

Please Pray

- ✳ **Bible distribution at the start of the school year:** We will go out to preach the gospel and distribute Bibles at McGill, Concordia and University of Montréal on August 25, 26, 27, and on September 1, 2, 3, 8 and 9. The sign-up form has been sent out. May we cooperate with the Lord and sanctify some days to go out. May the Lord go before us and prepare the hearts of men. May the ones prepared by the Lord be brought to the saints. May we be channels of life to dispense life to all those in need. May we gain some useful materials for the Lord's building.
- ✳ **Summer School of Truth (Aug. 2-7):** May the young people be emptied and unloaded so that they may receive a fresh speaking and dispensing from the Lord. May the Lord release what is on His heart to the young people and gain them more for Himself. May the Lord strengthen all the serving ones in preparing and serving during this time. May the Lord cover all the travelling of the saints coming back home.
- ✳ **Bible distribution during the Indy at Markham Race, Ontario:** An Indy at Markham Bible distribution is being planned for the weekend of August 14-16 near the location of the race. Even as saints from Eastern Canada came to join during the recent outreach, so also pray that we could participate in this move of the Body during the upcoming Indy at Markham outreach activities.
- ✳ **Bearing fruit for His testimony in Montréal:** "As branches we must bear fruit. If anyone has not borne fruit for several years, I am very concerned for him. There is the danger that such a one may be cut off from the life supply. We must endeavor and be desperate. We must say, "Lord, I am one of Your branches. Why do I not bear fruit? I must bear some. I cannot go on like this anymore. Lord, have mercy on me that by Your grace I may bear at least one fruit." If we will bear even one fruit, the life supply will flood in. The life-juice will stream in, and we will bear more fruit. To bear the first fruit is a breakthrough. We must have such a breakthrough. We need to go to the Lord to have a thorough dealing with Him." (CWWL, 1973-1974, Vol. 2, Chap. 3) – May the prayer in this ministry excerpt be our prayer. May we all endeavor to be normal fruit bearing branches and be desperate before the Lord to bear at least one fruit a year. May we go to the Lord to have a thorough dealing with Him.
- ✳ **Pray for various local needs in Montréal:** The saints, their contacts, and for the persons in need of care and shepherding.

Weekly Readings

- ✳ Holy Bible Recovery Version with footnotes: Eccl. 10:1 – S.S. 4:8.
- ✳ HWMR: Crucial Aspects of Matthew 5 through 7, Week 3.
- ✳ Life-Study of Philippians, Messages 36 and 37.

Announcements

- ✳ Please consider your needs carefully before the Lord and email your prayer requests to Allan Yeow, allan.yeow81@gmail.com, by Wednesday evening of every week. May the Lord teach us how to pray for the advancement of His Economy.

Upcoming Events

- ✳ August 2-7, Kitchener, ON: **Summer School of Truth in Eastern Canada.**
- ✳ September 24-26, Amsterdam, NL: **September International Training for Elders and Responsible Ones.**

This Week's Activities

Sun-Aug-02 LORD'S DAY	♦ 10:00am-12:30pm: Lord's Table and prophesying meetings. ♦ Summer School of Truth in Eastern Canada, Kitchener, ON.
Mon-Aug-03	♦ Summer School of Truth in Eastern Canada, Kitchener, ON.
Tues-Aug-04	♦ 7:30pm-9:00pm: English, French, and Chinese prayer meetings by conference calls. ♦ Summer School of Truth in Eastern Canada, Kitchener, ON.
Wed-Aug-05	♦ Summer School of Truth in Eastern Canada, Kitchener, ON.
Thur-Aug-06	♦ Summer School of Truth in Eastern Canada, Kitchener, ON.
Fri-Aug-07	♦ 6:30pm-9:00pm: English, French, and Chinese Districts home meetings in person and on Zoom. ♦ Summer School of Truth in Eastern Canada, Kitchener, ON.
Sat-Aug-08	♦
Sun-Aug-09 LORD'S DAY	♦ 10:00am-12:30pm: Lord's Table and prophesying meetings.

27. SEEKING GOD'S WILL

Scripture reading: John 7:17; Matt. 10:29-31; 18:15-20; Rom. 8:14; Ps. 119:105; 1 John 2:27

Seeking God's will

I. The need to obey God's will

Before we were saved, we did everything according to our own will. At that time we served ourselves and did everything to please ourselves. We would do anything as long as it pleased us or made us happy. However, now we have believed in the Lord and have accepted Christ Jesus as our Savior. We have acknowledged Him as our Master, the One whom we serve. We have acknowledged that He has redeemed us. We belong to Him and are of Him, and we are here to serve Him. For this reason, we need a fundamental change. We no longer should walk according to our preference; we must walk according to God's will. After we believe in the Lord, the focus of our living changes. The focus is no longer ourselves, but the Lord. The first thing we should do after we are saved is ask, "What shall I do, Lord?" Paul asked this question in Acts 22:10, and we should ask the same question. Whenever we come across a situation, we should say, "Lord, not as I will, but as You will." In making decisions or in choosing our paths, we should always say to the Lord, "Not as I will, but as You will."

