

**Now Concerning Spiritual Things**  
an historical account of one man's walk with God

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**HOW TO KNOW  
THE WILL OF THE LORD FOR YOUR LIFE  
PART TWO**

It is important that you not only *know* the will of the Lord for your life but that you also *do* His will on a daily basis since your works, or righteous acts or righteous deeds will become your "clothing" during the Millennium.<sup>1</sup> Therefore rewards can be motivations for believers to remain faithful until death or until the Rapture. *To know* and *to do* God's will in the remaining time prior to the Rapture ensures to the believer the greatest blessing for both the millennial reign with Christ<sup>2</sup> and for the Eternal State following the millennial reign.<sup>3</sup> The Rapture is followed by the judgment seat of Christ and the marriage of the Lamb (Christ).<sup>4</sup> The marriage supper<sup>5</sup> itself seems to take place in the Millennium since Jesus said concerning the Lord's Supper, "For I say to you, I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes."<sup>6</sup>

The raptured bride of Christ will return to earth to reign with Him for a thousand years.<sup>7</sup> In view of this fact I have surmised that part of the tribulation period may be spent in training those of us who will return to earth to rule and reign with Him. During the seven-year

tribulation period, the world's social, economic and political order will remain in place, even though it will be severely strained as never before during the last three and one-half years. The earth's population will be drastically reduced eliminating the concern of overpopulation. During the following millennial reign there will be established a theistic social, economic and political order with Christ on the throne as King. His government will establish and maintain righteousness, real peace and prosperity in an economically disabled and renovated earth. Business, agriculture, industry and commerce will thrive in the total absence of both unemployment and expenditures for the war machines of the world. I will write about this in more detail later. My reason for mentioning these events now is to impress you with the fact that I believe there are people living today *who will experience these end-time events*. This opinion is based on the project concerning the Rapture that I have been engaged in for twenty-one months *at the direction of the Lord*. Therefore preparation for these end-time events should begin *now*, while there is still time. And the best preparation for them is *to seek and to do the Lord's will for your life* for "Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice and to heed than the fat of rams."<sup>8</sup>

I conducted a short survey in a senior adult class<sup>9</sup> at Hillcrest Church in Dallas on Sunday, August 29, 1999, the result of which reflected a spiritual profile of the class. The survey was simple, effective and comprised these three questions: **(1)**. Beginning with today, what is your goal or ambition for the rest of your life. **(2)**. Are you sure you know the specific will of the Lord for your life and that you are walking in that will day by day? Answer yes or no. **(3)**. If your answer to question #2 is "yes," how and when did you discover the specific will of the Lord for your life? If your answer to question #2 is "no," leave #3 blank. Each of the three questions is revealing regardless of how they are answered. Each respondent was instructed to leave his or her name off of

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<sup>1</sup>See Revelation 22:12; 1 Corinthians 3:13-15.

<sup>2</sup>At the conclusion of the Tribulation (a subject I will write about in a later letter) Christ will return to earth with His bride (the believers who were resurrected and those who were translated at the Rapture, see 1 Corinthians 15:50-54 and 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18) to rule and reign with Him for one-thousand years (See 2 Timothy 2:12 & Revelation 20:6). The martyred dead of the Tribulation will also be resurrected to participate in the reign with Christ (See Revelation 20:4-6).

<sup>3</sup>According to Revelation Chapters 21 and 22, the Eternal State will begin at the end of the Millennium, immediately after the great white throne judgment (Revelation 20:11-15) and pertains to the perpetual destiny of all humanity (See Revelation 20:8-15).

<sup>4</sup>See Ephesians 5:25-32.

<sup>5</sup>See Revelation 19:9.

<sup>6</sup>Luke 22:18.

<sup>7</sup>See Revelation 20:1-7.

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<sup>8</sup>1 Samuel 15:22 (b).

<sup>9</sup>The class is for those fifty-five years of age and older. My guess on the median age would be sixty-five. Those in this age group have more discretionary time than any group in the Church and for that reason have the potential to become the most powerful group in the Church universal.

the survey to provide for more objective answers and to allow for an impersonal analysis of the results. Three people out of sixty-eight in attendance (4.4%) failed to turn in the completed survey. I tabulated and analyzed each answer, and along with some minor obviously needed interpolation, arrived at the results. Here is a graphic summary of the answers to question #2:

|             | <u>Column One</u> |                 | <u>Column Two</u> |                 | <u>Column Three</u> |                 |
|-------------|-------------------|-----------------|-------------------|-----------------|---------------------|-----------------|
|             | <u>Actual</u>     |                 | <u>Adjusted</u>   |                 | <u>Adjusted</u>     |                 |
|             | <u>Count</u>      | <u>per cent</u> | <u>Count</u>      | <u>per cent</u> | <u>Count</u>        | <u>per cent</u> |
| Yes         | 25                | 38.46           | 25**              | 38.46           | 13***               | 20.00           |
| No          | 32                | 49.23           | 40*               | 61.54           | 52**                | 80.00           |
| Conditional | 08*               | 12.31           | -0-               | 00.00           | -0-                 | 00.00           |
| Totals      | 65                | 100.00          | 65                | 100.00          | 65                  | 100.00          |

\* After analyzing the eight “conditional” responses\* in Column One, they were added to the “No” responses\* in Column Two.

