

My Will and His Will

Since the object of faith must be according to the will of God and since my will is involved in believing, then how does this work? In Matthew 20, there is the story of the two blind men begging Jesus to have mercy on them. After being rebuked by the crowd for their boldness, Jesus stopped and asked them a question, “What do you want me to do for you?” Was Jesus not seeking to understand their will? It was pretty obvious what they wanted, but Jesus decided to ask them, perhaps for the benefit of the crowd. Jesus seems to be demonstrating that faith involves us asking for something we want according to OUR will. What we want is about our will but, in the asking, we are mindful that the giver also has a will and that the two need to align. Isn't this what Jesus demonstrated in the garden when He said to His Father, “Not my will, but yours be done”? Like the docking of two spaceships, the two wills must fit. It seems to me that it is not enough just for us to know God's will, but we must be living a life that is constantly bringing our will into sync with His. A man might figure out what God's will is in a matter and pray in accordance with God's will for a certain outcome, but what if his life is not being lived in the will of God? So, does this mean these three things must line up: His will, my will, and my life being lived in His will? Perhaps, but to what degree since my will and the living out of His will is unstable. James 1 addresses this regarding asking for wisdom. If doubting is present, the unstable man should not expect he will receive anything from the Lord. Like the hand of a seamstress, what is needed to stabilize me so that I can thread the needle of faith? In the case of the demon that the disciples could not exorcise, Jesus said it comes out only by prayer and fasting. Jesus threaded the needle in the garden in prayer. Could it be that only in prayer, and often accompanied by fasting, can my will be aligned with His will?



Reflection and Discussion



Read Matt.20:29-34. Why did Jesus seek to understand the will of the blind men?

What is involved in understanding the will of God?

Is it important for us not only understand God's will, but to live in accordance with that will? If so, why?

How can my will and His will become stable enough to connect when I am often unstable in carrying out His will?

How might the practice of prayer and fasting stabilize me in threading the needle of God's will?

Memory Verse: Matt.6:10

“...Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.”