The life we possess has one basic demand — to walk according to God's will. The more we obey God's will, the happier we become within. The more we deny our own will, the straighter our pathway will be before God. If we walk according to our own will as we once did, we will not feel happy. Instead, we will suffer. After we are saved, the more we walk according to our own will, the more suffering and the less joy we will have. But the more we walk according to the new life and the more we obey God's will, the more peace and joy we will have. This is a wonderful change. We should not think that we will be happy if we walk according to our own will. After becoming Christians, we will find our path filled with peace and joy if we do not walk according to our own will but learn to submit to and obey God's will. Christian joy has to do with obeying God's will, not with walking according to our own will.

Once we become Christians, we have to learn to accept God's will and be governed by it. If a person can submit humbly to God's will, he will spare himself many needless detours. Many fail and stop growing in life because they walk according to their own will. The result of walking according to our own will is nothing but sorrow and poverty. In the end we still have to walk according to God's will. God always subdues us through things, circumstances, and the environment. If we have not been chosen by God, He will let us walk as we wish. But since we have been chosen by God, He will lead us to the way of obedience according to His way. Disobedience will only cost us unnecessary detours. In the end we will still have to obey.

II. How to know God's will

Our question now is how do we know God's will. We often think that mortals like us could never understand God's will. However, we should have the assurance that not only do we want to obey God's will, but God Himself also wants us to obey His will. Not only do we seek to know His will, but God Himself also wants us to know His will. If God wants us to obey His will, He must first enable us to know His will. Therefore, it is God's business to reveal His will to us. None of God's children need to worry and say, "Since I cannot know God's will, how can I obey it?" This concern is unnecessary because God always has a way to show us His will (Heb. 13:21). We have to believe that God will always show us His will through the proper means. It is God's responsibility to tell us His will. If we are submissive in our attitude and intention, we will surely know His will. All of us must learn to believe that God is eager to reveal His will to man.

What are the ways to know God's will? A Christian must pay attention to three things in order to know God's will. If these three things are in agreement with one

another, we can be quite sure that it is God's will. These three things are: (1) arrangements in the environment, (2) the leading of the Holy Spirit, and (3) the teachings of the Scripture. These three things are not mentioned according to the order of their importance. They do not necessarily have to be in sequential order. We are simply stating that these three things help us know God's will. When the testimonies of these three things are in agreement with one another, we can be assured that we know God's will. If one of these three things is not in agreement with the other two, we still need to wait. We must wait until all three agree with one another before we go ahead.

A. Arrangements in the environment

Luke 12:6 says, "Are not five sparrows sold for two assaria?" Matthew 10:29 says, "Are not two sparrows sold for an assarion?" If one assarion could buy two sparrows, then by right two assaria should only buy four sparrows. But the Lord said two assaria could buy five sparrows. One assarion buys two, and two assaria buy four plus an additional one. This shows us the cheapness of a sparrow. However, even a cheap thing such as a sparrow is not allowed to fall to the earth if God forbids it. Although the fifth sparrow is an extra one that is given for free, no sparrow is forgotten by God. If our God does not allow it, no sparrow can fall to the earth. This clearly shows us that everything happens under God's permission. If our heavenly Father forbids it, even a sparrow will not fall to the earth.

It is difficult to number a person's hairs. However, the Lord said, "Even the hairs of your head are all numbered" (Matt. 10:30). No one knows how many hairs he has, and no one can count his own hairs, but God has counted and numbered our hairs. Our God is so fine and so exact!

If God takes care of a seemingly worthless creature such as a sparrow, how much more will He take care of His children! If God takes care of something as minute as a hair, how much more will He take care of other things! Once we believe in the Lord, we need to learn to know His will through the environment. Nothing that happens to us is a coincidence. Everything is measured by the Lord. Our career, spouse, parents, children, relatives, friends, and everything have been ordained by God. Behind everything that happens to us each day is God's sovereign arrangement. Therefore, we have to learn to read God's will in the environment. A new believer may not be that experienced in the leading of the Spirit, and he may not know that much of the teaching of the Scripture. But at least he can see God's hand in the environment. This is a believer's most basic lesson.

Psalm 32:9 says, "Do not be like a horse or like a mule, without understanding; /Whose trappings consist of bit and bridle to constrain them,/Else they do not come near you." Many times we are just like a horse or a mule, without understanding, and must be harnessed with outward bit and bridle by God before we can avoid mistakes. Have you ever seen a duck farmer? He has a long stick in his hand. When the ducks wander to the left or to the right, he herds them back with his stick. The ducks have no choice but to take the right path. In the same way, we can commit ourselves to the Lord and tell Him, "Lord, I am truly like a horse or a mule that has no understanding. But I do not want to make mistakes. I want to know Your will. Please harness me with Your bit and pull me with Your bridle. Once You let go of me, I will take the wrong way. Please guard me with Your will and direct me into Your will. If I wander away, I want You to stop me. I do not know many things, but I know what pain feels like. When I reject Your will, please come in and stop me!" Brothers and sisters, we must never belittle God's arrangement in the environment. Even though we may have fallen into shame and may have become like a horse or a mule, we often can still count on God's mercy to bridle us in time. God uses the environment to stop us from making mistakes. He forces us to have no alternative but to follow Him.

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