

**FOCUS  
ON  
JESUS**

## Finding God's will

*Sermon number 3: Lorna Laister*

Psalm 143:10

"But I really want to find God's will in this. How can I know if this is what God wants?" Who does God want me to marry? What kind of business does God want me to be in? What line of work should I follow? Where should I live?

**What does God want? What can I do about it? What does that mean for ministry?** *These just aren't the right questions to start with* What does God want? 1 Thessalonians 4:3a (Amplified Bible)<sup>3</sup>For this is the will of God, that you should be consecrated (separated and set apart for pure and holy living): 1 Thessalonians 5:18 (New International Version, ©2010)<sup>18</sup> give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

**The will of God is a relationship.** Not a programme. Not about how hard we try Not about how much work we accomplish today-even if we think it's all for Him

**1 Peter 2:9a** (New International Version, ©2010)....God's special **possession,**

- Possession means God's own people. He owns us. But there is more. There is a quality of God dwelling in us too as we are his property. **Ephesians 3:17;19** Christ has made his home in our hearts.... that you may .....**become a body wholly filled and flooded with God Himself!**
- God's indwelling presence of God is God's will for us. This is at a far deeper level than what programme we will accomplish today. It is about His union with us at the deepest point of our being. If it is God's will for us to be holy then it is God's will for us that we share in the relationship that Jesus has with the Father and Spirit.

**What can I do about it? = Romans 12:1-2 (The Message) Place Your Life Before God.** We present ourselves = nothing, In order to have what He is = everything. *Then we step out every day as a new day (new mercies) in complete expectation that HIS life will be manifest (shown, displayed) in us.*

Hebrews 11:6 We allow God to penetrate our very soul. Jesus did a beautiful exchange. Faith believes that there is nothing good in us in producing that which has value in God's sight. We can only put into practice what God has promised to do in and through us what we cannot do ourselves.. And that is everything. Jesus will do THE BEST through his divine power and our obedience

Galatians 2:20 KJV It is the faith **OF** the Son of God. Now this does NOT mean that Jesus becomes us or we become Him. It means that we will be the best that we can possibly be. Calvin called it the 'wonderful exchange'. And our new life is not external to us and layered on over ours but is worked out first in the humanity of Jesus and given to us by the Spirit. We are no longer who we are alone. Never alone. We belong to God in Christ. Although we are God's possession – we are truly ourselves, our most human selves, distinctly ourselves = most truly ourselves without confusion with Christ.

**What does that mean for ministry?** New Testament affirms a profound union with Christ, the completed work of Christ and the wonderful exchange. Yet it calls for our involvement, our activity, our participation. It means following Christ into whatever He is doing in his continuing ministry. That if we see Jesus doing it then we do it with him.

So instead of WWJD we ask WIJD? What is Jesus doing? And so we obey Jesus when he said "follow me"

So what is the will of God? It is our sanctification. That we are beings wholly filled and flooded with God Himself.

And now we have found it, the matter of guidance (which is still a very good question!) will take care of itself. It's easy for God to lead someone who belongs to him completely.