**Mike Hipes – Facebook Lesson, August 5, 2020**

Good afternoon!

What is God’s will for your life? Can you know that you are in the center of God’s will? The bible says, “understand what the will of the Lord is.” Ephesians 5:17 “Be filled with the knowledge of His will.” Colossians 1:9. Have you ever thought, I wish God would just send me a note, or a clear sign so that I could know for sure what direction He wants to lead me? Some folks have used some interesting methods in attempts to clarify God’s will in their lives. Where some of us make lists of pro’s and con’s some people use other ways to attempt to read His will in certain situations. One lady was contemplating a trip to the Holy Lands. The brochure said that she would be flying on a 747 Jumbo Jet. When she woke up the next morning and glanced at her digital clock it read 7:47 am. That was her sign from God! Incredible! A college student needed a car. He didn’t know which one God wanted him to buy, but as a Christian, he wanted to do God’s will. One night he had a series of dreams where everything in his dreams were yellow. The next day as he was looking through the used car lot, you guessed it, he came across a car that was yellow inside and out. Amazing! Without even giving it a test drive, he bought the car! Is this and other similar methods, really the way God would have us to know His will?

Before I share with you at least three ways to better understand God’s will in our lives let me first ask you to consider the following. The will of God in our lives may not be so much an end goal or mission He has called us to as much as it is about the process or journey itself! Romans 8:29 tells us that God wants us “to become conformed to the image of His Son.” He is the Potter and we are the clay, shaping us as we go. Philippians 1:6 says “He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus.” Clearly an ongoing process here! God’s will in our lives includes the journey, our daily walk and the developing of our lives in Christ! Sometimes this is the goal!

What was God’s plan or goal or mission for Moses? You may say, to bring God’s people out of slavery in Egypt and into Canaan land. But Moses didn’t make it in? However, along the way, on the journey what happened to Moses? He went from a weak, scared, excuse giving person to a mighty man of God! Maybe the goal was the journey to maturity bringing God’s people to the border of the promised land, not necessarily to enter the land. I could go on with different biblical examples but I think you get the idea at this point.

In biblical times God revealed His will in a number of ways. In both the new and old testaments at times God used miraculous events to reveal His will. Through a burning bush, He gave direction. By opening the Red Sea as to which way to go. Gideon put out a fleece to gain clarity, Peter being rescued from prison by angels showed that it was time to leave. There are still plenty more examples here as well. He can do the same today if chooses.

However, let’s look at three helps to attaining God’s will in our lives today:

1. Knowing the will of God through the scriptures. God’s holy word gives us direct insight into the will of God Himself. Without a doubt, the word of God is the most important factor in finding God’s will. It is God speaking to us directly! Psalm 32:8 says, “I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go.” Psalm 119:105 tells us It is “a lamp to our feet and a light to our path.” When it comes to every area of living from parenting, purity, lifestyles, attitude, condition of our hearts, salvation, work, outreach, money, giving, laws of the land and everything in between, God’s will is clearly revealed in this book!

2. Knowing God’s will through prayer. Prayer is not just another way of communicating with God but with prayer, we ask and find direction resulting in peace with our hearts. Philippians 4:6-7 tells us to let our requests be made to God and His peace will guard our hearts and minds. When you pray for direction a factor to consider in keeping with His will is, are you at peace with the decision. Is it consistent with His word? Colossians 1:9-10 Paul prayed for the Christians to be filled with the knowledge of His will. James 1:5 says, ask God for wisdom and he will give it to you generously! God wants us to know His will! Ask and it shall be given to you, seek and you shall find, knock and it will be opened for you is what Matthew 7:7-8 tells us about praying.

3. Knowing the will of God through the Holy Spirit. I Corinthians 2:10 tells us that “the Spirit searches all things, even the depths of God.” The Holy Spirit knows the very will and depths of God the Father. We are told to be led by or walk by the Spirit in Galatians 5:16-25. In other words, yield to or submit to the leading of the Holy Spirit and not the flesh. Praise the Lord for the Holy Spirit of God who leads us in His will! The Holy Spirit is continually speaking to our conscience guided by the word of God seeking to reveal God’s will to us. All we need to do is submit to His prodding! That person at work you have been meaning to talk to, that apology you’ve been withholding, that sin you have been hiding, that phone call you need to make, that forgiveness you need to ask for, that son or daughter you need to spend time with, that wife or husband you need to show attention to. The list goes on! Is the Holy Spirit prodding you to do His will? Sometimes knowing His will is as plain as the nose on our faces. But it’s submitting to His will that is what we really need to do!

In His service,

Mike