



Princess' Journey

Growing In
Discovering God's Will and His True Peace

Kelly Dixon

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How to Use this Study

This Bible study has been created to help you search the Scriptures and draw closer to God as you seek to grow in understanding His will for your life. The study was written for a group of ladies to study together with a Bible, a cup of coffee and an expectant heart. Although, if you are unable to meet with a group and would like to do the study on your own, you are encouraged to do so. You are also encouraged to keep a journal as you progress through the study.

Before you begin each session it is suggested that you prepare your heart by praying for attentiveness to how God is speaking to you through His Word. Include in your prayer a blessing upon the leader/teacher of the study asking the Holy Spirit to use them to help in understanding His Will.

After each step you will encounter a section called "Deepen the Walk." This section is for further study of the step completed and usually includes activities for self-examination. Application is the key to a Christian's walk. Therefore, it is important that you apply what you learn so you may have a closer walk with your Lord. Along these same lines, in the back of this workbook you will find worksheets that will help you better apply the understanding of the step. These worksheets can be done on your own or together in group discussion. Also, you will find documentation that will help you further understand the lesson. The worksheets and documentations can be found in the "Application Worksheets and Documentations" section beginning on page 25.

There is much to learn about our Lord and how to discern His Will. You are encouraged to not only use the Scriptures listed in this study, but to diligently search the Scriptures yourself.

Preface

The process of learning to discern God's Will begins with an examination of ourselves. We must prepare ourselves for whatever God has for us. This study starts by reviewing (and for some to learn for the first time) the basic nature of God and the basic nature of God's Will. These basics will show that God has a "predictable" pattern in which all Christians can find comfort.

After self preparation and reviewing the basic nature of God, the next step is to discover the three parts of God's Will. These parts are the intentional, circumstantial and ultimate will. In looking at these parts I hope you have a better understanding of His Will. The final steps take you into learning how to better discern God's Will and how you can find peace in His Will.

Through developing this study I have been changed, renewed and encouraged to grow closer and closer to my Lord. I have gained a deeper meaning from the verse 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.*" I pray this study will help you in your Christian growth and that you will receive a blessing from God as you are transformed by renewing your mind and growing closer to Him.

Your Sister in Christ,

Kelly Dixon

STEP I:

Preparing Yourself to Follow God's Will

We as Christians must come to the realization that it is very hard for us to follow God's Will if we are not prepared to do so. Without preparation of our hearts, we will be led astray even when we feel we are doing the Lord's work. In this step we will

- learn our Divine Identity;
- establish our value in God's eye;
- learn about our Divine Destiny;
- re-visit (or visit for the first time) our gifts from God.
- learn how to allow the Holy Spirit to produce fruit in your life.

At the end of this step, I pray that you will have prepared your heart to be transformed into God's Woman.

✿ Our Divine Identity - The Crowning of the Princess ✿

When we accept the Lord Jesus Christ as our Savior, we become daughters of the King. We at that moment obtain the privilege and responsibility of representing Him in every area of our lives. This position must be claimed before we can begin our walk. By acknowledging our Divine identity, we are able to claim our authority through Jesus Christ and fight the enemy with a firm foundation of recognizing to Whom we belong. Through your salvation you have an inherent value in Jesus Christ, our King.

*Dear Sister,
Claim your position in the Kingdom of God.
You are a daughter of the King. You are a princess!!*

Look up each of the following Scriptures to discover the "perks" of being a daughter of the King:

1. Deuteronomy 28:1-13 & Galatians 3:9: _____

2. Deuteronomy 32:10 & Psalm 17:8: _____

3. Romans 8:17: _____

4. Ephesians 2:19: _____

5. Colossians 1:11-12: _____

6. Colossians 3:12: _____

7. Galatians 4:4-7: _____

*Don't allow the enemy to continue to hold you back from all
God has for you. Accept your identity and begin to walk in it!!*

✿ The Princess' Value in God's Eyes ✿

You are an important person in the Kingdom of God. You don't just have the title of the "King's Princess," you were created for a purpose. You have value in God's eyes – beyond your title. Our enemy, Satan, will stand at the throne of God accusing us daily – but as a Christian there is ***no amount of sin too great*** for the blood of Jesus Christ to cover. Our value in God's eyes as He looks upon us through His Son is tremendous.

The following is an excerpt from the article, *You Can Become God's Woman* by Diana Hagee ran in the *SpiritLed Woman*, June/July, 2005 issue.



"He who overcomes will, like them, be dressed in white. I will never blot out his name from the book of life, but will acknowledge his name before my Father and his angels."
Revelation 3:5

When I was about to marry my husband, I received an anonymous letter that declared I would ruin my husband's ministry because "as a Mexican American I was a second-class citizen." The letter said that no one would come to our church because of who I was.

I was devastated! I decided I would not marry John for fear my accuser, the devil, was right. I'm thankful John finally convinced me the letter should be ignored! But it was not easy for me to overcome the sense of inadequacy I felt.

One Sunday my husband preached a sermon on righteousness that set me free. He asked for a volunteer to come from the pews and stand in front of the altar facing him. Then he eloquently described a sinner saved by grace coming to the throne of God with a petition.

Instantly, he said, Satan comes to the throne and begins to recount all the sinner has done to bring shame and dishonor to the name of Jesus. Satan reminds the sinner of his unworthiness to receive anything good from God.

John then took a white robe and draped it over the shoulders of the person standing in front of him. He said "Whenever a person comes to the throne of God, Satan begins to accuse him of all the sin he has

ever committed. But the Father responds in His infinite wisdom, 'I see no fault in this man, only the pure white robe of My Son, Jesus. I see the goodness of My Son imparted to those who call themselves My children. I see the righteousness of My Son. I will grant him the desire of his heart.'

I realized in that moment that God was not looking at the ugly person I saw myself to be. He could not see my imperfections and failures. Because I was clothed in the righteousness of Christ, He could see only the perfection of His Son.

It doesn't matter how *you* see yourself, on the inside or the outside. What matters is how God sees you. And to Him, you are beautiful. To Him, you are special because you were created to accomplish the works He preordained for you to do to expand His kingdom and bring Him glory.

All Christians must remember that accusation is the work of Satan and conviction is the work of the Holy Spirit. The accusation spoken of here is to charge with the fault, offense, or crime. The conviction is to impress with a sense of guilt. The Holy Spirit will not accuse a believer of their sins because He knows that even though the believer is guilty of committing the sin, the believer's sins have been paid for by the Son. However, He will convict us of our sins so we may repent and grow closer to God. Sin separates us from God. God desires for us to be close to Him; therefore, He will convict us or impress us with a sense of guilt for our sins so that we can draw closer to the Father.

"God did not send His Son into the world to condemn it, but to save it."

John 3:17

Establish the value that God has for you by reading the following scriptures. Beside each scripture complete the following sentence – “I have value in God’s eyes because . . . “

1. Genesis 1:26-27: _____

2. Psalm 8:3-5: _____

3. Psalm 139:1-18: _____

4. Isaiah 64:8: _____

5. John 3:16: _____

6. Romans 12:1-8: _____

The Princess’ Divine Destiny

Just like many Christians have a problem accepting they have a value in God’s eye they also have a problem with accepting the fact that God has a Divine destiny for their lives. Have you ever asked yourself – “How can a God who is so big have a heart to plan such a little life as mine?” You are not alone – the overall human race spends billions of dollars each year trying to distinguish who they are and where they are going. As Christians the answer to who we are and where we are going is simple – we must remember WHOSE we are and then we will know that if we focus on following God’s Will we don’t have to worry about where we are going.

The Holy Spirit interacts with each believer personally and God does have a Divine destiny for you and you alone. Read the following descriptions – then list your understanding of what God is trying to tell **you** about His Divine destiny for you.

1. Proverbs 16:4: _____

2. Ephesians 1:3-5: _____

3. Ephesians 1:15-19: _____

4. Acts 16:6-7: _____

5. James 1:5-8: _____

Let's look at the lives of several women in the Bible in whom God has shown us He had a perfect plan for their lives. Each woman is listed along with the scripture reference to her story. Describe the plan God had for her life.

1. Esther (book of Esther): _____

2. Sarah (Genesis 17:15-18:15; 21:1-7): _____

3. Ruth (book of Ruth): _____

4. Mary (Luke 1:1-38): _____

Thinking of these women of the Bible – what Divine destiny *could* God have for your life?

The purpose for which He created you will prevail in your life once you realize the value that God has for you and surrender yourself completely to His will.

*"You can make many plans, but the Lord's purpose will prevail."
Proverbs 19:21*

*"Lord, You alone are my inheritance, my cup of blessing.
You guard all that is mine. The land You have given me
is a pleasant land. What a wonderful inheritance!"
Psalm 16:5-6*

✿ The Princess' Gifts from the King ✿

At the moment of salvation God gave you gifts to use for the building up of His Kingdom. Spiritual Gifts are a study on their own, but to prepare ourselves for following God's Will it is absolutely necessary to recognize or discover our Spiritual Gifts.

