

Bible Study
Living for God, Not the World – Continued – Lesson - 17
Pastor Charles A. Hall – August 31st, 2023

Theme: Living for God, Not the World

“Living for God, Not the World” means that we as true Christians and believers of Jesus Christ no longer place our own selfish desires, needs, and wants above our relationship with God, making God’s desires and will a priority in our life. This means that what God wants for us, always supersedes, what we want for ourselves in any area of our life.

Foundational scriptures for our theme:

- **2 Corinthians 6:17**
- **1 John 2:15-17**

Being Able to Discern God’s Will From Our Personal Desires

Some people, even believers might ask the question, why should I be concern with God’s Will as opposed to my own will and desires? The answer is very simple, God made us, therefore He knows His purpose for creating us. God stated in His Word that He created us in His own image, to perform His good works and service. This was accomplished before the world came into existence. These good works are more than our actions and deeds, it also includes our moral conduct or behavior before a sovereign God. The manifestation of good works starts after our spiritual regeneration, so our works before we accepted God’s free gift of salvation were not considered acceptable to God. Everything that God created was for His purpose.

- **Ephesians 2:10** For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.
- **Proverbs 16:4** The Lord hath made all things for himself: yea, even the wicked for the day of evil.

In order for us to live for God and not the world, we must learn how to detect or discern God’s Will from our own desires and wants. Often times when we really want something bad enough, we sometimes convince ourselves that it is God’s Will for us to have whatever it is that we desire at that time, even though it may not be God’s Will at all. To know God’s Will for our life for any given situation, we must be able to hear God’s voice when He speaks to our spirit. God is a spirit; therefore He speaks to us through our spirit. To receive what He is saying to us we must be spiritual as well. There is another spirit that speaks to us as well, and that is the spirit of the world, control by the prince of darkness, yes Satan himself. When God speaks, He speaks the truth, on the other hand when the prince of darkness speaks, it is always a lie. Therefore, in order to know God’s Will when he speaks to us, we must be able to detect the truth from a lie. To accomplish this we must know God’s truths for ourselves, so we can line up, or compare what we hear to God’s truth. The Word of God tells us to test the spirit to make sure what you have received is actually from God, or from a false pretender (Satan).

- **John 4:24** God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.

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- **John 8:44** Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.
- **1John 4:1-3** BELOVED, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world. (2) Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God: (3) And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world. (4) Ye are of God, little children and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world. (5) They are of the world: therefore speak they of the world: and the world heareth them. (6) We are of God: he that knoweth God heareth us; he that is not of God heareth not us. Hereby know we the spirit of truth, and the spirit of error.

True Believers cannot think, nor act like those in the world, and be able to discern God's Will. To discern the Will of God your mind must be transform from a worldly, natural, and carnal being, to a spiritual being, this can only occur by the renewing of you mind based on the gospel

- **Romans 12:2** And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

The only way to truly know the Will of God is to know sound doctrine, and to be obedient to God's Biblical truths.

- **John 7:16-18** Jesus answered them, and said, My doctrine is not mine, but his that sent me. (17) If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself. (18) He that speaketh of himself seeketh his own glory: but he that seeketh his glory that sent him, the same is true, and no unrighteousness is in Him.

The Spirit of God within us helps us in our weakness, we don't even know how to pray, but the spirit of God within us intercedes or give us clarity through wordless groans or internal cries or feelings. Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ who is our intercessor in heaven knows our hearts, and He intercedes through our spirit so we can know what the **Will of God** is. What the spirit reveals is always in agreement with God's will and desires for us.

- **Romans 8:26-27** Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: For we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. (27) And he that searcheth the heart knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God.
- **Mark 8:36** For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?