen God. Show us ways to make that relationship real as it might be with an earthly friend or companion. We can do our part by going for a prayer walk, or journaling our prayers, singing a hymn while we do our daily chores, or even composing an email to God. Help us to do our part for we know that in so doing, we will have a more personal relationship with you. Amen