

Week 6

Doing God's Will



*Seeking
Serenity
Devotional Book*



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Serenity prayer

God, grant me the Serenity
To accept the things I cannot change...
Courage to change the things I can,
And Wisdom to know the difference
Living one day at a time,
Enjoying one moment at a time,

Accepting hardship as the pathway to peace.

Taking, as He did, this sinful world as it is,
Not as I would have it.
Trusting that He will make all things right

if I surrender to His will.

That I may be reasonably happy in this life,
And supremely happy with Him forever in the next.
Amen.

Acknowledgement:

A Prayer for Serenity, Trevor Hudson, Struik Christian Media.

MONDAY

Doing it my way!



Matthew 7: 21-23 *(The Message)* *Knowing the correct password – saying “Master, Master,” for instance – isn’t going to get you anywhere with Me. What is required is serious obedience - doing what my Father wills. I can see it now – at the Final Judgement thousands strutting up to Me and saying “Master, we preached the Message, we bashed the demons, our God-sponsored projects had everyone talking.” And do you know what I am going to say? “You missed the boat. All you did was use Me to make yourselves important. You don’t impress Me one bit. You’re out of here.*

There are people who dedicate their lives to do God’s will. Yet, when you study the verses above there are many people who get it wrong. People who only become “a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal” (1 Cor 13: 1) instead of becoming a God-loving person who achieves serenity.

Some people just want to do it their own way and do good deeds to further their own interests to achieve wealth and fame, and who continue to live a lie. Some want to try and convince everyone

that they believe in God and are desperately trying to do His will.

Jesus says these words at the end of the Sermon on the Mount, where He outlines to His disciples how one should conduct oneself in relation to others. But He now tells us that just talking about it is not good enough. You need to show that you can “Walk the Talk” and demonstrate that you truly are interested in doing God’s will and not your own.

Focusing on ourselves will never achieve serenity!



Prayer: Dear Jesus, give me listening ears and an openness to meet You as You reach out to my heart! AMEN.

TUESDAY

God's general will



Psalm 119: 105-106 *Your word is a lamp to guide my feet and a light for my path. I've promised it once, and I'll promise it again: I will obey Your regulations.*

The Bible gives us lots of guidance on how to conduct ourselves, but we still have to make a choice whether we are willing to do so. Trevor Hudson says that God gives us enough scope for personal initiative and decision-making.

God gives us various gifts and talents to cope with life on earth. We have a choice as to how we use them. We can use them to lead a life that leads to serenity or we can choose to make life hard for ourselves and others. If you call Jesus "Master" you will say "yes" to His will. If you say "no," it

is a contradiction because then He is not your "Master."

We must therefore strive to use our gifts to honour God and love our neighbours. We will then become a more loving, caring and warm person who cares for others. One who does not only talk about decisions but one who turns them into good and purposeful deeds. A person who becomes used to walking in the light of God and knows that God gives just enough light for every step you have to take.

God does not have us follow a light. He has us follow Him.
And He becomes our light.



Prayer: Father God, I don't want to take one step without You. I reach up for Your hand and ask that You lead me in Your way. Thank you that no matter where I am right now, even if I have gotten way off course, in this moment as I put my hand in Yours, You will help me to decide the correct path from where I am, to where I need to be to achieve serenity. AMEN

WEDNESDAY

God's specific will for you



Jeremiah 29: 11-13 *For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not harm you, plans to give you hope and a future . Then you will call upon Me and come and pray to Me, and I will listen. You will seek Me and find Me when you seek Me with all your heart.*

In addition to God's general will, He also has a specific will for each one of us. God created each one of us with specific gifts to achieve His purpose for us to serve Him. Trevor Hudson says that each one of us has something beautiful to do for God. God sends each person into the world with a special message to deliver, a song to sing or to perform an act of love. No one else can convey my message, sing my song or do my unique act of love. These are entrusted to me alone.

People who do the will of God know they were saved to serve

others and created for a specific purpose. They are eager to receive a personal assignment and excited about the privilege of being used by God. They are the only fully alive people on the planet. Their joy, confidence, and enthusiasm are contagious because they know they are making a difference.

When we surrender ourselves to both the general and special dimensions of God's will, our lives will be marked by a new, hitherto unknown serenity.

Who we are is God's gift to us, who we become is our gift to God!



Prayer: Dear Lord. I desperately want to do Your general will and serve You and my neighbours with love. Grant me the joy to surrender to Your will for me every moment of my life. May my life bring honour to only You Father. AMEN

THURSDAY

How to determine God's will for you



Romans 12: 2 *Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is – His good, pleasing and perfect will.*

Everyone knows that God's general will for us can be sourced in the Bible. Even doing a Google search will give us lists and verses to find it in the Bible. But mostly **we** have to try and discern what this personal calling will be in our lives. Due to the different seasons of our lives, this quest to discover God's personal call is an ongoing process.

A personal living relationship with God is required. We only will be able to discern our personal call through an ever-deepening intimacy achieved through earnest prayers and meditation. Meaningful quiet times reflecting things such as counting our many blessings we received as well as listing our gifts and talents given to

us, will also help to find our specific calling.

Pursuing our quest to find our specific calling will cause us to become more loving and joyful people making it easier to recognise the needs of others. These opportunities of interaction with friends, family, and even strangers will point us in the right direction.

Trevor Hudson warns us that in finding God's specific will also means that we often have to deal with resistance. Remember how Moses tried to dodge his call. You can also be open to temptation. A person who achieves great things for God is a target for the Tempter.

Our lives should simplify the lives of others, not complicate it



Prayer: Dear Lord Jesus, please allow me to hear Your call for me at this stage of my life and grant me the courage to do it with joy.
AMEN.

FRIDAY

What happens if you live within God's will



Hebrews 10: 36 *You need to persevere so that when you have done the will of God, you will receive what He has promised.*

When God wanted to select a king for the Israelites, he sent Samuel to Jesse to anoint King David. Samuel liked the son Eliab but the Lord said to Samuel, *“Do not consider the appearance of his height, for I have rejected him. The Lord does not look at things man looks at. Man looks at outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart”* (Sa 16: 7).

Jesus compares every human heart with a tree and says “no good tree bears bad fruit. Each tree is recognised by its own fruit. The good man brings good things out of the good stored up in his heart” (Luke 6: 43-45). A person seeking the will of the Father will delve deep into the scriptures to seek what God wants and in the process starts to build a strong foundation of personal faith and trust in the Lord – an intimate relationship with God.

You will then find that you will become more loving, patient, kind, not envious and boastful or proud, rude in any way, self-seeking or easily angered. You won't keep record of wrongs or delight in evil things but only rejoice with the truth. You'd prefer to protect the down-trodden, always trust, always hope for the good and preserve God's creation (1 Cor 13: 4-7).

Matthew Henry says in his commentary: *“You shall keep your comfort, and peace, and hope, and joy, in the midst of the greatest stresses. The storms and streams of affliction shall not shock you, for your feet are set on rock, a rock higher than you. Your everlasting welfare is secured. In death and judgement you are safe. You are kept by the power of Christ, through faith, unto salvation, and shall never perish.”*

That is true serenity!

....if I surrender to His will -



Prayer: I trust that You will make all things right if I surrender to Your will. AMEN