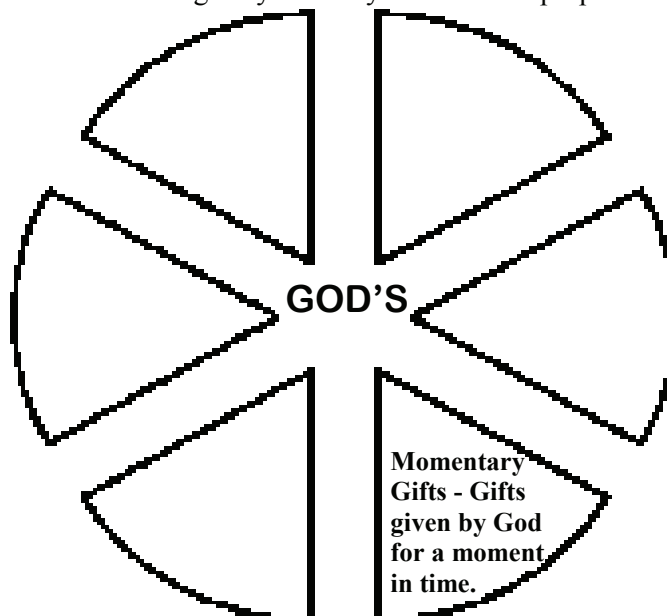
Review the following scriptures. In the space provided tell what the Bible teaches about Spiritual Gifts.

1. Romans 12:3-8: _____
2. 1 Corinthians 12:4-11: _____
3. Ephesians 4:11-13: _____
4. 1 Thessalonians 5:19-22: _____
5. Hebrews 2:4: _____

If you have not taken a Spiritual Gifts test, you may go to the *Ladies for Jesus* website (www.ladiesforjesus.com) for a test. Below is a list of the Spiritual Gifts. Circle your gifts as shown on your last Spiritual Gifts test. See "*Bible Spiritual Gifts Definitions*" in the Documentations (page 33) section for a description of each gift.

Administration	Intercession
Apostle	Leadership
Artistry	Mercy
Discernment	Missionary
Evangelist	Music
Exhortation	Pastor
Faith	Prophet
Giving	Servant/Helps
Healing	Teacher
Hospitality	Wisdom

Below is a diagram for visualization of how your gifts must be used for fulfilling God's Will. List your top five gifts in the pie pieces available. List only your gifts not your scores. The last pie piece lists "Momentary Gifts." This pie piece represents the gifts that God gives us for a moment in time. For example: you may not have the gift of mercy – but at a moment when mercy was needed God gave you mercy to fulfill His purpose.



If you look back at the diagram, you will notice that all of the gifts are pointing toward God's Will. This is because we should use our gifts to fulfill His Will. God did not give us these gifts for personal gain. He gave us these gifts to be used for the building of His Kingdom. Also note that the pie pieces are not completely placed together. This is because we alone do not fulfill God's Will. It takes the rest of His church to complete His Will.

⚡ Prayer Power ⚡

This week take the five Spiritual Gifts listed in your pie diagram and set aside a day for each gift to pray specifically for that gift. For Example: If your gifts are Leadership, Apostleship, etc. then on Monday pray for Leadership; Tuesday pray for Apostleship, etc. Ask God to reveal Himself to you and show you how He wants you to use that specific gift. Remember God is not in a box – so don't put Him or yourself there either. Allow God to take you outside of the box. Write in a prayer journal any revelations you have received from God. Research the Scriptures and learn how others in the Bible used the same gift.

Prepare your heart to follow His will with your gifts.

✿ The Holy Spirit Within Us ✿

You have Him . . . let Him work.

As Christians we are equipped with the Holy Spirit and therefore we have access to all the fruit the Holy Spirit has to offer. One fruit with many parts.

*"But when the Holy Spirit controls our lives, He will produce this kind of fruit in us: love, joy, **peace**, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Here there is no conflict with the law."*

Galatians 5:22 (NLT)

Although the Fruit of the Spirit study is a study on its own – we can see from Galatians 5:22 if we allow the Holy Spirit to control our life, then we will have peace – which is part of the fruit. This is the ultimate goal and final step to this study. Allowing the Holy Spirit to control our lives is how we stay in the Will of God. As we continue through this study, keep in mind that total surrender of self to the Holy Spirit is the key to distinguishing God's Will; not frustrating God's Will and discovering our peace in His Will.

HELP WANTED

Billions Needed. Billions to be Served. No skills necessary. All skills will be provided as needed. All provisions provided – personal and business. No more worries about your income or life. Never need to worry about another job again. Please send resume (your prayers) directly to God through the Savior.

Read Galatians 5:16-26. Beside each part of the Holy Spirit's fruit rank your "submission level" to the Holy Spirit from 0-5 with 5 being total submission. Write today's date here for reference later: _____

Love:	0 1 2 3 4 5	Patience:	0 1 2 3 4 5	Faithfulness:	0 1 2 3 4 5
Joy:	0 1 2 3 4 5	Kindness:	0 1 2 3 4 5	Gentleness:	0 1 2 3 4 5
Peace:	0 1 2 3 4 5	Goodness:	0 1 2 3 4 5	Self-Control:	0 1 2 3 4 5

Now review the list and ask yourself are you ready for each of these parts of the Holy Spirit to be displayed through you. At this point we must realize that we have ALL of these parts of the fruit available to us because we have the Holy Spirit in us. Therefore, the fact remains that we do not display these qualities of the Holy Spirit because we are not totally submitting to the Holy Spirit. Total submission is what will lead us to full understanding of our Father's Will.

"For we know how dearly God loves us, because He has given us the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts with His love. "

Romans 5:5

Whomever and Wherever with Whatever

Are you willing to be one of those serving whomever and wherever with whatever God entrusts to you? If so, here are some steps that can make you available and willing for such a calling.

- Explore and give thanks for the unique person God is making you. Do not be afraid to uncover your limitations – His strength is made perfect in your weakness.(2 Corinthians 12:9)
- Surrender the hurts and disappointments of not being fully utilized or recognized. Use the times of inactivity to celebrate God’s work in you, examine your driving motivations and support His work in others.
- Look for opportunities to serve where needs are greatest—even if you do not possess the skills and talents normally required. Get outside of your cultural and performance comfort zones.
- Soak up the character of Jesus, Spend time in Philippians 2. Study the Beatitudes (Matt. 5:1-12) and the fruit of the Holy Spirit (Gal. 5:16-26)

Jesus helps you understand that God is more interested in who you are becoming rather than just what you are doing. What we do has its greatest value when it plays a primary role in conforming us into the image of Christ.

✧ Deepen The Walk ✧

1. If you are doing this Bible study as a group, write a letter to a fellow member of the group telling them about:

- Your Divine Identity;
- Your Value in God’s eye;
- Your Divine Destiny;
- Your Gifts from God.
- How you plan on submitting to the Holy Spirit and allowing His Fruit to show through you.

Make sure you let them know that they too may claim these promises from God and that you plan on praying for them throughout the remainder of this study so they will allow themselves to be ready for whatever God has planned for their lives. **NOTE:** If you are doing this Bible study on your own, write this letter to a person who you normally call on to pray for your needs.

2. Think about your current life/lifestyle – do you feel comfortable right now that you are ready to follow God’s Will for your life? Why or Why Not?

Suggestions: ♦Suggested Reading – *God’s Spiritual Structure* in Documentations (page 34)

♦The *Ladies for Jesus* have discovered the value of having an Accountability Partner. This partner is someone who can be helpful in discovering God’s Will for both of your lives. A description of the Responsibilities of an Accountability Partner (RAP Sheet on page 26) is found in the back of this workbook. It is recommended that you prayerfully consider finding an Accountability Partner for yourself.

*May we be like Mary to say,
“I am the Lord’s servant, and I am willing to accept whatever He wants.”*

Luke 1:38a
Page 10

STEP II:

Understanding the Basic Nature of God and His Will

Before we can understand God's Will, we must understand the basics of His Nature. In this section we will study the basic nature of God and His Will by examining the Scriptures. In doing so, we will have a firmer foundation for discerning God's Will.

✠ The Basic Nature of God ✠

After reading the following scriptures use the word list at the bottom of the scriptures to fill in the spaces to finish the statement "God is . . ."

1 Peter 1:16: _____

Malachi 3:6: _____

Luke 1:37: _____

John 4:24: _____

Psalms 90:2: _____

1 John 4:8: _____

Psalms 119:90: _____

Jeremiah 23:23-24: _____

1 Timothy 6:16: _____

Matthew 16:16: _____

Hebrews 11:27: _____

Psalms 147:4-5: _____

Deuteronomy 32:4: _____

WORD LIST: Eternal; Holy; Immortal; Immutable; Invisible; Living; Love; Omnipotent; Omnipresent; Omniscient; Spirit; Truth; Faithful

Because God is firm and steady you can put your weight on Him. Thinking of the basic nature of God, what does it reveal to you about His plan for your life?

Suggested Reading: For further study see

- "God is . . ." in Documentations section (pages 35-37)

"Oh, what a wonderful God we have! How great are His riches and wisdom and knowledge! . . . For everything comes from Him; everything exists by His power and is intended for His glory. To Him be glory evermore. Amen."
Romans 11:33a; 36

☞ The Basic Nature of God's Will ☞

Before going further in our study, there are some basics of God's Will that we need to recognize. The following section contains a list of the basics of God's Will along with scripture references beside them. Pick one, several, or all of these and tell the group about an event(s) in your life where God revealed the basic nature of His Will to you.

