

Living God's will in everyday life / Understanding and Living God's will

Objective: You live your life in your own way. It is uniquely your way. The question we hope to challenge today is whether your unique way is exclusively yours or is it influenced by your understanding of what God's will is reflected in your way of living your life. What aspects of God's will might present opportunities for you to live His will more intentionally?

Song Suggestion: Amazing Grace (Blue 36; Red 586)

Bible and Catechism Readings:

Romans 12:12

Do not conform 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.

1 Thessalonians 5:18

Now we ask you, brothers, and sisters, to acknowledge those who work hard among you, who care for you in the Lord and who admonish you. Hold them in the highest regard in love because of their work. Live in peace with each other. And we urge you, brothers, and sisters, warn those who are idle and disruptive, encourage the disheartened, help the weak, be patient with everyone. Make sure that nobody pays back wrong for wrong, but always strive to do what is good for each other and for everyone else.

Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

Catechism 307

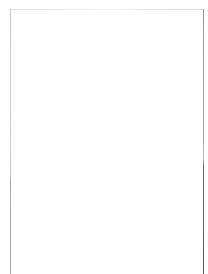
To human beings God even gives the power of freely sharing in his providence by entrusting them with the responsibility of "subduing" the earth and having dominion over it. God thus enables men to be intelligent and free causes to complete the work of creation, to perfect its harmony for their own good and that of their neighbors. Though often unconscious collaborators with God's will, they can also enter deliberately into the divine plan by their actions, their prayers, and their sufferings. They then fully become "God's fellow workers" and co-workers for his kingdom.

Catechism 2825

Although he was a Son (Jesus) learned obedience through what He suffered. How much more reason have we sinful creatures to learn obedience—we who in Him have become children of adoption. We ask our Father to unite our will to His Son's in order to fulfill His will, His plan of salvation for the life of the world. We are radically incapable of this, but united with Jesus and with the Power of the Holy Spirit, we can surrender our will to Him and decide to choose what His Son has always chosen: to do what is pleasing to the Father.

Saint: Faustina Kowalska

St. Faustina is perhaps the most effective example of total commitment of oneself to prayerfully asking God to send her the Holy Spirit to reveal God's will. In her diary records Jesus told her "A soul that loves me very much must, ought to live by My will. I know your heart, and I know that it will not be satisfied by anything but My love alone" (Diary, 1023). Jesus taught His bride the importance of following His holy will and not her own.



Vignette:

It was October 5th. He was lost in his thoughts. Silently, brooding, thinking, despondently trying to make sense of his life. He feels like he is lost in a current of activity that is not taking him where he wants to go. To do what he wants to do with his life. His life is full of the material world's electronic always on cell phones, tablets, and computers. His life is simply buzzing with activity; yet he feels a bit lost, directionless, a boat without a keel or rudder. He flipped channels on a whim to Catholic Radio listened to the story of Saint Faustina, it was her feast day. Her story clearly revealed the difference between living according to his own will, versus living God's will. Her story is remarkable. But her story was about someone who dedicated her life to God and discernment of God's will fully, as a nun. He has a different vocation; he is married, a father, gainfully employed working to provide for his family, his time is often not his, and sometimes his acts are not the best they could be. He senses that there is an opportunity for him to find grace and peace by intentionally seeking to discern God's will and make changes in how he lives his life. What could he do to make a difference and live a daily life more aligned to God's will? It was God's will, after all, that he met his wife, Sharon. They fell in love, married, and had a family made a life together. That was chapter one; now, how can he write the rest of his life story with better alignment to God's will? He has a weekly meeting with other fathers from church and decided to talk to them about God's will and how they discern it, live it, or at least try to measure up.

Questions for Large and Small Group Discussion:

If you have not read much about St. Faustina reading about her is a good starting point to learn more about what one must do strip away earthly distractions and encumbrance to become open to hearing God's will. What does her example reveal?

Which of your activity areas do you think present opportunities for you to more effectively live God's will?

What areas of your life may be against God's will? (Think about things you have confessed, are there any repeaters?)

Have you had struggles, sufferings, that you bore and what do those experiences reveal about how sharing in the Passion of Christ helped you realize God's will?

Have you ever spent time in Adoration Chapel and focused by just listening to hear Him speak to you about his will? Share how it went, what you felt, what you learned.

Resources:

Five Essentials for Discovering and Living God's Will — Integrated Catholic Life™

<https://integratedcatholiclife.org/2011/12/deacon-bickerstaff-five-essentials-for-discovering-and-living-gods-plan/>

Action Plan:

Make a few notes from today's meeting to highlight ideas you do not want to forget about in your journey to discerning and living God's will in your daily life.

Which insights inspire you the most?

Make a commitment to sit in Adoration Chapel and visit with Jesus to see what He thinks.

Author: Kurt Buckman