

Dr. Edward O. Williamson, Pastor-teacher
Bethel Baptist Church
Bible Study and Discussion Group
Topic: “Experiencing God”
Textbook: “Experiencing God (2021 Edition): Knowing and Doing the Will of God”
Handout #4

Opening Discussion Time:

- Lent
- Current Issues – Roland Martin on YouTube TV -- “The State of Our Nation”
- Questions

Emphasis for March – “Lordship”

- What do you think about “Lordship”?
- Thoughts on sermon: “Following Jesus: A Lesson On Lordship”/Luke 5:1-11
- Devotional readings for the month:
 - “Who Is Jesus?”
 - “What Jesus Said About His Lordship”
 - “Jesus Christ Is Lord of All”
 - “Exercising God’s Rule In Your Life”
 - “Go Do Say Give: The Freedom of Surrender To Jesus”

Brief Review and Completion of 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”

I. The Wrong Question

II. Don’t Just Do Something

III. God Pursues a Love Relationship

- A. 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.
- B. 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. Jesus Is Your Way

- a. “When I focus on my relationship with God, out of that divine fellowship God shares His heart with me...”

B. Abraham followed God One Day At A Time...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.

Chapter 4 – “Being God’s Servant”

“If anyone serves Me, he must follow Me. Where I am, there My servant also will be. If anyone serves Me, the Father will honor him.” (John 12:26)

Intro. “Back On Track”

- Key points
 - To participate in God’s work you must be a servant.
 - While an ordinary servant labors for his master, God works through His servants.
 - Jeremiah’s Visit To The Potter’s House (Jer. 18:1-6). God is the Potter and we are the clay...To be useful, clay has to be pliable. Once it is made into a vessel, its usefulness is still subject to the discretion of the potter.

I. Divine Master and Human Servant

- a. Service to God is different...
- b. God will work in you before He works through you...
- c. God’s servants must do two things: (1) be moldable and (2) remain available.
- d. When God works through His servant, that person can do anything God chooses to do through his or her life. The potential is unlimited.
- e. Servanthood requires obedience. Servants of God must do what they are told, and they must remember who is accomplishing the work – God...

- f. Change your perspective: You don't receive orders, then go and carry them out to the best of your knowledge and ability. You relate to God, respond to Him, and adjust your life to Him so He will do what He wants through you.

“Today our world does not need to see what we can do, but people desperately need to witness what God want to accomplish through us.”

II. Ordinary People

a. Elijah the Servant

1. Elijah's challenge to the prophets of Baal
2. Elijah had to remain close to God and do whatever the Lord commanded (required obedience)
3. When God did something only He could do, all the people knew He was the true God.
4. Because Elijah made his life available for God's use, God did a powerful work that impacted the nation.

b. Peter and John; D. L. Moody; John the Baptist...

1. Most people we read about in the Scriptures were ordinary men and women. Their relationships with God and God's activity in their lives made them extraordinary.
2. Anyone who enters into an intimate relationship with God can see God do exceptional things through his or her life. The outcome does not depend upon a person being unusually gifted, educated, or wealthy. The key is the indwelling presence of God doing unusual things through a willing servant.

c. Key points:

1. God delights in using ordinary people to accomplish His divine purposes.
2. When God does exceptional things through unexceptional people, then others recognize that only God could have done it.
3. If you feel weak, limited, and ordinary, take heart! You are the best material through which God can work.

Summary & Questions
Read Chapter 5 Next
Closing Prayer