**Seeking God’s Will for Our Lives: How Can We Discern it?**

After I prayed about undertaking another MA program in Asian American Studies, I came to a conclusion that this was God’s will for my life. I thought this training, along with seminary education, would help me to understand the mindset of the people whom I was going to minister in the future. However, it seemed like everyone was discouraging me (saying, “What for?” or “Is your faith OK?”) and on top of that I didn’t get accepted by the program. My first thought was that I must’ve misread God’s will but after praying about this matter, Proverbs 24: 16b came to my mind: “For though a righteous man falls seven times, he rises again.” I sensed that I hadn’t misread God’s will but that this was an obstacle that I needed to overcome and persevere. After resubmitting a required paper for admission, which I worked hard on, I got accepted. Looking back, this MA degree was pivotal in getting accepted to a Ph.D. program; more importantly, it was during this period that the Lord opened my eyes to see the need for contextualizing His eternal truth in an ever-changing world. To many of us who want to follow Christ, we desire to know God’s will concerning jobs, schools, relationships, etc. What I shared here in discerning God’s will, perhaps many experience guidance in this way (i.e., a certain thought or verse). Let’s explore other ways of seeing God’s will.

1. Revisiting Gideon:Read Judges 6:11-24, 33-40.

a. What does the angel of the Lord tell Gideon, and what is his response? What are Gideon’s requests in verses 36 – 39? Why

does he make them?

b. In what ways do we act like Gideon? What does putting the fleece out look like in our lives?

c. What do you learn from God’s response to Gideon’s requests?

1. Consider these two methods in the New Testament for discovering God’s will:

a. Acts 1:23-26: Why do the disciples use this method to decide the twelfth apostle to replace Judas?

b. Acts 16:6-10: What means did God use to change Paul’s mind about going to Bithynia?

1. God’s will is twofold, general and specific. His general will embraces His plan and purpose for the whole creation, which would include us. There is no mystery about this because it is plainly shown in the Scripture for all to see.

a. What is an example of God’s general will?

b. Read Romans 12:1-2. These verses suggest that to ascertain the specific will of God, the mind of the believer must be

renewed day by day by an act of continual consecration. What does the renewing of the mind have to do with successfully

discerning God’s will?

c. Why does non-conformity to God’s general will affect our ability to discern God’s specific will for our lives?

1. **Application**: Share about any decision that you need to make now. What can you do to ensure that you hear correctly from God on this matter?