Discerning The Lord’s Will through His Life

A DEATH TO SELF ALIVE IN GOD

It was the Will of God to send His SON to the Cross in our place.

It is the will of God to lay down our lives for His service.

Ro 12:1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. 2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that **good**, and **acceptable**, and **perfect**, **will of God**.

John 1:4 In him was life; and the life was the light of men. 5 And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.

{comprehended: or, did not admit, or, receive}

The Apostle John and the Apostle Paul used **light** and darkness as **Spiritual life** and spiritual death.

This is not mere life (just existing) but **SPIRITUAL LIFE**;(the life of the Word) “the light of men.”

What does that mean?

* Light comes from the life of the Word of God and brings to our spirit true knowledge, moral purity, and shows the very presence of the Glory of God.
* Light shines into the darkness, but the darkness does not “comprehended” admit, nor receive the light.
* Those who discern the will of God are in His light. Those who cannot are in darkness.

The Apostle Paul clearly says that in the work of sanctification and maturing by the Holy Ghost, transformation unto Christlikeness, is accomplished through the renewing of your mind.

Becoming a living sacrifice not conformed to this world. (Devoted to prayer, drawing nearer to God) through worship and the study of His Word. This includes the working out of our obedience of fellowship with other believers in brotherly love and the sharing of what we have to fellow believers and sinners as well.

As we work in cooperation with the Holy Spirit in our sanctification, we are transformed through the renewing of our minds and He will enable us to discern the will of God.

How is this possible?

When we walk in the light, the life of God is manifest more and more in and through us.

We cannot live our lives conformed to this world, to this lost and dying world, which is in darkness.

Eph 5:1 Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children; 2 And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweetsmelling savour. 8 For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light: 9 (For the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness and righteousness and truth;) 10 Proving what is acceptable unto the Lord.

11 And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them. 13 But all things that are reproved are made manifest by the light: for whatsoever doth make manifest is light. 14 Wherefore he saith, Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light.

*“The fruit of the Spirit” (light) “is in all goodness, righteousness, and truth proving what is “*acceptable*”* well pleasing *to the Lord,* and do not participate in the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather “reprove“ expose and recover them. For it is shameful even to speak of the things done by them in secret, but everything when it is exposed by the light becomes visible.

Those who walk in darkness are not of God. Those who follow God as beloved children walk in the light even though they were once in darkness. The call for all in Christ is to walk as children of light for the fruit of the Spirit (life-light) is in all goodness, righteousness, and truth proving what is well pleasing to the Lord. Those who know the will of God follow, the opposite, participate in the unfruitful works of darkness. Instead of participating in them, we expose them. What happens to the works of darkness when they are exposed to the light? They become visible and try to hide.

When there is no spiritual life entering we are dead, when we are asleep no spiritual light enters.

Paul is describing believers who are alive to their cause but spiritually dead to the cause of God and spiritually asleep, dead effectively. They are not growing as Christians and have no life, hope, practical vitality, peace or useful witness. Ephesians 5:14 is a call to believers to obedience, righteousness, repentance and renewed devotion to the Lord.

Eph 5:14 Wherefore he saith, Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light. What happens when we awake? Christ life manifests (light shine’s in us). He manifests more life, He inspires our hearts and minds with the life of His Word. Those who continue to “sleep” are not making the best use of the time, but are being foolish. (Eph 5:17- understanding…the will of the Lord is)

A Living sacrifice (dead to self) is filled with Christ’s life and light and understands the will of the Lord. Gal. 2:20 I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.