1. God will give us direction. (Psalm 48:14)
2. God gives us guidance. (Psalm 16:7)
3. God works everything out for His plan (Proverbs 16:4)
4. God gives wisdom for making decisions (James 1:2-5)
5. God directs events in our lives (Acts 16:6-7)

Our Basic Responsibilities

1. We should ask God for guidance. (Psalm 25:4-7)
2. We should be obedient to God. (1 John 2:3) Those who obey God's Word will be blessed. (Luke 11:28)
3. We should have faith with our obedience. (Hebrew 11:7-12)

Don't Leave Salvation in the Drawer!

As Christians we must realize that salvation is not a step in the door – it is a step through the door. We must allow God to lead us through the life He has planned.

☞ Deepen The Walk ☞

1. Thinking about your life and the basic nature of God and His Will, write a short story about how God has revealed Himself to you throughout your life. Split the story up into past, present and future. Since future (of course) has not yet "played out" tell God how you will rely on His basic nature to further His Kingdom. Hint: Don't put God in a box for the future – especially if you have done so in the past – pray about this activity and allow Him to reveal Himself to you in further depth.
2. Condition yourself for the race. Read the following passages - what do they tell us about the "race of life".

1 Corinthians 9:24-27: _____

Ephesians 5:15-20: _____

Think about what you need to do to condition yourself to live by the Spirit's power. Write them down on an index card and place the index card in your daily path. (e.g. on refrigerator; by coffee pot; on steering wheel). Pray daily for the Lord to reveal to you how you may become closer to Him by doing these things. If you have established a relationship with an accountability partner, exchange index cards with them so you may be able to pray for each other's walk.

STEP III: God's Intentional Will

Before we begin this step on God's Intentional Will, let's take a moment to reflect upon what we already think about God's Will. In the space below write down your thoughts about God's Will as they stand today. These can be firmly grounded beliefs or just opinions that aren't necessarily grounded beliefs. Just allow yourself to write whatever comes to mind.

✿ God's Will in Three Parts ✿

There are three parts to the will of God. These three parts are as follows:

1. The Intentional Will of God
2. The Circumstantial Will of God
3. The Ultimate Will of God

Author's Reflections

Indeed we are plunging into train of thoughts that can be marked off as "theology" and are definitely not an "essential to salvation". None the less, I thought it might be worth noting what I came away with after discovery of this way of looking at God's Will. It took me a while to grasp the concept all together. After all, I had God's Will figured out. It was simple, God has His Will and I have mine – I must deny my will to let His prevail in my life. While this concept is still true, this view made me realize that God's Will isn't exactly simple – especially when you are trying to determine His Will. And that is something we can all agree on.

Upon looking at God's Will in this manner I have grown closer to my Lord by realizing that He has an ideal plan for my life, but due to circumstances (I create through my own will or Satan creates due to his nature) He has a circumstantial will. Praise the Lord that ultimately the original plan of God is brought to successful fruition and I can claim His true peace.

My prayer life has changed as well – I no longer pray the simple "God's Will be done". I now pray for God to reveal His Will to me so that I will not frustrate His Will and make circumstances that will cause a delay of blessings or hinder His kingdom. As I pray, I ask Him to reveal to me my sins that frustrate His Will so I may deal with those sins and He may cleanse me of them completely. I praise Him for being omnipotent, omnipresent and omniscient. Through this nature of God His original plan will be triumphant.

I hope and pray that you receive your own blessings and realizations from this study. Our goal will remain the same to stay within God's Will for our life and bring Him and His Son, Jesus Christ, glory. May you continue to strive for a closer relationship with Him.

Through Christ,
Kelly Dixon

✿ Prime Example of God's Will in Three Parts ✿

DEFINITIONS/EXPLANATIONS:

God's Intentional Will: Often referred to as God's Perfect Will. What God has planned for our life without interference of sin or Satan.

God's Circumstantial Will: Often referred to as God's Permissive Will. This is God's Will when circumstances created by the sin of man or Satanic interference cut across and interfere with God's Intentional Will.

God's Ultimate Will: Often considered the same as God's Perfect Will. This is the goal which God reaches not only in spite of all man's sin, but even using evil (Satan's interference) to further His own plan. In Other words, the end result is the same as God's Intentional Will's end result. The Ultimate Will was just detoured by circumstances (sin of man and Satanic interference).

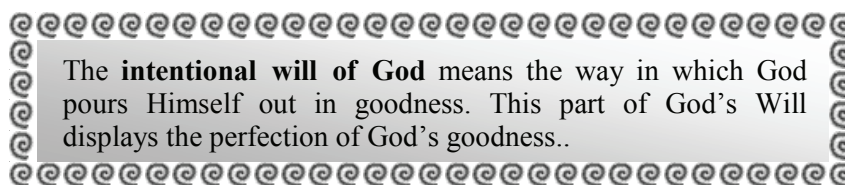
PRIME EXAMPLE:

God's Intentional Will: God created the perfect man and woman. He intended for them to live in the garden of Eden forever with no troubles or suffering.

God's Circumstantial Will: Satan interfered with God's Intentional Will by tempting Eve with the fruit. Eve then gave the fruit to Adam, who sinned against God by disobeying God's Word. This is what we refer to today as The Fall of Man. Therefore, because of the introduction of sin we live in God's Circumstantial Will.

God's Ultimate Will: God still loves man and wants him to ultimately be with Him. Therefore, He sent His Son to die for our sins so that we may be made perfect through the blood of Jesus Christ. Then we can live forever in peace with God as He intended in the beginning.

SPECIAL NOTE: Another way of splitting up God's Will is by God's Perfect Will and God's Permissive Will. These three parts correlate as follows: God's Perfect Will can be correlated to God's Intentional Will and God's Ultimate Will. God's Permissive Will can correlate to God's Circumstantial Will.



If men could see more clearly into the divine purpose and focus their mind on Jesus, they can become the instruments of God's purpose and sweep away the evil of this World. God's Intentional Will is to pour out Himself in goodness. Review the following Scriptures and write down what they say about the goodness of God:

1. Psalm 31:19: _____

2. Zechariah 9:16-17: _____

3. Romans 11:22: _____

Thinking back, can you recall a time when you regarded a certain event in your life as the "will of God"? List that event here.

Giving the description of God's Intentional Will what do you feel would be God's Intentional Will for this event in your life?

*"For I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord.
They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope."
Jeremiah 29:11*

✿ Deepen The Walk ✿

1. Begin reading a chapter a day from 1 Samuel. As you read look for God's Intentional Will for the Israelites. As you advance through this study, point out God's Circumstantial Will and His Ultimate Will for the Israelites. Use this assignment as a way to learn more about Biblical history – you won't regret it.
2. Many Christians are not "consciously aware" of God's Will; but are "unconsciously aware" of God's Will. This means we may occasionally say "God's Will be done" or "I guess it wasn't God's Will". But God wants us to be "consciously aware" of what is or isn't His Will. What does "conscious awareness" mean? It means to always be aware of where God is working and to join Him there, regardless the cost. If you are not already committed to being consciously aware of God's Will do so today. **Application Worksheet:** Awareness of God's Will Self-Examination (page 27).

STEP IV:

God's Circumstantial Will

What is God's Circumstantial Will?

There is an intentional purpose of God for every man's life; but because of human folly and sin, because man's free will creates circumstances of evil that cut across God's plan there is a Will within the Will of God. This Will is called God's Circumstantial Will. And in the doing of that Will the soul can find peace, the mind can find poise, and the Will can be so expressed that ultimately the original plan of God is brought to successful fruition.

*We, by our free will, can frustrate God's Intentional Will
– but His Ultimate Will is brought to successful fulfillment.*

Two Parts to the Circumstantial Will of God:

Natural Realm: The forces of nature carry out their functions and are not reflected when they are used by the forces of evil.

- If nails are hit by a hammer wielded by a strong arm, they pierce the flesh even of the Son of God.
- If bombs are dropped from an airplane over a city, they fall upon the godly and ungodly.

Spiritual Realm: Spiritual reaction to the circumstances that frustrate God's Will.

- Circumstances that frustrate God's Will, whether created by our own sin; someone else's sin; or by Satan's evil plans, can be dealt with in an appropriate reaction spiritually.
- For example, your 15 year old child has just come home and told you that she is pregnant. Realizing that God's Will for your child's life has been frustrated by your child's sinful act – how will you respond? Will you respond in a sinful manner – anger, hurt pride, embarrassment? Or will you respond the way the Holy Spirit would with love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control?

No one can say to God: "Well, of course I wanted to do this and that, but I was the victim of illness or sorrow or frustration or war or death or loss. So what could I do?" For there are no circumstances which would be so deadly as those Christ had to face. No possible situation can ever arise which of itself has the power either to down us or to defeat God – no, not even death!!

There is a will of God within evil circumstances; and let every sufferer realize that if he has the right reaction to these circumstances, the ultimate will of God will be reached as effectively as if he had not been suffering.

- Rev. Leslie D. Weatherhead

*Many times we hear the term "create lemonade out of lemons"
– that is what God is doing with His Circumstantial Will.*

Who or what creates circumstances?

When considering God's Circumstantial Will the question arises – are circumstances that frustrate God's Will only created by the sin of man? Write below what Luke 13:10-17 reveals about this question.

