

Endurance and Patience

We want to be in God's will, to do God's will, but how do we really know what God's will for us is? Let's sort out biblical truth from worldly assumptions. Believe it or not, the answer isn't as mysterious as you may think.



INTRODUCTION

In earlier weeks we learned that knowing God's will is not overly complicated. We heard how God desires our Lordship, that we make wise decisions and that we grow in goodness. Doing His will, however is not always easy and this week we discover that endurance and patience are critically important.

STARTER QUESTION

Do you know people who seem to think God's will is mostly about improving their behavior? Do you share that mindset? Why is transforming your heart more important and how does that change your behavior?

INTO THE WORD

From Hebrews, David emphasized how important endurance and patience are to achieving God's will. Are you a patient person? How can you work on your patience? What do you notice most about people who are patient?

In Hebrews 10:32-35, the author describes terrible circumstances that resulted in suffering but also joy that was experienced through endurance. How is this possible?

In verse 36 we read, "For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God, you may receive what was promised. What can we do to turn loss or pain into a deeper understanding of God's will?"

APPLICATION

Describe a time when your endurance ran out and you GAVE IN. Describe a time when you DIDN'T give in. What were the results of each?

Describe a time in your life when your patience ran out and you GAVE UP. Describe a time when you DIDN'T give up. What were the results of each?

How has as your experience with suffering impacted your faith - has it challenged, strengthened or weakened it?

How can you use what God supplies to us (full access and being our advocate) to endure with patience? What does it mean to live with eternity in mind?

PRAYER

What can we do daily to find and follow God's will? Where can we go for the patience and endurance that is required over a lifetime?