

Journey Group Study Guide

Changing Channels: Tune Into The Truth About God's Will

Acts 16

For the week of November 8, 2009

Warming Up

When you hear the phrase "God's will for your life", what is your first thought?

Tell about a time in your life when you were not sure about God's will and what you were supposed to do, but now looking back you can see God's guidance in it all along?

In Full Stride

Read Acts 16:6-10

What was God's will for Paul and his companions in this passage?

How did this closed door point to another opportunity?

Read Acts 16:19-34

How did Paul and Silas experience pain in doing God's will?

How did they respond during their difficult time in prison?

What was the result of Paul and Silas doing God's will?

For The Road

How do you typically respond when your heart is set on something and the door just doesn't open for you to go in the direction you want?

What do the following scriptures reveal what God's will is for us?

1 Timothy 2:3-4; 2 Peter 3:9

Ephesians 5:17-18

1 Thessalonians 4:3-7

1 Peter 2:13-15

Philippians 1:29; 2 Timothy 3:12

In your opinion, how can you make decisions consistent with God's will for your life?

The Apostle Paul writes a letter to the church at Philippi (the city that Paul visited in Acts 16). Ten years have passed since Paul first visited the Philippians and he is now under house arrest in Rome. Read the following passages and write down a few sources of Paul's joy, even in the midst of difficult circumstances.

Philippians 1:3-6

Philippians 3:7-9

Philippians 3:17-4:1

Happiness for most people depends largely on their circumstances, but joy is more of a quiet confidence in God and His will for us. As you look at your own life can you identify any sources of joy that have influenced you even when you weren't happy?

Read Philippians 4:4-13

God's will might not be as clear as we would like and has more to do with who we are than where we are. Paul gives us a plan for being in God's will regardless of where we are in life. Make a list of 3 or 4 things that we can do to be in God's will regardless of our circumstances.

God has a specific plan for our life; however He usually reveals it one step at a time. In 2 Kings 5:1-15, a man named Naaman learned this principle first hand. Read his story and then write down why you think Naaman was angry about being asked to take the first step and wash in the Jordan.

What did God ultimately reveal in this miracle?

Extra Mile

God's will is all about obedience in the little things, so it would be wise of us to take a good look inward and ask God to help us see any little things that He would like us to change. Spend a few minutes thinking about that and see if God brings anything to mind.

The following verses will help you better understand what it means to be controlled by the Holy Spirit. Look up each one and jot down how it adds to your understanding of what the Holy Spirit offers us and how He leads to do God's will?

John 16:5-16

Romans 8:5-17

Ephesians 5:15-21

Job 32:7-9

Isaiah 11:1-3

Isaiah 61:1