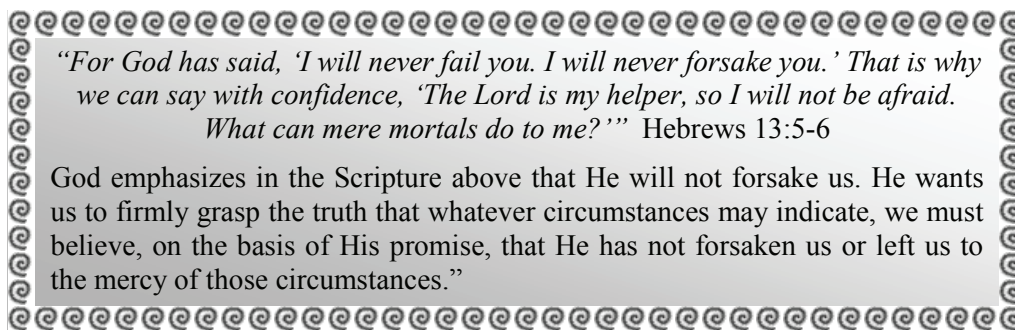
Spiritual Warfare:

While it is true that the sin of man does frustrate God's Will, we must recognize the spiritual warfare that is constantly happening around us. Satan's realm of evil also frustrates the will of God. Read the following Scriptures and reflect upon what they are telling us about spiritual warfare.

1. Daniel 10:12-21: _____

2. 1 Peter 5:8-9: _____

3. 2 Peter 2:4: _____



✧ Deepen The Walk ✧

1 Samuel 2:1-10 is Hannah's Prayer of Praise. As you read this prayer, point out God's Intentional Will, God's Circumstantial Will and God's Ultimate Will..

Look back at the short story you wrote about your life from the assignment at the end of Step II (page 10). Taking the part you wrote about the future and knowing your own faults list some possible circumstances you foresee that could frustrate God's Will and hinder the future you have portrayed. Recognizing our own self will traits is the beginning of laying them at the foot of Christ. Take these circumstances into your prayer life and pray that the Lord will give you the strength to overcome.

STEP V: God's Ultimate Will

What is God's Ultimate Will?

God's Ultimate Will is the goal He reaches not only in spite of all man may do, but even using evil to further His own plan. This is best illustrated by the following excerpt from *The Will of God* by Rev. Weatherhead.

The picture in my mind is that of children playing beside a tiny stream that runs down a mountainside to join a river in the valley below. Very little children can divert the stream and get great fun out of damming it up with stones and earth. But not one of them ever succeeds in preventing the water from reaching the river at last. (Don't press the illustration and remind me that the Royal Engineers could do so!) In regard to God we are very little children. Though we may divert and hinder His purposes, I don't believe we ever finally defeat them; and, though the illustration doesn't carry us so far, frequently our mistakes and sins are used to make another channel to carry the water of God's plans to the river of His purpose.

After Job goes through all the trials and tribulations that the Lord allowed evil Satan to bring upon him, he makes a statement to the Lord that summarizes this message of God's Ultimate Will. Write down Job 42:2 here.

What do the following scriptures reveal about God's plans?

Psalms 33:1-11: _____

Ephesians 1:9-14: _____

Do or did you have a time in your life where you thought that you really messed up and that all was lost? If God has shown you His Ultimate Will, list it below. If you haven't realized God's Ultimate Will yet, listen to others for possible assistance in your own situation.

When we say, then, that God is omnipotent, we do not mean that nothing can happen unless it is God's Will (or intention). We mean that nothing can happen which can *finally* defeat His Will.

✧ Deepen The Walk ✧

Read the Story of Eli's Wicked Sons – 1 Samuel 2:12-36. Point out

God's Intentional Will: _____

God's Circumstantial Will: _____

God's Ultimate Will: _____

Witness Preparation:

When we are witnessing to others we may hear such statements as the one below. Take a moment to deepen your belief in God's Will by evaluating the statement. Write down the sides of one who is for the statement and one who is against the statement. Use scripture to support the sides.*

Statement:

"If God can use evil as well as good, then let us not bother what we do, however stupid and careless and sinful we may be. Nothing we do matters."

For: _____

Against: _____

- When we are witnessing we will encounter individuals who will use Scripture to support their side - even if the Scripture is taken out of context. This exercise is to help you learn how to better prepare yourself for witnessing.

STEP VI: Discerning the Will of God

When asking “Where do I go from here?” and/or “How can I be sure it is God’s way and how can I be certain I won’t make a mistake?” We must travel by faith more than by sight. God can start with us where we are and He has ways of showing us the path of His Will.

Write down what the following scriptures tell us about faith:

1. Romans 5:1: _____
2. Romans 10:17: _____
3. Ephesians 4:5: _____
4. Hebrews 11:1: _____
5. Hebrews 11:7-12: _____

After reading the above scriptures, how you do feel about your faith in God.

✿ Discerning and Staying within God’s Circumstantial Will ✿

It is not hard to tell that God’s circumstantial and ultimate will are the parts of God’s Will that we strive to understand the most. It is easy to understand God’s Intentional Will by just understanding the nature of God. The understanding of God’s Circumstantial Will and His Ultimate Will is what Christians struggle with the most.

In our lives we have a constant struggle between “good and evil”. If you are a Christian and are growing closer to Christ, you will continue to be open to satanic attacks. Read Galatians 5:16-18 – what advise did Paul offer to the Galatians and to us today?

One can never be certain that one has not made a mistake. But we can be certain that our mistakes will not result in our being lost. God often wonderfully weaves mistakes into His plan.

- Rev. Leslie D. Weatherhead

When we make the choice to finally give our total selves over to God and His Will for our lives we have made the first step to an even deeper relationship with Him. God wants us to discern His Will and He wants us to continue to grow closer to Him. There are two ways in which we can do just this, by *abiding and soaking*.

“As the Father loved me, I also have loved you; abide in My love.”
John 15:9

“My mouth shall speak wisdom, and the meditation of my heart shall give understanding.”
Palm 49:3

❧ Abiding in Love ❧



The fairy tale dream is usually the same for most little girls. The story of Cinderella finds its way into every girl's heart one way or another. There's something appealing about being rescued by a prince out of our own "miserable" circumstances. As the prince whisks Cinderella away in the carriage on their wedding day, each little girl then begins to dream about their own perfect prince one day to come. They dream of the magnificent castle their prince will whisk them off to – tapestries and chandeliers and beautiful paintings on every wall. There would be maids and a housekeeper and a butler and a cook. There would be extensive lawns with peacocks strutting across them. There would be formal gardens, reflecting ponds, and bouquets of roses. It all sounds so beautiful.

As the little girl grows up and begins living her life, she may find her prince and may even have the wedding of her dreams – but soon she learns that her prince is not perfect and the castle is not magnificent. The maid, housekeeper, butler, and cook is herself. The gardener of her formal garden and reflecting pond is her own prince who has his own ideas of a formal garden and reflecting pond.

Even the most romantic, idealistic lives have their little imperfections. They can only disappoint us. But believers needn't worry over such things. Our real life is hidden away in Jesus Christ, and we abide in His love.

We are loved lavishly. How does Paul describe God's love for us in Romans 5:5?

How does Jesus say we are loved in John 15:9? What does He invite us to do?

Abiding in love gives us the idea of being surrounded by love, of living in love. Paul gives us another picture of this abiding – while we are abiding in Christ, Christ is abiding in us. How does Ephesians 3:17 describe our relationship to love?

Rooted, growing, bearing fruit – this picture is used consistently in Scripture for those who abide in Christ and His love.

- According to John 15:4, what must we do in order to bear fruit?

- How do we know that we are abiding in Jesus, according to 1 John 4:13?

- Who abides with us forever, according to John 14:16?

We abide in Christ's love. His Spirit abides in us. And by abiding, we bear fruit. What is that fruit according to Galatians 5:22-23?

We put our trust in God. We abide in Him. How does David describe the attitude of his heart because of this in Psalm 5:11?

What is another description of the one who loves the Lord, found in Judges 5:31?

A Further Look at Abiding:

Nothing on this earth can satisfy our longing for heaven. But we can lay up treasures in heaven. They'll be waiting for us there where thieves cannot break in and steal, and where moth and rust cannot decay. Take a look at these verses that talk about just those things:

- Matthew 6:19-20
- Luke 12:32
- John 14:2

Ponder and Prayer

Over the next few days, consider what it means to abide in Christ. We must depend upon Him, draw our strength from Him, feel at home with Him. Pray that your roots will continue to go down deep into His love. Pray that you will be able to flourish, grow, and bear fruit.

Application Worksheet

Discerning The Will of God Worksheet I on pages 28-29.

❧ Soaking in God's Word ❧



Growing up on a farm with a father that planted a garden every year, I always knew that Spring and Summer days brought fresh vegetables from the garden. Along with those vegetables came the grilling of delicious meats. If you are an avid griller (as the men of my family are) you know that marinating a piece of meat will spice things up a little. Marinades are liquids that you soak the meat in before cooking. The marinade is usually made up of oil and vinegar with a combination of herbs and spices. These seasonings penetrate the meat during the soaking process, imparting their flavor to the finished meal. All kinds of things can be used as ingredients in a marinade – oils, garlic, onions, fruit juices, Italian dressing, tomato paste, sugar, soy sauce, etc. Each enhances and even improves the flavor of your food. The range of possibilities keeps us experimenting with different combinations all summer long.

