

Missing God's Plans

Gospel Herald

A man captured two baby eagles and raised them with great care. They grew to be fine specimens of this noble bird, until one day the door of their cage was left open by accident and the birds escaped.

One flew to a nearby tree, where it roosted on a low branch, for it could not use its wings, never having learned to fly except in the close confinement of its cage. It was not long until it met an untimely death by the gun of a hunter.

The other eagle fell or was knocked into a swift flowing river and was drowned. Both of the eagles missed God's plan for their lives by being taken captive by man. They were created to live in high places and to soar aloft in the sky, but instead they were doomed to live on the ground and to meet an early death.

God created you and me to live on a high plane and to carry out the great plans He has for our life. May we have wisdom to yield our lives to Him so that the forces of sin may not take us captive, and cause us to miss His plan for our life.

Go Slow

Author Unknown

Be slow to take new steps in the Lord's service, your business, or in your families. Weigh everything well; weigh all in the light

"Where God guides, He provides."

of the Holy Scriptures, and in the fear of God.

Seek to have no will of your own, in order to ascertain the mind of God, regarding any steps you propose to take; so that you can honestly say, you are willing to do the will of God, if He will only please instruct you.

When you have found out what the will of God is, seek for His help, and seek it earnestly, perseveringly, patiently, believingly, and expectantly; and you will surely, in His own time and way, obtain it!

When the Bird Stopped Struggling

John Montgomery

Wordsworth, in one of his poems, tells about a bird that was carried from Norway by a storm. It fought hard against the gale in its effort to win its way back to Norway, but all was in vain. At last, it yielded to the wind, and instead of being carried to destruction it was borne to the warm shores of England, to the green meadows and forests. So when we try to fight against God's will we are making efforts which will come to naught, and are doing so to our own injury and loss. If we willingly accept God's will, it will be for our good; we shall be borne on to blessedness and joy.

The **Bible View**



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Knowing God's Will

Bill Brinkworth

Gideon had a problem in his land that had to be dealt with. His



country was overrun with Midianites, Amalekites, and the children of the east. He was willing to battle the enemies that took from his land and his people, but he wanted to know for sure that God was leading him.

Desiring to make a decision only if God was in it, was a wise goal. A move without God could not have His blessing and surely could lead to defeat or trouble. Godly people of all ages have sought God's will in many of the decisions they have had to make. Man constantly makes the wrong choices and certainly pays for it. God is perfect; and anything He is directing will be successful.

How can a person know, if
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"My Jesus, As Thou Wilt"

Ivan Hagedorn, Sunday School Times

The hymn, "My Jesus, as Thou Wilt" was written by Benjamin Schmolke, and is based on Mark 14:36. We can hear its heart-throbs in every line. Schmolke's home-town was nearly destroyed by fire. Two of his own children were taken by flames. Later, he himself was stricken with paralysis which eventually led to blindness. Yet he could sing his "Hymn of Trust":

*My Jesus, as Thou wilt!
Oh may Thy will be mine!
Into Thy hand of love
I would my all resign
Through sorrow or through joy,
Conduct me as Thine own,
And help me still to say,
"My Lord, Thy will be done."*

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Knowing God's Will

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they are doing what God wants them to do or not? Is it possible to have his direction? Gideon was like many of us. He wanted a clear sign from God. After he got the sign, he would know God was directing him, and he would lead an army against the enemies. He asked God to do something supernatural, that would prove it was God answering his prayer. The Israelite leader put out a fleece of wool on the ground, and asked for a sign. If God wanted him to lead the battle, Gideon asked that God make the fleece wet from the dew and the ground around it dry. The next morning an unnatural thing occurred. The fleece was soaked, but the nearby ground was dry. Still doubting that it may have just been a coincidence, as can happen when people request "signs" from God, Gideon requested more proof. He asked God once more to prove His intervention by doing the impossible. This time he requested that the fleece be dry and the ground wet. The next morning the miracle was performed. He knew God's direction, and he did successfully battle the enemy.

"Well, Gideon sought proof

***"When your will is
God's will, you will
have your will."***

— Spurgeon

of direction, can I, too?" many ask. I have asked similar proofs in my past and have gotten direction by His answer. God does hear the prayers and requests of His own. However, that was when I was a younger Christian. I soon learned that we are to live by faith, and not sight. Proof by sight does not necessarily make one a stronger or more trusting Christian. Gideon did ask twice, because the first sign was not enough. God desires us to trust Him unconditionally without doubt, or lack of trust. Trusting Him to supply without proof is the faith He desires.

Sometimes He will honor our request for a miracle to discern His leadership. Much of the time, when He knows our faith should be more mature and trusting, He expects us to discern His will other ways. Some of the biblical principles for knowing His will and way include:

❖ Does what we desire line up with the teachings of His Word, the Bible? Is it something He would approve of? I have known folks that have asked God to provide His direction in a matter that was very sinful. They should have known better than to expect God to approve of their iniquity.

❖ Are there open doors of opportunity for the direction you are seeking? If you really want God's will, you should allow Him to stop you from doing or going where you desire. If your idea is not possible, accept that

as His will. If you misread His direction, He can always create the opportunity again.

❖ Has He already closed the door, and perhaps you are prying open the door so you can have your way rather than His?

❖ Do you believe it is God leading you to do the idea or change that is on your heart?

❖ Do people, more spiritual and/or experienced than you, discern it could be God's will for your life? "*Where no counsel is, the people fall; but in the multitude of counselors there is safety.*" Proverbs 11:14

❖ Have you asked God before about direction in the matter, and does it seem to be answered prayer?

❖ If you do not know what to do, or the matter is not totally clear, continue to do what God has already shown you to do!

God does not desire to play guessing games with those that desire to follow His leading. He will make it clear. Will you let Him say "no" to your request if God so desires, and will you obey His direction if He shows you? If so, God will lead you in a plain path.

***There are many of us
that are willing to do
great things for the
Lord, but few of us are
willing to do little
things.*** — D. L. Moody

How Peace Was Won

Author Unknown

*With eager heart, and will on
fire,
I sought to win my great desire.
"Peace shall be mine," I said.
But life
Grew bitter in the endless strife.*

*My soul was weary, and my pride
Was wounded deep. To heaven I
cried,
"God give me peace, or I must
die."
The dumb stars glittered no
reply.*

*Broken at last, I bowed my head
Forgetting all myself, and said,
"Whatever comes, His will be
done"
And in that moment, peace was
won.*

Dr. Gray's "Set Back"

Sunday School Times

Dr. James Gray tells his experience: "Once, when convalescing from a long illness, it was suggested that for the benefit of the change I visit the British provinces. The arrangements were all made when unexpectedly another malady threw me on my bed again. How disappointing! For why was I waiting longer in the sick bed? Soon I received a satisfactory answer. Picking up a newspaper, I read that the steamer on which I should have sailed struck a reef on entering St. John harbor and almost instantly sank."

