

Scripture: Psalm 143:1-12

Notes: We have talked a lot about surrendering our will to God about living according to God's will. In order to do that we need to understand what God's will is. Most of the time we seek to follow God completely when we have exhausted our resources.

I. Accept we need God's help to live. (1-4) Hear my prayer, O LORD, Give ear to my supplications: In thy faithfulness answer me, and in thy righteousness. And enter not into judgment with thy servant: For in thy sight shall no man living be justified. For the enemy hath persecuted my soul; He hath smitten my life down to the ground; He hath made me to dwell in darkness, as those that have been long dead. Therefore is my spirit overwhelmed within me; My heart within me is desolate. There appears to be a spirit of desperation in this prayer. The Psalmist is not asking for justice he is appealing to God's faithfulness and his righteousness. When we come to the Lord today we come asking for grace based on Jesus righteousness. The enemy doesn't need to be a physical enemy; it can be spiritual. The prayer is God I feel lost; my life seems so dark. It as if he is saying I don't know where to turn to next.

II. Remember the previous blessings from the Lord. I remember the days of old; I meditate on all thy works; I muse on the work of thy hands. I stretch forth my hands unto thee: My soul thirsteth after thee, as a thirsty land. Selah When we seem overwhelmed with problems it helps to remember all the times God has helped us in the past. We thirst after the peace of God which passes understanding. We want to be close to God again but we are not sure how. Counting blessings seems like a waste of time but it does change our attitude from fear and worry to gratitude and hope.

III. Accept the help we need in removing the obstacles keeping us from discerning God's will. Hear me speedily, O LORD: my spirit faileth: Hide not thy face from me, Lest I be like unto them that go down into the pit. Cause me to hear thy lovingkindness in the morning; For in thee do I trust: Cause me to know the way wherein I should walk; For I lift up my soul unto thee. Deliver me, O LORD, from mine enemies: I flee unto thee to hide me. Teach me to do thy will; for thou art my God: Thy spirit is good; lead me into the land of uprightness. The psalmist is saying Lord help me quick because my spirit is weak. Paul teaches us a crucial part of the process in knowing God's will in **Romans 12:1-2**. There is a four step process listed here:

1. There is presentation. that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. That means I physically put myself in places where God talks to me. That means church, in prayer, in reading my Bible or in serving others.

2. There is a warning about conforming. And be not conformed to this world: Life Recovery Bible: Paul tells us to avoid being like the world around us. If we conform to this world, we will head toward selfish ways and destructive dependencies. Our part is to turn our will and our life over to the care of God. As we trust and obey him, he will work changes in us and make us new people. As we are changed on the inside, we will begin to evidence those changes in our external attitudes and actions. Don't always do what you always did so you won't get what you always got.

3. There is an exhortation for transformation. but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, The key to transformation is the renewing of the mind. That comes as our minds become controlled by the Holy Spirit.

4. God reveals his will and empowers us to complete it after our transformation. *that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.* **Life Recovery Bible:** *We are exhorted to turn our life and will over to God so he can transform us into the Godly person he wants us to be. We are called to follow God's plan for our lives, utilizing the power he offers. As we do this, we will become examples to others of what God's transforming power can do. As we grow we will discover the joy and meaning that can be experienced when we offer our life to God. When we sacrifice all and have to God, he will return what we gave up, multiplied many times over.* God reveals his will as part of the process.

IV. The will of God is revealed to us by the Spirit of God. **1 Corinthians 2:9-10;16** *But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God.....For who hath known the mind of the Lord that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ.* God is alive in our minds and moves in our lives. Paul is telling us in these verses that God's will for us is so wonderful that we can't even imagine what they might be. The Bible tells us we can have peace through being yoked to Jesus. We are told the Holy Spirit produces spiritual fruit, love, peace, joy, longsuffering, goodness, and kindness. The Spirit also helps us understand the Bible as we read it. We are told that God will let us know when He is active in our lives through the power and presence of the Holy Spirit. We are told we have the mind of Christ. The Spirit reveals to us the mind of Christ. Since we have the mind of Christ we can know the will of God.

V. We are to live out our faith. **Hebrews 10:35-39** *Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompence of reward. For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise. For yet a little while, and he that shall come will come, and will not tarry. Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him. But we are not of them who draw back unto perdition; but of them that believe to the saving of the soul.* Sometimes we believe doing the will of God will result in spirit filled assurance of God's presence. If we are not feeling filled it does not mean we are not saved or that our relationship with God is not real. God wants us to trust, have faith in Him when life is good, tough or even melancholy. The just shall live by his faith is quoted 3 times in the New Testament all with different emphasis. In Romans the **just-justification by the resurrection** Jesus is highlighted. In Galatians **by faith-saved by faith alone** is highlighted. In Hebrews **shall live-I am to live a Holy life** is main idea.

1. Believers are encouraged to be living by faith when Christ comes. *For yet a little while, and he that shall come will come, and will not tarry. Now the just shall live by faith: Titus 2:11-14* *For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ; Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.* The writer warns about drawing back; meaning going back to the old lifestyle. He is confident these folks will continue live out their faith. It is the Spirit that empowers us to live out that faith. When we live righteously through faith in the power of the Holy Spirit we will be living in the will of God.