

Maintain Your Focus

3 - Seek God's Will

It's so easy to be distracted by lesser loyalties. Jesus said, "Anyone who lets himself be distracted from the work I plan for him is not fit for the Kingdom of God" (Luke 9:62, Living Bible). How do you maintain a focus on your life mission? Highly maturing Christians maintain a focus by developing the daily habit of seeking God's will.

Welcome

What are three of your favorite activities?

Worship

Read Matthew 6:5-13. Jesus modeled—both in His prayer and through His life—a life totally committed to God. Jesus had to make some hard choices, and when He did, He chose to honor God by pursuing God's will and not His own. Jesus' commitment to the will of God enabled Jesus to live an effective, purpose-driven life.

Let's spend some time affirming our desire to seek the kingdom first in our own lives. Possible songs, "Seek Ye First" (555), "Lord, Take Control" (790), "On Bended Knee" (791), "Prince of Peace! Control My Will" (761), "Teach Me Lord, To Wait" (764).

Word

1. *From the passage we read earlier (Matthew 6:9-13), what should be the foundation for prayer? Have you been successful in maintaining this priority in your own prayers? Explain.*
2. *What is the difference between truly seeking God's will and merely praying that God's will coincide your own?*
3. *How would you envision the effectiveness of your life being enhanced as a result of developing the daily habit of seeking God's will? Be specific!*

Read Mark 14:32-42

4. *Which is harder for you—the struggle to know God's will, or the struggle to do what you know God wants?*
5. *How did getting clearer on His own will help Jesus get clearer on God's will? What else do you notice from Jesus' example about maintaining your focus?*

Works

Gethsemane was the critical moment in Jesus' life when the full meaning of His submission to the Father confronted Him with all its immediacy. There is far more in the Bible about Jesus' struggle in the garden of Gethsemane than His struggle on the cross.

Likewise, it is in our own wrestling with God in daily prayer that we learn to maintain the focus that is so vital to living a godly life that really counts! *What do you need to develop more in your life—a surrendered will, submissive prayer?* Deliberately use Jesus' prayer in Matthew 6:9-13 as a pattern for your own prayer this next week. Ask God to help you develop the habit of daily seeking His will.