

Come As You Are (CAYA) Service  
Wednesday, November 2, 2011  
Rev. Howard-John Wesley  
Alfred Street Baptist Church

## Thy Will Be Done: Discerning and Doing the Will of God

Scripture Reference - **Matthew 7:13-23 (ESV)**

[15] “Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves.  
[16] You will recognize them by their fruits. Are grapes gathered from thornbushes, or figs from thistles?  
[17] So, every healthy tree bears good fruit, but the diseased tree bears bad fruit.  
[18] A healthy tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a diseased tree bear good fruit.  
[19] Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.  
[20] Thus you will recognize them by their fruits.  
[I Never Knew You]  
[21] “Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.  
[22] On that day many will say to me, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?’  
[23] And then will I declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.’

Life living in the D.M.V.

- love the culture, food, people, etc.
- the traffic - it's not road rage, but it's highway anger
  - Tuning in to 103.9 WTOP will help you navigate the traffic, better
  - Tuning in the will of God to navigate your life! It can keep your holiness up!
  - When you obey that will, it will lower your stress level.
- Understanding what God's will for our life is one of the most critical things that we've got to do in our early years
  - the better our life will be when we do this!

Question: How do we discover what God's will is for our life?

For every decision what we make, the God and the devil have alternatives

- the alternatives are not always evil
  - they are just against God's perfect choice/will for you
- At a certain point, evil should not tempt you
  - identify what temps you
  - the devil will always want you to choose what is good over what is perfect

Three Truths About God's Will

1. He has a will for your life
  - There is not decision that we have to make that is so trivial that God does not have a say so
  - There is no decision that is inconsequential
2. He wants you to know His will for you
  - Jeremiah 29:11
  - Things get tricky because we think the longer we walk with God, the easier it ought to be to discern God's will

### 3. Discerning requires desiring

- 🎧 The more God will demand the longer you walk with Him
- 🎧 Question: How badly do you really want to do God's will?
- 🎧 We want to do what we want to do, when we want to do it, THEN get right with God (NOT!)
- 🎧 God will never reveal to you what you've already determined you aren't going to do anyway
  - 🎧 God is searching for those that say, "Whatever you want me to do, God, I'll do" not "I'll do this in XX years"
  - 🎧 There is nothing wrong with telling God what we want, as long we do what He wants from us
  - 🎧 Proverbs 14:12 - there may be a way that SEEMS right to us, but leads to dead-ends

Question: How do we know what God wants us to do at any given moment? How do we tune in to what God is doing? How do we make a choice when all of the options look good?

### Four Fundamental Ways that God Reveals His Will to Us

NOTE: They are not all the same; there is a hierarchy and each level is subject to the authority/level above it

*(starting at the bottom)*

#### **Level Four:** External Confirmation

- 🎧 Via other people and other things; be in tuned to the people and circumstances that are around you.
  - 🎧 When the sacred preaching/teaching comes, you aren't hearing God, you are hearing that person preaching/teaching. You come prayerfully, that God is speaking through them, to get to us.
  - 🎧 We all need folk around who aren't playing with God in our lives.
    - 🎧 You aren't smart enough to figure out God by yourself
- 🎧 God will also speak through other things
  - 🎧 God can release us from a situation that can change our path
- 🎧 Rejection
- 🎧 Repeated pain

#### **Level Three:** Prayerful Revelation

- 🎧 What God speaks and shows you through other people and things, should be CONFIRMATION, not revelation
- 🎧 God, primarily, speaks to us through our private prayer life
  - 🎧 Stop listening to other folks and what they tell you
  - 🎧 You will mess yourself up listening to what others tell you about you
  - 🎧 Radio signals are broadcast - God is always broadcasting His will; if you don't have a prayer life, you will be subject to not hearing what GOD is saying
    - 🎧 You are always going to misinterpret or over-interpret external confirmation
    - 🎧 You'll be dependent on others for others God's will on your life
  - 🎧 If God hasn't spoken to you in your prayer life, don't fall for what others say to you
  - 🎧 When you talk to God, God will talk to you; He will speak to your heart
    - 🎧 God speaks to us in several ways
      - 🎧 dreams (happens in the midst of a sleep)
      - 🎧 visions (you see things that haven't happened)
      - 🎧 passions (the things that drive you and make you get up in the morning)
        - 🎧 When you are doing what God has called you to do, you cannot be miserable

● Sound judgement (you are smart for a reason) - the ability to rationally contemplate what is in front of you and make a decision



### Level Two: Biblical Declarations

- God's word overrides your prayer life
  - God will never reveal to you in prayer what is contradictory to His word
- Some of us are biblically illiterate - we don't go into studying the word of God
- Some of us are frustrated with God, but haven't take the time to read the textbook (the Bible)
  - There are some things that you don't have to pray about because God has already told you
    - Fornication is one of them (BE REAL)!
    - Tithing is another (wasting your time praying on this one)
  - There are no mysteries when you are deep in God's word
    - There are all types of spirits that can speak to your spirit
    - When you are in God's word, you can hear His voice
- We should refuse to receive anything that is contrary to God's word

### Level One: Christological Manifestation

- You can't hear anything from God until you get your Jesus right
- Until you understand what God is doing on the cross of Calvary, everything else will be misinterpreted
- In Jesus, God has removed the mask of mystery - there is no confusion
- Every other way of God's revelation cannot be understood without getting your Jesus right
  - Hebrews 6
- Jesus declares that whatever you pray, you pray in His name and if you don't understand Him.....
- Everybody you know can't interpret Bible for you correctly!
- We should know what we know about Jesus, not just quote the Bible
- We should believe that He died for our sins, etc.
- Question: Do you understand what God was doing on the cross?
- If you can understand your Jesus correctly, that is where your journey starts! AMEN!

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### Announcements

● *CAYA New Years Eve Event* - please make sure you are on the CAYA, ASBC Singles and/or ASBC YAM listserv(s). There will be random raffles over the next two months for those who purchase tickets online. More information coming soon, via the listserv(s) above.

● *December CAYA* - being a Christian in a multi-faith world

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