\*\* As an arbitrary analytical decision, twelve of the “Yes” responses\*\* in Column Two were added to the “No” responses\*\* in Column Three.

\*\*\* The “Yes” responses\*\*\* in Column Three represent an arbitrarily adjusted total based on an analysis of responses to question #3.

Observe the adjusted results in Column Three. If my understanding, adjustments and interpolation of the data is correct, *eighty per cent of the class did not know God’s will for their life*. And these are mature, senior adult Christians. This information is not presented as criticism of the class because I believe these results may be typical of similar classes in other churches. It is presented to point out the *need* for teaching in this area. About a year ago Dr. Morris Sheats who is the Senior Pastor of Hillcrest Church made a statement from the pulpit similar to this: “Of all the questions I have been asked as a Senior Pastor, forty-five per cent of the time the question has been, ‘How do I find the will of the Lord for my life?’” It is my opinion that by any stretch of the imagination, this does not imply the remaining fifty-five per cent knew God’s will for their life.

The need for teaching on this subject is obvious. If you are not sure of God’s direction for your life and are willing to follow the pattern the Lord has shown me, I can assure you, based on God’s word, that He will respond to you as He has to me. And *that* is the reason for this series of letters. However do not expect His specific response to you to be the same as His response to me since His plan for each child of God is unique.

I have found that knowing you are in God’s will -- walking in His way -- on His path -- with your feet firmly planted on His ground on a daily basis is a great and sometimes awesome blessing.

One may say, “I know the bible, particularly the New Testament, which is the last will and testament of

our Lord, and I therefore know His will for my life.” But it doesn’t work that way. The Lord may reveal to you His will while you are reading, or as a result of your reading the Bible. But one may memorize the whole of the New Testament and still not know God’s direction for himself.

Another concept of “knowing” or “doing” God’s will is based on the delegation of defined authority or responsibility to individuals, groups or committees. While this may be effective, unless the Holy Spirit is the director, members end up directing members (the body) instead of the Head<sup>10</sup> directing the body. The Church is an organism that must be directed by its Head to effectively do God’s work on earth.

One key to knowing God’s will is found in these words from the apostle Paul’s first letter to the church in Corinth: “For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him. Even so no one knows the things of God *except the Spirit of God*.”<sup>11</sup> According to this passage of scripture it is the Holy Spirit who declares to us as individual believers the things of God. I know of no other way for the Church to be sure. When you meet God’s conditions for such guidance, His answer awaits your request. The manifestation of that answer may not occur when you want it, but it will occur. This doesn’t mean you won’t make mistakes. It does mean that you will correct them as the Holy Spirit points them out to you. He will put the desire within your heart to do so.

Since I started this present walk with God (about which I am now writing) in mid-1995, I have made two types of mistakes. **(1)**. Knowing disobedience, and **(2)**. Inadvertent disobedience.

Here is one example of my knowingly disobeying the Lord and His method of correcting me: I have a good friend, a devoted man of God with whom I wished to share some things the Lord had shown me. Then one day the Lord impressed upon my heart something like this, “Leave him to me. He is my servant as are you.” In spite of that admonition, months later, out of the compassion of my heart, I attempted to share with my friend and fell “flat on my face.” Shortly thereafter the following words were given to me during my morning prayer time on March 29, 1999, after a day of fasting:

*My son I know and have known for years your disobedience*

<sup>10</sup>Christ is the head of the Church. See Ephesians 1:22, 23; Colossians 1:18.

<sup>11</sup>1 Corinthians 2:11 (Italics added). For additional scriptures on guidance of the Holy Spirit for believers today, see John 14:26; 16:13 & Romans 8:14.

concerning Sam Smith.<sup>12</sup> But learn from this. You were guided by your heart in this matter, not by My Spirit. I have allowed this mistake as a learning experience, for as you have written, one test is worth a thousand expert opinions.