Soaking in the Word of God is just like the marinade of meats. As we soak in His Word, we are enhanced and improved. When it comes to Scripture, we must slow down our pace and pay attention to each word. This is the difference between reading Scripture and studying Scripture. But there's yet another downshift we need to employ, from studying to meditation. God encourages us to soak in His Words.

What does David invite the Lord to do in both Psalm 5:1 and Psalm 64:1?

Meditation is easiest when things are quiet. When did the psalmist say he did some of his meditation, according to Psalm 77:6 and Psalm 119:148?

What part of the day is your meditation time with the Lord?

What is Joshua told to do with God's Word in Joshua 1:8? Why is he told to do this?

How can we know what things will be pleasing to the Lord? What does Philippians 4:8 urge us to meditate upon?

What does Paul tell us can be the result of a life liberally marinated in God's Word, according to 1 Timothy 4:15?

*"Therefore you shall lay up these
words of mine in your heart and in your soul."
Deuteronomy 11:18*

❧ Deepen The Walk ❧

Suggested reading – *Signposts of Direction* in Articles/Documentation section (Documentation IV)

Application Worksheet:

Discerning God's Will, Worksheet II – Obtaining Wisdom pages 30-31.

Self Examination:

The following questions are for you to ask yourself for examination of your desire for a deeper relationship with God. It is not necessary for you to write your answers down – it is necessary for you to consider the questions.

1. Do I really want to discern God's Will, or do I want to get His sanction for my own?
2. Have I got the courage to do God's Will when I discern it?

STEP VII:

In His Will Is Our Peace

To be within God's Will means peace for three reasons:

1. **We lose the fear of getting lost.** By keeping within the Will of God, as we see it in any experience, we find our way even through apparently overwhelming storms, until we arrive at last where God wants us to be and the goal of all human endeavor is to fulfill God's purposes and to be one with Him.
2. **The dread of carrying the responsibility of what happens is removed.** When we submit our will to the will of God, in a sense we can say to God, "I'm so glad you have come." We are not any longer carrying out a set of duties in loneliness and bearing the responsibility of life alone.
3. **In His Will our conflicts are resolved.** The guiding principle "I will do God's Will as far as I can see it" is one that answers a great many of our conflicts; and, therefore brings us peace and strength.

What do the following scriptures tell us about Peace?

1. Isaiah 53:5: _____

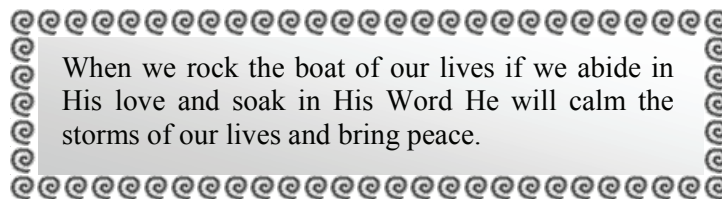
2. Psalm 34:14: _____

3. John 14:27: _____

4. Romans 5:1: _____

5. Galatians 5:22: _____

6. Philippians 4:4-7: _____



Deepen The Walk

Have a friend read 1 John 1; 1 John 2:1-15; 2:24-29 to you as you listen thinking of John speaking directly to you. Write down below what came to mind when you were listening to the verses.

To bring peace to our own lives we must follow God's Will and bring God's light to this dark and evil world. It is when this light is basking and glowing all around us that we will be at peace.

Application Worksheet:

In His Will is Our Peace Worksheet (page 32).

Author's Reflections:

As the Lord began to first work on me about being in His true peace, I would visualize the shoes of peace being physically placed on my feet as the Father protected me with His armor. This vision was always with an amazing light or warmth surrounding me and the Father. One morning during my commune with the Lord, He led me to read 1 John as I have suggested a friend read to you. In this passage it talks about "living in the light." I keep thinking of light all around me and how I can bask in the glory of it. Then I think of Isaiah 6 where it states that the praises for the Lord "shook the temple to it's foundations, and the entire sanctuary was filled with smoke". In Anne Graham Lotz's book *I Saw The Lord*, she talks about this smoke being the Holy Spirit. I believe this smoke is the Holy Spirit, also.

When we are surrounded by His love, when we are living in the light, when we are continually praising His name—He penetrates us with His peace. We absorb the light and bask in it's warmth and tranquility. We breath in the smoke – breathing in the Holy Spirit as Jesus told the disciples to do in John 20:22. By absorbing this light and breathing in the Holy Spirit, we are at peace. The true peace that only the Holy Spirit can provide. Through the process we begin to shine for Jesus and exhale the Holy Spirit to the World. I praise the Lord for His glory. I praise the Lord for His peace.

As we end this study my hope is that you have a better understanding about discerning the will of God and through that discernment you will open up the opportunity for Christ to provide you with a life full of peace. May you always remember these words of Christ:

*"The thief's purpose is to steal and kill and destroy.
My purpose is to give life in all its fullness."
John 10:10*

Application Worksheets and Documentation Section:

APPLICATION WORKSHEETS:

Worksheet I - *The RAP Sheet: Responsibilities of an Accountability Partner* (Page 26)

Worksheet II - *Awareness of God's Will Self-Examination* (Page 27)

Worksheet III – *Discerning God's Will - Worksheet I* (Page 28-29)

Worksheet IV - *Discerning God's Will – Obtaining Wisdom* (Page 30 - 31)

Worksheet V - *In His Will Is Our Peace* (Page 32)

DOCUMENTATIONS:

Documentation I – *Bible Spiritual Gifts Definitions* (Page 33)

Documentation II – *God's Spiritual Structure* developed by Kelly Dixon (Page 34)

Documentation III – *God is . . .* taken from The Parent Company website: www.parentcompany.com
(Page 35-37)

The “RAP” Sheet

Responsibilities of an Accountability Partner

Basic Responsibilities you have as an Accountability Partner:

1. *Pray for your partner daily.* (James 5:16-18)
2. *Speak the truth in love* (Ephesians 4:15)
3. *Point out Satanic Attacks on your partner.* 2 Corinthians 2:5-11 shows an example of a satanic attack on a church (the church is not forgiving someone). The lesson here is wrapped up in verse 11 - “so that Satan will not outsmart us. For we are very familiar with his evil schemes.” Familiarize yourself with Satan’s evil schemes so that you may see his attacks on you and point them out to your accountability partner.
4. *Edify your partner in the Scriptures.* When you find a Scripture of encouragement for your partner share it with them. (Colossians 3:16)
5. *Be a Sounding Board if needed.* Many of us need a sounding board - especially one with the same goals. We all have the goal of glorifying our Father - talk out your situations with your partner and be a sounding board for each other.

What am I making my partner accountable for?

You are making your partner accountable for following God’s Will in their life at the moment. Figuring out God’s Ultimate Will for that person may happen in this process, but your main reason for having an accountability partner is to have someone to encourage you in the Lord as you walk with Him (Romans 1:11-12). In doing so this person will hold you accountable for what you both feel together is the Lord’s Will.

As part of your responsibility remember the following:

James 1:27 states the three characteristics of a religious person;

1. Control The Tongue
2. Take Care of the Widows and Orphans
3. ***Refuse to let the world corrupt us.***

We must remember that as we continue our walk with the Lord the world will try to corrupt us - be aware of this and ***refuse*** to let it happen.

Scriptures to Study:

Ephesians 4:1-16
Philippians 2:12-18
2 Thessalonians 1:11-12

Princess' Journey
Awareness of God's Will Self-Examination

Instructions: List below an example of your activities during an average week in your life. Place a gold star beside the days you are more likely to be aware of God's Will and a silver star beside the days you are occasionally aware of God's Will.

Sunday: _____

Monday: _____

Tuesday: _____

Wednesday: _____

Thursday: _____

Friday: _____

Saturday: _____



Princess' Journey
Discerning God's Will
Worksheet I

Directions: Read 2 Peter. Then answer the questions below.

Growing in the Knowledge of God:

When discerning God's Will, we must grow in the knowledge of God. The first chapter of 2 Peter shows us how to do this. The last part of 2 Peter 1:4 says "*He has promised that you will escape the decadence all around you caused by evil desires and that you will share in His divine nature*" (NLT) List here the steps that lead us along the path of knowing God if we apply the benefits of God's promise. (2 Peter 1:5-8)

_____	will produce	_____
_____	leads to	_____
_____	leads to	_____
_____	leads to	_____
_____	leads to	_____
_____	leads to	_____

and finally you will grow to have _____

2. If we fail to develop these virtues (as we listed above) we are _____ and have forgotten _____ (2 Peter 1:9)

What should we work hard to prove? (2 Peter 1:10) and why? (2 Peter 1:10b & 11)

False Teachers

When trying to discern God's Will Satan will put False Teachers in our path; therefore, when we are trying to discern God's Will, we must learn to recognize false teachings and not be led astray. 2 Peter 2 helps us in doing this.

What harm will these false teachings do to the true ministry of Christ? (2 Peter 2:2)

God will punish the wicked, but He saves the godly. Use 2 Peter 2:4-8 (or your own Bible knowledge) to fill in the blanks below:

God destroyed the ancient world by flood. But He saved

God destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah by fire and brimstone but He saved

Discerning God's Will Worksheet I *Continued* . . .

