

Finding The Will Of God: Telephone Sign Series

August 2, 2023

Scripture: Jeremiah 31:21-22 (NIV version)

21. "Set up road signs; put up guideposts. Take note of the highway, the road that you take. Return, O Virgin Israel, return to your towns.

22. How long will you wander, O unfaithful daughter? The Lord will create a new thing on earth."

Summary: The telephone signpost; call home; prayer; what significance does prayer play in our "finding the will of God"?

Finding the Will of God: The telephone signpost

Jer.31: 21-22 a Verse that signifies what we are trying to accomplish with these studies; FINDING THE WILL OF GOD;

To find our way to find out what to do to find the will of God, we are looking at signpost, note verse 22, how long will you go here and there?

Today we come to the telephone signpost;

The telephone signpost; call home; prayer; what significance does prayer play in our "finding the will of God"?

Proverbs 3:5-6

5. Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.

6. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.

This verse answers this question; lean; to lean against, to cause to support; an attitude of trust; and what does the Bible say about leaning on our own understanding? "Acknowledge" to perceive, to understand, to acquire

knowledge, to be familiar with to be aware of; **BRING HIM ON LINE**; Paths; your way; straight; to be level to declare right, literally straight, figurative; upright and moral;

A. Prayer is an acknowledgement of my own finiteness and His infiniteness;

B. So PRAYER IS THE KEY THAT STARTS THE ENGINE THAT WILL MOVE ME DOWN THE ROAD TO FINDING THE WILL OF GOD;

Four Truths about prayer that may encourage us to pray when seeking to find God's will;

1. We have an INVITATION to pray; Imagine that; Jer.33: 3; (look at the context) God's telephone number; Note this invitation is "Call to me" and I will answer" you and I will tell you great and mighty things which you do not know"

An invitation has several things on it; let's look at a few;

- a. **When? When we don't know what to do? He will tell us things that we do not already know.**
- b. **Do you know: who or if you are to marry?**
- c. **How to deal with that co-worker?**
- d. **Do you know how to deal with the children problem?**
- e. **Do you know what to do next week with your current situation?**
- f. **THEN CALL HOME.**
- g. **He will tell you what you don't already know. When?**
- h. **Jeremiah is in trouble wouldn't you say, and what does God tell Him?**

b. When? James 1:5; when we lack wisdom; we make so many dumb mistakes; why probably we don't ask God. So we see the when of the invitation;

Now let's look at the what?

c. WHAT will happen if I take Him up on His invitation?

Jer. He will tell us what we did not know; James He will give us wisdom and give it to us generously without reproach;

2. The second truth about prayer to find God's will, is: **THE INITIATIVE TO PRAY**; do you and I have the initiative to pray? The ability to assess and initiate things independently. It is amazing how little I pray or how easy it is to forget to pray. Are you like that? It seems we lack the initiative to pray. We are a people who are motivated.

Let's see if God gives us any initiative to pray. Do you think He might just do that since He has sent us an invitation, do you think he might just give us some initiative to come to him?

Heb. 10:19-22;

19. **Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus,**

20. **By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh;**

21. **And *having* an high priest over the house of God;**

22. **Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water.**

a. **Confidence;**

b. **confidence, key word; what does He mean by confidence? What is the holy place? Now we can go in without fear or without fear of being dirty;**

c. **GOD HAS FITTED US TO COME INTO HIS HOLY PLACE; I CAN GET IN TO SEE HIM NO MATTER MY PHYSICAL OR EMOTIONAL STATE HE HAS MADE ME CLEAN THAT IS HOW BAD HE WANTS ME IN THERE WHERE HE CAN INTERACT WITH ME;**

b. **V21; look who I come to; go to Heb 2:17;**

17 Wherefore in all things it behoved him to be made like unto *his* brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things *pertaining* to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people.

And Heb 4:14-16;

14. Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast *our* profession.

15. For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as *we are, yet* without sin.

16. Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

This is the one I am coming to; now verse 22;

Heb. 10:22 Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water.

Draw near, you don't have to be afraid;

Another initiative; the context in which I can come; Psalms 55:16-17;

16. As for me, I will call upon God; and the LORD shall save me.

17. Evening, and morning, and at noon, will I pray, and cry aloud: and he shall hear my voice.

d. Initiative

e. an incredible verse; even when I am murmuring and complain He still hears me; What else can he do to give me the initiative to come. It is not my worthiness but His; I pray in His name not mine;

SHOULD WE PRAY TO FIND GOD'S WILL?

WE HAVE the invitation and been given the initiative to come.

Now what about the:

3. THE INCLINATION TO PRAY; I have said I forget to pray, I don't take time to pray, why with all He has said to us am I not inclined to pray?

I am inclined to think it is because we are not versed in some fundamentals about prayer; Prayer is not a grocery list, or some kind of ritual; here are some fundamentals about prayer;

- a. Matt. 6:5 normal conversations; how many of you could carry on a relationship with out communication? And what kind of communication is meaningful? Tell him just like you would tell me. What you need, what you want, where you need wisdom etc.
- b. Don't try to impress him with your theological education, or with your understanding and grasp of the English language; Just tell Him what is on your mind;
- c. Second fundamental of prayer: No power in the prayer itself:
- d. Matt.6: 7;
7 But when ye pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen *do*: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking.
- e. Don't put your faith in the prayer but In God;
- f. Well I prayed now that was said right so it ought to work.
- g. Faith in the prayer not in God; how many of you have heard "hail marry"? People putting confidence in the prayer not in God;

c. Third fundamental; nothing is off limits:

Phill. 4:6-7;

6. Be careful for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.

7. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

Break this verse down;

4. The inability to pray; why with all this grace to pray, do we find ourselves with the inability to pray? James 4:2;

2. Ye lust, and have not: ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain: ye fight and war, yet ye have not, because ye ask not.

a. Our own solutions; other ways to get what we want or to get something done we want done; don't want to wait on God;

b. Wrong motives; a commitment to our will instead of God's

c. It is a work; it takes time to pray and effort and faith; to get our focus on God and off ourselves is a work;

d. We tend to believe that prayer is woeful; less attended function in the church; looked at as a ritual or hearing all these overcomes to other people;

Should we pray to find God's will?