CALL to PRAYER -

Ask the Father for the Spirit - Luke 11:13

<u>Intro</u> – I have heard that a most FAQ is, "What is God's will for my life?" Today is part 3 of "Discerning God's Will." We have noted the process/way to find God's will....it is the way of repentance – Rom. 12:2. Going in the opposite direction of the world is the way to find God's will. The path is not the "well-beaten path." Last week we addressed living in the light of God's will when we are in dark. How do we act on the unknown? Well, What God hasn't spelled out He has left for us to figure out. God gave us a will, and we can do as we please within the parameters of God revealed will. Today we begin to give some specifics and next week we will give more -(Heb. 6:3). I hope you leave here today with four things that you know is God's will for your life.

Ephesians 5:15-21 - Discerning God's Will - part 3

GOD'S WILL CAN BE UNDERSTOOD

- We are to make good use of our time by taking time to understand God's will.
 - o Eph. 5:15-17 Don't waste time, but take time to understand.
 - O Is finding God's will worth your effort? Important enough to devote time to it? Prov. 2:3-5
 - It is foolish not to try and find out Eph. 5:17
 - "If your phone was your Bible." (video) Scripture -v-screens
- God's will can be understood

0	We must crave it -	John 4:34	(Matt. 5:6)
0	We should pray for it -	Col. 1:9	(Col. 4:12)
0	We can learn it -	Eph. 5:10	

- God's Word is God's will
 - o Psalm 119:105 Psalm 25:4-5

WHAT IS GOD'S WILL FOR MY LIFE?

After we are told to understand what the will of the Lord is...there is a list. This cluster of items is part of God's will for us to implement.

Four specific items to implement in your life

1. <u>It is God's will that you be Spirit filled.</u>

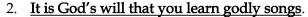
Eph. 5:18

- a. To "be filled" means to be controlled or influenced by. (example used is drunkenness)
 - i. We are not to be filled with wine to the extent that it influences us
 - 1. We are not to be "under the influence" or drunk
 - ii. When someone is "under the influence" there is a change to their:
 - 1. Walk Talk Actions
- b. Being filled with the Spirit means that we are under His control & guidance

i. He is to influence our Walk Gal. 5:16 (Eph. 4:1; 5:15)

ii. He is to influence our Talkiii. He is to influence our ActionsGal. 5:22-25

c. We are to be filled and controlled with the Spirit...not with substances



- Do we know more godly songs or worldly songs? a. Eph. 5:19
 - i. We are well disciple and catechized by the world its songs & sayings
- b. Three types of songs to learn
 - i. Psalms
 - 1. There are 150 of them all inspired by God the Holy Spirit
 - 2. Be filled with His words and let them influence your words
 - ii. Hymns
 - 1. If you need a hymnal, we can get you one use in your devotions
 - iii. Spiritual Songs
- c. We are to learn them to share them. "...speaking to one another in..."
 - i. A Christians conversation should have some gospel saturation.
 - ii. Don't just talk about the trivial....mention the spiritual.
 - 1. Sports/weather/politics...are ok...but don't let it dominate
- d. It is God's will that you learn a godly song and then bring it up in conversation to encourage someone in our most holy faith.

3. It is God's will that you be grateful

- Eph. 5:20
- Thankfulness is to characterize the Christian's life
 - i. We are to give thanks for **ALL THINGS**, and we are to do so at **ALL TIMES**.
 - ii. Gratefulness should be an all-encompassing characteristic.
 - 1. Even our prayer requests should have imbedded thanks Phil. 4:6
- Being ungrateful characterizes the ungodly
 - i. Rom. 1:21
- d. Not generic thanks but specific thanks.

Trinitarian thanks

- i. Eph. 5:20 "...in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God, even the Father"
- ii. Not to thank our luck stars, our good fortune...we are to thank GOD
 - 1. We are not just to be grateful, ,but grateful to God...the only true God...Trinitarian God
- iii. The world doesn't want us to mention that NAME Acts 4:18
- iv. Be openly Trinitarian in your thanks. It is God's will that you are grateful to HIM

4. It is God's will that you be last.

- a. Eph. 5:21
- b. God's will for your greatness is for you to be a great servant.
 - Mark 9:35

Mark 10:44-45

humiliation is the path to exaltation

- c. It is God's will for you to put yourself last.
 - i. Philippians 2:3-4
- 1 Corinthians 10:24
- ii. Husbands say to yourself,
- "She is more important than me."
- iii. Wives say to yourself,
- "He is more important than me."
- "They are more important than me." iv. Everybody...look around and say, d. Be subject to one another in the fear of Christ.
 - It is God's will for your life

Put all four of these into practice this week.