

THE POWER OF A CHANGED LIFE

Where There's God's Will There's a Way ACTS 5:17-42

KNOWING GOD'S WILL

1. God's will includes His preordained *purpose* to glorify Himself by redeeming mankind from sin. (Eph 1:7-10)
2. God's will includes His *desire* that every person would be saved from sin and glorify Him. (1 Tim 2:4-5)
3. God's *purpose and desire* is that we represent Him. (Acts 1:8; 2 Cor 5:20)

I. GOD'S WILL is that you represent Him regardless of _____.

But the high priest rose up, and all who were with him (that is, the party of the Sadducees), and filled with jealousy they arrested the apostles and put them in the public prison. But during the night an angel of the Lord opened the prison doors and brought them out, and said, "Go and stand in the temple and speak to the people all the words of this Life." And when they heard this, they entered the temple at daybreak and began to teach. vv. 17-21a

Be _____ **EVEN IF CIRCUMSTANCES SEEM BLEAK.**

II. GOD'S WILL is that you represent Him regardless of _____.

And when they had brought them, they set them before the council. And the high priest questioned them, saying, "We strictly charged you not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching, and you intend to bring this man's blood upon us." But Peter and the apostles answered, "We must obey God rather than men." vv. 27-29

Be _____ **EVEN IF YOUR MESSAGE IS NOT WELCOMED.**

Be _____ **because GOD WILL always make a way for His will to be accomplished.**

"So in the present case I tell you, keep away from these men and let them alone, for if this plan or this undertaking is of man, it will fail; but if it is of God, you will not be able to overthrow them. You might even be found opposing God!" So they took his advice, and when they had called in the apostles, they beat them and charged them not to speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go. Then they left the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer dishonor for the name. And every day, in the temple and from house to house, they did not cease teaching and preaching that the Christ is Jesus. vv. 38-42

THE
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LIFE *Home Group Discussion*

Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal His truth and wisdom as you go through this lesson.

1. What circumstances at this point in your life are a "prison" for you?



"First, opposition may mean you're in the will of God, not out of it. Second, the will of God may set you against popular opinion, not with it. Difficult as it is to understand, Jesus never promised His followers—then or now—that living in a fallen world would be easy or bring popularity. Yet for some reason, we think that good fortune indicates God's pleasure or confirms that we are in His will. And we continue to suspect that painful circumstances indicate God's displeasure or that we have wandered outside His sovereign design. The fact is, God may will for His people to live as poor as dirt, to suffer rejection and sorrow, to endure outrageous injustice and then die painfully—just like His own Son and the apostles who followed Him."

CHARLES SWINDOLL

2. Read Acts 5:17-42. How did the high priest and Sadducees respond to God's truth? Why?

3. Did putting the apostles in jail affect the truth of the gospel? Did it affect the will of God? Why or why not?

4. How did the sermon help you understand the will of God a bit better? Any thoughts that were new to you?

5. How does it encourage you to know more about God's *purposes* and *desires* in regard to His will? (See top section of sermon notes.)

6. Explain in your own words what Peter says about Jesus in verse 31. How is He your Prince and Savior? How can you represent Him as such even in your current circumstances?

A WONDERFUL OFFER

Being a Christian isn't based on membership in a local church or keeping a set of rules. It involves a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and an understanding of who He is and what He has done to provide man with a way to experience God's love for us. Here's how to know Jesus Christ as your personal Savior:

1. Realize that you are sinful and separated from God. (Romans 3:23; Isaiah 53:6)
2. Recognize that the penalty for your sin is death—eternal separation from God and all that is good. (Romans 6:23; Hebrews 9:27)
3. Understand that Jesus Christ took the penalty for your sin by dying in your place and that He rose again. (Romans 5:8; 2 Corinthians 5:21)
4. Receive the free gift of salvation by trusting in Christ alone as your Savior. (Romans 4:4-5; Ephesians 2:8-9)
"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life." (John 3:16 NASB) You can use this prayer to express your decision to God:
"Dear God, I know that I am a sinner. I believe that Jesus Christ died on the cross for me and rose from the dead. I trust in Him alone as the only way to get right with You. Thank You for the forgiveness of sins and the eternal life I now have. Amen."

For more about having a personal relationship with Jesus visit www.ccbcfamily.org/nextsteps.

COMING UP AT CHRIST CHAPEL

Here's a glimpse at what you need to know for this week at Christ Chapel. If you'd like to find out even more, visit www.ccbcfamily.org/events.

CCBC BIG BAND CONCERT Everyone will be tapping their feet to the beat at this year's Big Band Concert, *On the Move*. Come be a part of the summer kickoff event next Friday, June 2 at 7 p.m. as the trumpets belt out captivating tunes for the whole family! To learn more visit www.ccbcfamily.org/bigband.

FORLIFE LUNCH WITH JAMIE C. FINN As author and executive director of *Fostering the Family*, Jamie C. Finn is an expert and advocate for the foster and adoption community, and next Sunday, June 4 she'll be joining us for lunch from 12:30- 1:30 p.m. in the Oak Room! From her first-hand experience of mothering biological, foster and adopted children, to the heart she has for the four hundred thousand children in the foster care system, we'll learn more about how we can make an impact. Read about our lunch with Jamie C. Finn by visiting www.ccbcfamily.org/fosteradopt.

WOMEN IN THE WORD: OUR FAVORITE STORIES From toddlers to adults, everyone loves stories. Whether we are telling or hearing it, each of us has a favorite one. Ready to have a new favorite? Join Women in the Word this summer as they hear life-changing stories about Jesus and press into knowing Him deeper! Find times, locations and registration by visiting www.ccbcfamily.org/wiw.

BAND OF BROTHERS: THE GODLY MAN'S PICTURE Are you looking to grow in your understanding of what it means to be a godly man? Come to Band of Brother's *The Godly Man's Picture*, a six-week study where we will dive into the lives of six different characters from the Bible. Through exploring their stories, we'll discover biblical principles for displaying and defining the image of God in our own lives. This series is designed to equip men with practical tools to live out their faith with courage and impact. Find dates, locations and registration at www.ccbcfamily.org/bob.

KIDS MINISTRY: SUMMER REFRESHER Are you looking for a Be, Make and Reach opportunity this summer? Join our Summer Refresher Team and help so many of our dedicated Kids Ministry volunteers have a couple Sundays off. When you serve with Kids Ministry, you'll have the opportunity to build into the next generation, proclaim the gospel to eager hearts and serve our church family! Register today by visiting www.ccbcfamily.org/refresh.

BE, MAKE AND REACH WITH LIVE PRODUCTION If you have experience and interest in live production and camera operation we'd love to chat with you about volunteering with our Production Team. Get the conversation started by visiting [@christchapelproduction](https://www.instagram.com/christchapelproduction) on Instagram, and send us a message today!



LOOKING FOR THE CONNECT CARD? Scan the QR code here to fill out a Connect Card. Our team will reach out this week to answer your questions and tell you more about Christ Chapel.

IF YOU'D LIKE TO GIVE AN OFFERING TODAY, YOU CAN DO SO STRAIGHT FROM YOUR PHONE. The process is quick and easy—text CCBCONLINE to 833-422-7200 to get started.