God *will* rescue the godly but according to 2 Peter 2:9-10 God is especially hard on the wicked who do what?

False teachings are useless and Christians shouldn't even entertain their teachings. What does 2 Peter 2:17-19 say about this?

What does 2 Peter 2:20-21 mean?

The Lord's Return

Our Lord will return for us one day. Meanwhile, we have been given a mission while we wait. Part of that mission is discerning God's Will. 2 Peter 3 tells us a little more about this mission.

What does 2 Peter 3:9 say as to why the Lord is waiting before He returns? (2 Peter 2:2)

According to 2 Peter 3:13, what should we look forward to?

What should we do while we wait for the Lord to return? (2 Peter 3:14)

Learning Objective: Peter wrote his second epistle shortly before his death. He was trying to deal with the problems that he knew would remain after his departure. Second Peter is a call to stand firm in the midst of numerous pressures to drift from the truth. The world is seeking to undo all that God is doing, but we must resist all such pressure by living godly lives, believing the truth, enduring persecution, trusting God, and living in anticipation of Christ's return. When we set out to discern God's Will, we must grow in the knowledge of God and be aware of false teachings that Satan will use to sway us away from the truth. The Lord is patiently waiting to return one day and we should look forward to that day. What does "looking forward" mean? It means that we should continually strive to discern His Will so we can glorify His Name and grow His Kingdom by living pure and blameless lives which lead to peace.

Princess' Journey
Discerning God's Will – Obtaining Wisdom
Worksheet II

Directions: There is only one question on this worksheet that requires you to look up scripture for the answer. However, you are encouraged to look up the scriptures throughout this worksheet for a deeper understanding of this topic.

As we learn more and more about discerning God's Will, it will become apparent that we need wisdom. Many Christians fail in discerning God's Will because they simply do not seek God's wisdom. Some may feel they are inferior and unable to understand God – so why try. While others may feel that they are afraid to seek God's wisdom because it might go against their own. Regardless the reason, the Bible clearly states:

"Leave your foolish ways behind and begin to live; learn how to be wise."

Proverbs 9:6 (NLT)

No matter how much wisdom we think we have we can always be taught and become even wiser.

"Anyone who rebukes a mocker will get a smarter retort. Anyone who rebukes the wicked will get hurt. So don't bother rebuking mockers; they will only hate you. But the wise, when rebuked, will love you all the more. Teach the wise, and they will be wiser. Teach the righteous, and they will learn more."

Proverbs 9:7-9 (NLT)

JESUS TELLS US TO ASK, SEEK AND KNOCK.

"Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened."

Matthew 7:7-8 (NKJ)

Often we apply the above scripture to material or worldly needs or wants. However, this should be applied to obtaining wisdom also. For it is only by obtaining wisdom from God that we will be able to discern God's Will and be able to glorify His Kingdom.

ASK FOR WISDOM!!

The wisest man to ever live was King Solomon. How did he obtain his wisdom? He asked for it. If you read 1 Kings 3:1-15 you will see that Solomon received God's Wisdom because he asked for wisdom instead of riches, long-life for himself, or death of his enemies. List here what God told Solomon about his request (1 Kings 3:10-14)

If we ask the Lord for wisdom scripture says:

"You will show me the way of life, granting me the joy of Your presence and the pleasures of living with You forever."

Psalm 16:11 (NLT)

SEEK WISDOM!!

Adrian Rogers once stated, “We cannot know the Will of God apart from the Word of God.” We must seek wisdom through the Word of God. We don’t just ask for wisdom, lie down on our pillows, and then arise the next morning wise. We must seek God’s wisdom through prayer and studying of His Word. We must plug into the Holy Spirit that is within us. Only Christians can discern God’s Will because we have the mind of Christ (1 Corinthians 2:16). We seek wisdom and obtain wisdom by accessing the Holy Spirit and by allowing the Holy Spirit to control our lives. Remember – Allowing the Holy Spirit to control our lives is how we stay in the Will of God (Page 8 of this study book – *The Holy Spirit Within Us*). ***We must marinate in God’s Word so that it penetrates into our heart and soul.***

“Therefore you shall lay up these words of mine in your heart and in your soul.”
Deuteronomy 11:18 (NLT)

WISDOM REQUIRES KNOCKING!!

If we want wisdom to discern God’s Will, we must be like Solomon and ask for it. Then we must eagerly seek it. But finally we must knock. Even though some wisdom may be obtained by asking and seeking – it is vital to continue the step of obedience (knocking) to obtain even more wisdom of God’s Will. A person can ask for wisdom and seek God’s wisdom and still be stagnant in the Lord. Growing in the Lord is more than just obtaining wisdom and sitting on it. We must knock – we must make action of God’s Will after He has given us wisdom of it.

Knock – Make Action – Do It!!

Jesus said: *“Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine,
and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house
on the rock: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew
and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock.
But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them,
will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand:
and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew
and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall”*
Matthew 7:24-29 (NKJ)

For Further Study:

Learn from the wisest man, Solomon. Read the book of Proverbs on a regular basis. Solomon wrote most of the Proverbs. The book of Proverbs contains practical instructions for successful living. It teaches that there is special wisdom revealed by God as well as innate wisdom, or common sense, and both must play a part in daily life. One way of marinating in the book of Proverbs is by reading a chapter a day. By following this pattern you will be able to read all 31 chapters of the book in a month – for months that have 31 days. BUT DON’T CHEAT YOURSELF – as women of Christ we must not skip the 31st chapter on the months that do not have 31 days. Read two chapters on the 30th day – continually reading about a wife of noble character will bring to mind those characteristics when we need them most.

Princess' Journey
In His Will Is Our Peace
Worksheet

The following worksheet is to be used to take a personal look at the peace we can obtain by being in God's Will.

Your Understanding of God's Will in YOUR life:

Write down the details (as you know them right now) of God's Will in *your* life.

The Initial Peace of The Knowledge of God's Will:

Initially we are at peace when we discover God's Will. Write down the peace you feel from knowing this part of God's Will.

YOUR Fears in doing God's Will:

Even though initially we are at peace, fear usually sets in when we discover our responsibilities in doing God's Will. Write down your fears as you think about doing God's Will? (For Example: insecure; finances, inability, etc.)

Looking back over your fears, remind yourself that God is a God of peace and not a God of fear. As you do this pray the following prayer so you may release all your fears to God.

Dear Lord,

I know you love me and Your Will is perfect. I desire to do Your Will Lord even in the circumstances that surround my everyday life. I desire to obtain peace from within doing Your Will because this is true peace. But I have fears Lord and they are:

(List your fears one by one to the Lord)

I know you are not a God of fear and these fears do not come from you. Only peace that surpasses all understanding comes from you. Therefore, right now I release all these fears to You Lord. I commit myself to doing Your Will and I claim the peace You have for me.

Guide me in doing Your Will Lord. May I always remember that I have a Divine identity in You and You have a Divine destiny for my life. I desire to use the gifts You have given me to Your glory and to display the fruit that comes directly from Your Holy Spirit. May I always be consciously aware of Your Will and constantly abide in Your love. May I daily marinate in Your Word so that I may discern Your Will. I love You, Lord, and pray these things in the name of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ. Amen

Bible Spiritual Gifts Definitions

Administration: This gift is the special ability that God gives to understand clearly the immediate and long-range goals of ministries with the body of Christ. A person with this gift is able to develop and execute effective plans for the accomplishment of those goals.

Apostle: This gift appoints certain Christians to lead, inspire and develop the churches of God by the proclamation and the teaching of true doctrine.

Artistry: While not specifically in the New Testament, God has gifted individuals with remarkable craftsmanship and artistic skills from the earliest of recorded time. The Old Testament provides vivid accounts of God's distribution of giftedness in these areas - whether for the building of temples or for use to glorify God in praise.

Discernment: This gift allows certain Christians to know through the power of God and with assurance whether some behavior is of God or of Satan.

Evangelist: This gift enables particular Christians to share the Gospel to unbelievers in such a way that the unbeliever becomes a disciple of the Lord Jesus.

Exhortation: This gift enables certain Christians to stand beside fellow Christians in need and bring comfort, counsel and encouragement.

Faith: This gift provides Christians with extraordinary confidence in God's promises, power, and presence. In doing so they can take heroic stands for the future of God's work in the church.

Giving: This gift enables certain Christians to offer their financial and material blessings for the work of the church with exceptional willingness, cheerfulness and liberality.

Healing: This gift is given to employ certain Christians to restore health to the sick through the power of God by prayer or laying on of hands.

Hospitality: This gift is the special ability that enables the Christian to provide open arms, an open house and warm welcome for those in need of friendship, a warm welcome, food or lodging.

Intercession: This gift enables certain Christians to pray for others for extended periods of time with great positive effect for the building of the Kingdom of God.

Leadership: This gift enables certain Christians to motivate, direct and inspire God's people in such a way that they voluntarily and harmoniously work together to do the Church's work effectively.

Mercy: This gift enables certain Christians to feel exceptional empathy and compassion for those who are suffering so that they devote large amounts of time and energy to alleviate that suffering.

Missionary: This gift is given to enable the Christian to minister other spiritual gifts they have in a country, culture or community other than their own.

