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Bethel Baptist Church
Bible Study and Discussion Group
Topic: “Experiencing God”
Textbook: “Experiencing God (2021 Edition): Knowing and Doing the Will of God”
Handout #3

Brief Review and Questions from Last Week

Chapter 3 – “Doing God’s Will”
“My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me and to finish His work,” Jesus told them. (John 4:34)

Intro. – “Doing Things for God” – Claude King’s Example

I. The Wrong Question

- A. Jesus considered God’s will to be His highest priority. (see John 4:32-34)
- B. If you ask the wrong question, you are going to get the wrong answer.
 - a. Wrong question: “What is God’s will for my life?”
 - b. Better question: “What is God’s will?”
- C. Once you know God’s will, then your life gains its proper perspective, and you can adjust your life to Him and His purposes.
- D. Our focus needs to be outward toward God, not inward on self.
- E. Discovering God’s greater plan helps you know what He wants to do through you.

II. Don’t Just Do Something

- A. We are industrious people. We always want to accomplish something...
- B. “Sometimes individuals or churches are so busy carrying out plans they think will help achieve God’s purposes that they don’t bother to find out what He actually wants. We often wear ourselves out and accomplish little for the kingdom.
- C. “Rest in the Lord and wait patiently for Him” (Ps. 37:7)
 - a. God is crying out to us: “Don’t just do something. Stand there...”
 - b. A time will come for action, don’t short-circuit the relationship.
 - c. Your relationship with God must come first.
 - d. Out of our walk with God, He accomplishes His plans for our world.

D. New Testament Teachings:

- a. Jesus said, “Abide in Me and bear much fruit. Without Me you can do nothing.” (Pastor’s paraphrase of John 15:5)
- b. Paul wrote, “people’s works will be tested by fire”, (1 Cor. 3:13)
- c. Blackaby’s comments on abiding with Christ/God, “If you are experiencing a time of spiritual dryness in your life, you may be trying to do things on your own that God has not initiated. However, when you abide in Christ, you will be amazed at what God accomplishes through your life...”
- d. Jesus’ advice for those who are weary...(Matt. 11;28-30)

III. God Pursues a Love Relationship

- A. Blackaby disagrees with people’s suggestion that God give us general directions and then turns us loose to work out the details of our lives.
- B. God’s intention is to have a love relationship with each of us.
- C. God calls you to a relationship in which He is Lord – where you are willing to do and be anything He chooses.
- D. God does not give us a plan and abandon us to work it out. The pattern and emphasis of Scripture is a daily walk with Him in which He gives new assignments and then works through us to accomplish them.
- E. Don’t focus on your talents, abilities, and interests to determine God’s will. Instead, seek God’s will and watch Him equip you for whatever assignment He gives.

IV. The Way – Jesus said, “I am the way...” (John 14:6)

- A. The Farmer Was My Map
- B. Jesus Is Your Way
 - a. The Lord doesn’t send us off like an errand boy. He intends to accompany us on the journey. He wants us to continually heed His voice and go with Him one day at a time...
 - b. Jesus knows the way; He is your way.
 - c. Can you trust God to lead you?
 - d. Authors, “When I focus on my relationship with God, out of that divine fellowship God shares His heart with me...”
- C. The Example of Abraham – Abraham Followed God One Day at a Time
- D. Few Details at First
 - a. God often calls people to follow Him with giving them all the details at the beginning.
 - b. God invites people to follow Him step by step.

- c. God does not want your life to depend on a plan or an income or a person or anything else. He wants you to trust Him.
- d. Throughout Scripture, God seldom gave the same amount of detail to each person as He revealed His will...In each case people had to remain close to God for their guidance...God wants us to enter each day seeking Him. Out of that relationship, we will experience Him guiding our lives.

Summary

Experiencing God Today

Questions for Reflection

- Have you struggled to know God's will? If so, what has been your biggest challenge?
- Are you satisfied with your relationship with Christ, or do you constantly feel the need to be doing something for Him?
- How have you experienced God working through your life as you have been abiding in Christ?
- Are you content to follow God one day at a time, or do you become anxious if you do not know where God is leading you in the future? If so, why is that?