Now concentrate on Me and as I have said before, leave Sam to Me. His heart is set to doing My will as is yours. But now you can see and distinguish between being led by your heart and being led by My Spirit. I previously told you to leave Sam to Me but you let your heart overrule the instruction of My Spirit. When you sense the light intuitive leading of My Spirit, that must supercede the compassion of your heart. I had compassion on everyone at the pool of Bethesda but healed only one as I was instructed. I was obedient to My Father's will and therefore could not do My own will without being disobedient, as you were in this case. It is not by might, not by power but by My Spirit, says the Lord, for I have come that you might have life, and that more abundant than you have dreamed or imagined. Therefore set your sights high above all the rest you have seen and read about. Set your sights on Me. I am your example, I am the way, the truth and the life and no man comes to the Father but by Me. You do not come by Paul or by Apollos or by John or by Peter, but by Me.

Use not what others have accomplished as your goal. Use what I said and did as your goal, for I can do exceedingly abundantly above all you can think or ask only as you look to Me, the Author and Finisher of your faith.

Hear Me. Look to Me. See Me. Search the scriptures<sup>13</sup> for all I said and did. Do you likewise. I am starting you on a new pathway today. A pathway of service to Me. Not service to others, but to Me. For behold, greater things than these will you do because I go to the Father. I can empower you to do things far above what you have dreamed of doing. The limit is your faith only.

Pray for more faith.

Behold I am with you to accomplish everything I have said to you. Remember I said to you, be ready to change as I speak.

Fear not. Be strong and of good courage to do all I instruct you to do. Selah.<sup>14</sup>

Although I was rebuked for my disobedience, I felt no guilt, shame or discouragement. His corrective words taught me a lesson I had not ever considered. I had never previously been able to discern the fine line between the compassion of my heart in conflict with the light intuitive leading of the Holy Spirit. Now I understand how to make the distinction. *Neither had I ever considered the heart of Jesus over the plight of the*

'great multitude' left unhealed at the pool of Bethesda.<sup>15</sup> I believe that this is a lesson for us in preparation for the next end-time event<sup>16</sup> prophesied by the scriptures.

When I have inadvertently disobeyed the Lord, His correction has been kind and gentle, never harsh and has created in my heart the desire or longing to serve Him better.

I would like to share with you seven prerequisites to my walk with God, discovered, tested and proven in my life: **(1)**. You must be born again. In what appeared to be a private appointment at night, Jesus met with Nicodemus, a Pharisee, a member of the Sanhedrin and ruler of the Jews. Their discussion centered around the new-birth experience. The reasons Jesus gave for rebirth were to both *see* and *enter* the kingdom of God. **(2)**. Accept baptism of the Holy Spirit as a valid occurrence in the Church today. Although there is disagreement among believers on the definition of this term, here is mine: To accept by faith that Jesus came to baptize with the Holy Spirit as recorded by all four of the Gospel writers,<sup>17</sup> as prophesied by Joel,<sup>18</sup> as explained by the Apostle Peter<sup>19</sup> as the keynote speaker on the first Pentecost after the resurrection and as confirmed by Jesus.<sup>20</sup> I realize that many have been called to wonderfully serve the Lord without accepting baptism of the Holy Spirit. But from more than thirty-four years of experience, I know this blessing has equipped me as a believer for ministry that I otherwise would have been denied. For example: **a)** to perceive both spirit worlds, **b)** to accept the spiritual gifts of the first century in today's Christian world, **c)** to have received a number of the signs Jesus said would follow believers, **d)** to have been given dreams, visions and prophetic utterances by the Holy Spirit as prophesied by Joel, **e)** discovering a personal relationship with the Lord

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<sup>15</sup>Jesus healed a man who had been a cripple for thirty-eight years as he lay at the pool of Bethesda in Jerusalem, among a 'great multitude' of sick people who were blind, lame and paralyzed.. For the story of this healing incident on the Sabbath read John 5:1-18.

<sup>16</sup>The Rapture of the Church. See scripture references at footnote #2.

<sup>17</sup>Matthew 3:11; Mark 1:8; Luke 3:16; John 1:33.

<sup>18</sup>Joel 2:28-32 (a).

<sup>19</sup>See Acts 2:14-21. It is interesting to note that the apostle Peter in his sermon quoted Joel 2:28-32 (a) which leaves no doubt about his explanation of the occurrences that Pentecost morning.

<sup>20</sup>See the Great Commission as recorded by Mark 16:15-18.

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<sup>12</sup>The name "Sam Smith" is fictitious for purposes of confidentiality.

<sup>13</sup>"The Gospels" came to mind when the word "scriptures" came.

<sup>14</sup>A number of biblical references could be noted in these words given to me by the Lord. However, I have chosen to omit them in view of the Source of the information.

Jesus, **f**) *hearing* the voice of the Lord, and **g**) the immeasurable impartation of faith which comes from *hearing* His voice, since faith comes by hearing.