Music: This gift enables certain Christians to praise God through various forms of musical talent such as playing an instrument or singing to enhance the worship experience of the local congregation.

Pastor: This gift enables certain Christians to assume responsibility for the spiritual welfare of a group of believers.

Prophet: This gift empowers certain Christians to interpret and apply God's revelation in a given situation.

Servant/Helps: This gift empowers certain Christians to willingly bear the burdens of others and help them in such a way that they can do their tasks more effectively. Like witnessing, this should be a calling of all Christians, but there are some who have a special desire to find ways to help or serve, and get great blessing from it. There seems to be a special desire to meet physical needs in the people who have this gift.

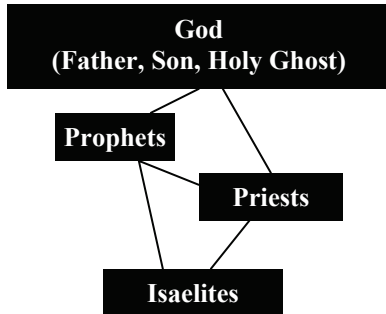
Teacher: This gift enables particular Christians to communicate the truths of God's Word in a manner that others can learn and apply those truths to their own life.

Wisdom: This gift endows particular Christians with an understanding of God's will and work as it relates to the living of life. This allows them to be used in providing divine direction for themselves and others.

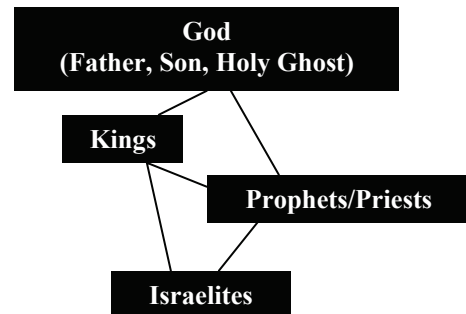
God's Spiritual Structures:

Old Testament:

God's Spiritual Structure - before Kings



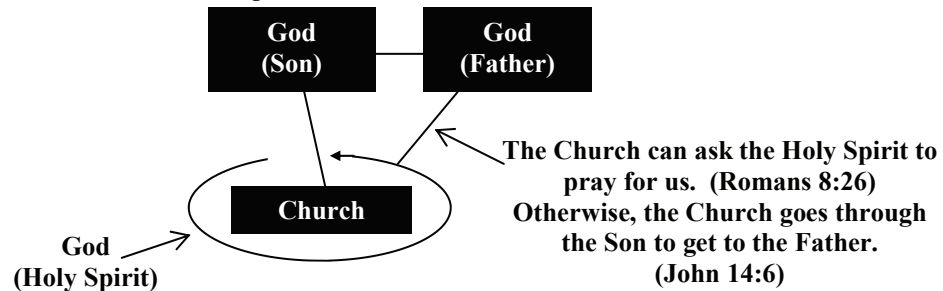
God's Spiritual Structure - with Kings



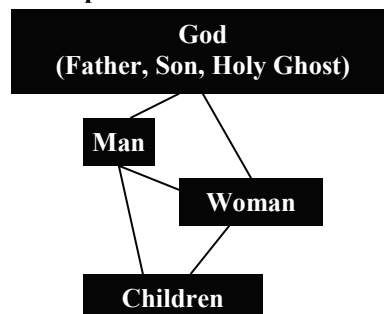
PLEASE NOTE: In the Spiritual Structures above the time period of the Judges is not displayed. This time period was during 11th century B.C. and covered a period of several hundred years following the conquest of Canaan. During this time the people were ruled by individual leaders called judges. Their task was primarily to expel their enemies from the land. Throughout this part of Israel's history there is a repetition of a tragic cycle: rebellion against God, followed by the judgment of God, usually in the form of foreign invasion. The people of Israel would then cry to God for help, and He would send a "judge" to lead them back to God's ways.

New Testament:

God's Spiritual Structure - After Christ



God's Spiritual Structure - Families



God Is . . .

This documentation is for further study of Step II – Understanding the Basic Nature of God and His Will. Below you will find each characteristic of God and their definition; meaning; scripture support; conclusion; and application obtained from parentcompany.com

God is Eternal - Eternal refers to the endless past, the unending future, or to **God's** present experience of all time. **God** has no beginning as man can understand beginning and no ending either, but God exists now and knows both the beginning and the end as we perceive them.

Meaning: This also points to how much we can trust God. Since He created time as we know it, He lives outside of time and can see the beginning and the end of our lives and the age of men and the church. Therefore when He tells us what events will precede and be a part of the end of the age, we can rest assured that those events will happen just as He described. More than that though, we can live with the peace of knowing that when we die, we will be with Him forever without end. A day will be as a thousand years.

Scripture Support: Psalm 90:2; Genesis 21:33; Isaiah 57:15; Deuteronomy 33:27; I Timothy 1:17

Conclusion: God has always existed and He always will. Nothing can resist Him and nothing will ever be able to bring an end to Him.

Application: Since God cannot have an end and He promises to provide me with eternal life with Him if I believe His Son died for me, I will believe and live my life right now serving Him.

God is Holy - Holy means the pure, loving nature of **God**, separate from evil. aggressively seeking to universalize itself: that this character exists permanently in places, times and institutions intimately associated with worship; and that it is to characterize human beings who have entered into personal relations with **God**.

Meaning: To be holy means to be separate from evil. Therefore, we need to separate ourselves from evil, by not associating with evil, being found in a situation where one could get the idea of being evil. That doesn't mean to not have any friends that are not Christians, for even Jesus spent time with the social and religious outcasts of His day. When we associate with those people our behavior needs to demonstrate that we are different from the people or the evil things surrounding us at that given moment.

Scripture Support: I Peter 1:16 – 25; I John 1:5; Psalm 98:1 Psalm 145:17; I Samuel 2:2; Isaiah 6:3; John 17:11; Rev. 4:8

Conclusion: The holiness of God is directly related to His righteousness, God alone is to be worshipped. He alone is separate from evil, but He tells us to be holy like Him.

Application: Since God never tells us to do something we are unable to do, I will commit myself to separate myself from evil and trust that He will enable me to do just that.

God is Immortal - Only **God** possesses immortality "as an original, eternal and necessary endowment." The immortality of man's soul is conferred upon it by **God** and is contingent on His will.

Meaning: Man cannot gain immortality by his own power, instead God must grant it to him. God promises to give it to those who believe in Him. Those who don't believe will be separated from Him forever and will suffer eternal punishment and torment as a result of not being with God who gives life and immortality.

Scripture Support: I Timothy 1:17; I Timothy 6:16

Conclusion: Only God is immortal in and of Himself.

Application: I need to trust God and submit to His will in order to be able to live with Him eternally in immortality.

God is Immutable - The perfection of **God** by which He is devoid of all change in essence, attributes, consciousness, will, and promises. No change is possible in **God**, because all change must be to better or worse, and **God** is absolute perfection. No cause for change in **God** exists, either in Himself or outside of Him.

Meaning: Perfection means perfection. There is no reason for God to change because there is no change that would make Him better. However, man should be striving to be found complete and perfect in God's eyes.

Scripture Support: Psalm 102:27; James 1:17; Malachi 3:6; Hebrews 6:17 & 18

Conclusion: There is no reason for God to change. When something is perfect it is best to leave it alone and avoid causing it to lose its perfection.

Application: When things are going bad I won't blame God, asking why He has changed and doesn't seem to be living up to His promises. Since He doesn't change, I will look at my life and see where I have deviated from the path He wants me to follow. I will change my direction toward the right way and follow Him.

God is Invisible - **God** cannot be seen by the human eye. Yet His eternal power and divine character are known and clearly seen by the things He has made.

Meaning: The fact that God cannot be seen does not mean He cannot be known. Some men have chosen not to know God as they have denied Him by claiming that the world evolved by random chance and natural selection. But, if one were to look at the order of things as being held constant by the Creator, who created all things, one can begin to see the God who was and is powerful enough to create such a beautiful place even though He cannot be seen directly.

Scripture Support: Romans 1:20; Colossians 1:15; I Timothy 1:17; Hebrews 11:27; I John 4:12

Conclusion: Just because God cannot be seen directly does not mean He does not exist. The things He created and the order with which they were designed point toward an Almighty God with tremendous power and wisdom.

Application: I will seek to know and understand God through His Word and His creation. I will love my fellow Christians so that God may dwell in me and I may experience more of His love.

God is Life - Life is the vital principle, or breath of life, which **God** imparted to man, making him a living soul. It is the gift of **God**, mediated through faith in **Jesus Christ**. It is not synonymous with endless existence, which is also true of the unsaved. It is qualitative, involving the impartation of a new nature, resulting in fellowship with **God in Christ**, and is not interrupted by spiritual death. It will find its perfection and full reality of blessedness with **God** in the life to come for the believer. **God** has absolute life in Himself and is the source of all life.

Meaning: Since God is life anything other than God is death. God breathed the breath of life into Adam thereby giving Adam a qualitative difference in existence than the other animals God created. Man was created to be able to commune with God and interact with Him. When man fell as a result of sin this relationship was marred. Only through a proper understanding of man's relationship to God, and belief that Jesus died for the sins of the world to give man back the life God intended, can one once again have this qualitative existence of life in a right relationship with The Giver of Life - God.

Scripture Support: Joshua 3:10; Psalm 84:2; I Thessalonians 1:9; Exodus 3:14; I Samuel 17:26; Matthew 16:16; Psalm 115:3-9; Job 23:13;

Conclusion: God is alive. Unlike idols and gods, God can think and act to protect His people. He can give life to those who seek Him. When His people pray to Him, He is able to hear them and He does answer them.

Application: Since God is the only living God, I will serve Him alone and put my trust in Him to answer my prayers to fulfill His purpose.

God is Love - The very nature of **God**, and the greatest of the Christian virtues. Attributes of love include patience, kindness, protection, trusting, hoping, and persevering. Love is not envious, boastful, proud, rude, self-seeking, easily angered, a recorder of wrongs or does it take delight in evil.

Meaning: Love, therefore, needs to be prevalent in our lives if we are to be called Christians. For how else can love be the greatest of Christian virtues if non-Christians cannot see love being demonstrated in our lives.

Scripture Support: I John 4:8; John 3:16; John 15:9-14; Matthew 22:36-40; Romans 5:8; Romans 8:35-39; I Corinthians 13:13; I John 4:12; I John 4:16;

Conclusion: God loves us more than we can ever know. However, His love for us is to fill us so much that it overflows from us to others, so they can begin to know and experience God's love. Yes, He sent His Son to die for us, but He did so for others as well.

Application: I will seek to allow God's love to fill my life so that I can love my fellow Christians as well as non-Christians in an effort to bring them into a relationship where they can experience the greatest love of all - God's.

God is Omnipotent - The attribute of God which describes his ability to do whatever He wills. God's will is limited by His nature, and He therefore cannot do anything contrary to His nature as God, such as to ignore sin, to sin, or to do something absurd or self-contradictory. God is not controlled by His power, but has complete control over it; otherwise He would not be a free being. To a certain extent, He has voluntarily limited Himself by the free will of His rational creatures.

Meaning: This means that if God says something will happen, He has the power to make sure that it will happen. Therefore, when He promises eternal life to those who believe in Christ, He has the power to grant it. Just as He cannot sin, He has the power to forgive those who do.

Scripture Support: Matthew 19:26; Genesis 17:1; Job 42:2; Jeremiah 32:17,27; Luke 1:37; Revelation 19:6

Conclusion: There is nothing that God cannot do except that which goes against His nature. God alone has the power to conquer sin and death. He even created Satan who disobeyed and fell, therefore, He has power over him. He promised to give us the power to overcome he that is in the world.

Application: I will rely on God's power when Satan tries to tempt me. I will call upon the name of Jesus to provide me with the protection and the peace He promises to those who call upon Him, because He is powerful enough to keep that promise.

God is Omnipresent - The attribute of **God** by which He fills the universe in all its parts and is present everywhere at once. Not a part, but the whole of **God** is present in every place. This is true of all three members of the Trinity. They are so closely related that where one is the others can be said to be, also.

Meaning: Therefore, when man is sinning God is there. If a child is doing something a parent has told him not to do, God is there. There is no place man can go to hide from God.

Scripture Support: Psalm 139:8; Jeremiah 23:23,24; Ephesians 2:22; Psalm 113:5; Psalm 123:1; I Kings 8:27; Matthew 6:9; Hebrews 1:3; I Corinthians 1:27; Matthew 18:20; Romans 10:6,7; Romans 8:9

Conclusion: There is no place to go where God is not already there.

Application: I need to be serving God everywhere, not just at certain places like church or with my family. I need to be aware of God's presence at all times and walk with Him always.

God is Omniscient - The attribute of **God** by which **God** perfectly and eternally knows all things which can be known, past, present, and future. **God** knows how best to attain His desired ends.

Meaning: This, like omnipresence, demonstrates that man cannot hide from God because God knows all things. He knows the number of hairs on each head, He knows the heart and thoughts of every man. Just because no man is around to see us do wrong doesn't mean nobody saw it happen - God did. The proverbial tree falling in the forest that doesn't make a sound

because no man was there to see it or know about it falling at that time, God sees and knows. Our intentions in the things we do are known to God. We need to be sure that our attitudes are congruent with our actions because God knows when we are doing things for the wrong reasons or motives.

Scripture Support: Psalm 147:4,5; Acts 15:18; Psalm 33:13; II Kings 13:19; Jeremiah 38:17-20; Romans 4:17; Isaiah 46:10; Matthew 11:21-23; I Samuel 23:5-14

Conclusion: God knows everything that has happened and everything that will happen. He knows when we do things for the wrong reasons and when we do things for the right reasons. All things we do should be to serve Him and bring glory to Him.

Application: Since God knows everything I do and the reasons or motives I have for doing them, I will commit myself to doing everything as if I were doing it for God Himself. I will yield myself to Him daily, that I may do what He wants me to do and be what He wants me to be.

God is Spirit- God is a non-material personal being, self-conscious and self-determining.

Meaning: God is someone we can get to know. He, unlike ourselves, doesn't need to be told what to do. On the other hand He tells us what to do and how to live in a manner pleasing to Him. Just because He can't be seen by the human eye doesn't mean He is not there and therefore should be ignored. Quite the opposite is true, His creation demonstrates His existence. Also, since he cannot be seen, we need to devote ourselves to study everything that has been written about Him so that we can get to know Him like He wants us to and begin to live our lives in a way that pleases Him.

Scripture Support: John 4:24; John 1:18; Colossians 1:15; I Timothy 6:16; Luke 24:39; Romans 1:20; I Timothy 1:17

Conclusion: God cannot be seen by the human eye, but creation points to His existence. His Son, Jesus testified to His existence and desire to be sought by His creatures. He also provided us with an example of how to live our lives seeking and serving God.

Application: I need to study the Scriptures in order to find out more about God, both who He is and how He wants me to live. Also when I look at all the beautiful things in this world I will thank God for creating them and for creating me.

God is Truth - Truth is the interrelated consistency of statements and their correspondence with the facts of reality and the facts themselves. It suggests an integration of character, and adherence of virtue, a kind of reliability, which includes and goes beyond the literal meaning to include those aspects of personal behavior which seem to be implied by the love of truth. The concept of truth is derived from the character of **God**, and is the exact opposite of the concept of lying. "It is impossible for **God** to lie."

Meaning: Since it is impossible for God to lie we know that everything He says about what will happen will actually take place. If we are to become perfect we need to be known as individuals who tell the truth, like God. That means when we promise something we need to keep that promise or not make it in the first place. We need to try to place ourselves in situations where we don't feel the need to lie to defend either ourselves or our behavior.

Scripture Support: Deuteronomy 32:4; John 17:2 & 3; Psalm 33:4; Psalm 57:10; John 8:31b-32; John 17:17; John 18:37 & 38; II Thessalonians 2:10-13

Conclusion: Whatever God says He will do, He will do. Therefore, when He says those who believe in Jesus shall have eternal life, you can rest assured that will take place. Just as sure is His providing a way out of temptation, protection from the flaming arrows of the enemy, and Satan's eventual demise by being thrown into the Lake of Fire forever.

Application: When I read in the Bible something God wants me to do, I will do it. I will trust Him to comply and follow through in giving me the things He promised if I obey Him.



Kelly Dixon is the Founder and President of *Ladies for Jesus* ministries. *Ladies for Jesus* ministry desires to inspire and equip all Christian women to deepen our walk with Christ; to devote ourselves wholeheartedly to Him; and to delight in our intimate relationship with Him.

***Ladies for Jesus* believe in:**

- **God the Creator and the Word**

“¹In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth” Genesis 1:1 (KJV)

“¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was with God in the beginning. ³Through Him all things were made; without Him nothing was made that has been made. ⁴In Him was life, and that life was the light of men.” John 1:1-4 (NIV)

- **Salvation through Jesus Christ**

“¹⁶For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.” John 3:16 (KJV)

“⁹If you confess with your mouth, ‘Jesus is Lord,’ and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.” Romans 10:9 (NIV)

- **An Intimate relationship with Him**

“¹O Lord, you have searched me and you know me. ²You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar. ³You discern my going out and my lying down; you are familiar with all my ways. ⁴Before a word is on my tongue you know it completely, O Lord.” Psalm 139:1-4 (NIV)

“¹⁶I have engraved you on the palms of my hands.” Isaiah 49:16 (NIV)

- **Deepening that relationship by delighting in Him and He in us**

“⁴Delight yourself in the Lord and He will give you the desires of your heart.” Psalm 37:4 (NIV)

“²³The steps of the godly are directed by the Lord. He delights in every detail of their lives. ²⁴Though they stumble, they will not fall, for the Lord holds them by the hand.” Psalm 37:23-24 (NLT)

- **Daily putting on The Full Armor of God**

“¹⁰Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. ¹¹Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. ¹²For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. ¹³Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. ¹⁴Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, ¹⁵and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. ¹⁶In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. ¹⁷Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. ¹⁸And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints.” Ephesians 6:10-18 (NIV)

- **Growing His Kingdom and bringing Glory to His Name**

“¹⁹Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. ²⁰Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Matthew 28:19-20 (NLT)

“⁸Lord, we show our trust in you by obeying your laws; our heart's desire is to glorify Your name.” Isaiah 26:8 (NLT)

*To find out more about the ministry please visit us
online at www.ladiesforjesus.com or email: info@ladiesforjesus.com*

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