Concerning the relationship of Holy Spirit baptism to ministry, here are some words the Lord gave me the morning of December 17, 1997 after a day of fasting. Tongues with interpretation:

*Stay focused during the grey days to see My Light. Keep your eyes on Me. Continue to write what I have given you. Some will believe and be blessed. Do not be concerned over the others. Some will call out to Me as you have done, then I can answer their call to make their calling and election sure, as with you. My call is to all. For it to be effectual, one must hear and hunger for Me and My righteousness, then call out to Me. Then My answer awaits their call and Divine assurance is the result. This is how it works. My call to all to come unto Me; then the hunger for Me; then their call unto Me. My answer was prepared with My call which is to all from the beginning. My call is to all to come unto Me for blessing, reunion and sanctification for service. Salvation, rebirth and Spirit baptism are three stages of growth. Salvation is the greatest blessing of My call. Rebirth is the greatest blessing of My kingdom and Spirit baptism is the greatest blessing of ministry. Salvation, rebirth and ministry are the three stages. As you hunger for each, my blessing awaits. The call of hunger never goes unnoticed. And My response is Life to the hungry: eternal Life, blessing and abundance.*

*Often times hardship is necessary in preparation for ministry. In your case, for example, your time in the \_\_\_\_\_ Church was spent in prison, imprisonment by doctrine, by something man does to himself through deception of the enemy which appeals to rational man through his intellect. I created no laws to get to Me. Man has done that. That is part of the deception of the times, of the enemy. He is so subtle because his appeal is universal to the world, destined to make one wise in his own sight; wise so as to appeal to his pride and vanity. This wisdom is sensuous, of the senses and intellect I have given, but used as man's master instead of his servant. The spirit must lead the soul and body for service to be effective in My kingdom. For My kingdom is Spiritual, that is, above the soul and body, hence the Spirit must lead its creation. The creation cannot lead the Creator. That is what led to Satan's fall. Remember these words and be blessed. Amen.*

**(3)** One must “sell out” to the Lord. He will accept nothing short of total commitment. Here is what that means, “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.”<sup>21</sup> Here is how that should be done. Either by yourself or with someone, preferably your spouse if she (or he) is in support of total commitment, go somewhere in a private setting. Get down on your knees and pray something like this to the Lord: “I give you my body, soul and spirit, my wife (husband), our children (name them), our house, my job (or my business), our house in Vail and the one on the lake, our bank accounts, our investments and everything I (we) shall ever acquire from this moment for the rest of my

(our) life.” When you finish that prayer, you won’t own a thing. Leave nothing out. This must be an oral commitment, “For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth *confession* is made unto salvation.”<sup>22</sup> If your spouse is in support of this total commitment, each one should repeat the vows of total commitment, or preferably, the wife may consent to the husband and to the Lord that she is in subjection to him, is in total support of the vows, and relinquishes her rights to him to make a total commitment for both of them. This is covenant and is everlasting. You, not God, set the boundary for God’s dealing with you. He will not go beyond the boundaries you set. This is best illustrated by these words of Jesus to the apostle John, “Behold I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me.”<sup>23</sup> *You* must open the door. **(4).** You must forgive everyone who has ever harmed you whether dead or alive. This includes everyone against whom you harbor in your heart anger, resentment or retaliation, including everyone in the past, back to Adam if necessary, in order to “clear the slate.” The record is clear. You must forgive or you will not be forgiven.<sup>24</sup> Unforgiveness will block God’s ministry (blessing) and open the door for demonic infiltration in your life.<sup>25</sup> **(5).** Confess all known sins, repent (that means stop doing it) and make restitution if in order. **(6).** You must be at peace with God, your neighbor and yourself. That’s *everyone!* **(7).** You must stay close to the Lord, prayed up and available on a daily basis.

. . . to be continued.

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<sup>22</sup>Romans 10:10 (Italics added).

<sup>23</sup>Revelation 3:20.

<sup>24</sup>See Matthew 6:14, 15.

<sup>25</sup>For confirmation read Jesus’ parable on unforgiveness as recorded in Matthew 18:21-35. In this parable the master (the Lord) delivered the unforgiving servant to the torturers until he would pay all that was due him. When Jesus spoke this parable, it was not uncommon for jailers to illicit a confession from a prisoner by torture. A spiritual understanding of this parable is this: the Lord delivers an unforgiving servant to demons as torturers until he is willing to forgive. For old testament confirmation of the same thing, see 1 Samuel 16:14: “But the Spirit of the Lord departed from (King) Saul, and a distressing spirit (demon) *from the Lord* troubled him.”

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<sup>21</sup>Romans 12:1.