

# OUTLINE • 1.1

- I. You are not going to accidentally fulfill God's will.
  - A. Seeing God's will realized in your life means, first of all, finding out what unique purpose He created you for.
  - B. You can end up meandering through life, allowing obstacles you encounter to determine what direction you go in, but it doesn't have to be that way.
  - C. God intends for you to experience the satisfaction of a life well lived.
  - D. You can do this if you are willing to do more than just go with the flow—even a dead fish can float downstream.

- II. Accomplishing the things you were created to achieve means making a deliberate effort to find, follow, and fulfill God's will.
  - A. When I put forth effort to discover my God-given purpose, it was a critical turning point in my life.
  - B. I began asking people in my church "How do you find God's will for your life?" but nobody could tell me.
  - C. I knew that the Bible contained knowledge about God, so I figured it was a good place to look for God's will for my life.

*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.*

ROMANS 12:1-2

- D. I spent months reading this passage of Scripture and asking God, "What does this mean? How do I do it?"
  - E. Then I had a miraculous encounter with the Lord and experienced His love for me.
  - F. I wasn't mature enough to know what was going on, but I was hungry for God.
  - G. It wasn't an accident that He showed up.
  - H. I've never gotten over it—it changed my life!
- III. A popular misconception in the church today is that God winds people up like dolls and then lets them go their own way, leaving them to figure life out on their own.
    - A. This kind of philosophy leads people to do their own thing and then ask God to bless it—instead of seeking Him for direction from the beginning.
    - B. Since I found God's will for my life, I don't ever pray for Him to bless what I'm doing.

- C. God would be unjust to command me to do something and then expect me to do it in my own strength and power.
  - D. He gives me an anointing to do what He has called me to do, and it's the same for everyone.
  - E. *God has already blessed what He told you to do.*
  - F. One reason so many people are praying for God to come to their assistance is because they aren't doing what He told them to do.
  - G. Others may have stumbled into God's will for their lives, but they don't have that assurance and joy that comes from knowing they are exactly where He wants them to be.
- IV. It does something in you when you know you are where God wants you to be.
- A. Can God count on you to follow His leading?
  - B. Many people have never felt the satisfaction of knowing, beyond the shadow of a doubt, that they are doing what God made them for.
  - C. God created you for something better than wandering aimlessly through life.
  - D. You have a purpose.

# DISCIPLESHIP QUESTIONS • 1.1

1. Discussion question: Why do you think you can't accidentally fulfill God's will for your life?

---

---

---

2. What shouldn't determine the direction you go in?

- A. Obedience
- B. Obstacles
- C. Godly counsel
- D. All of the above
- E. None of the above

3. What does God intend for you to experience?

---

---

---

4. Accomplishing the things you were created to achieve means making a deliberate \_\_\_\_\_ to find, follow, and fulfill God's will.

5. What was a critical turning point in Andrew's life?

---

---

---

6. Discussion question: What does it tell you about Andrew's understanding of God that he went to the Bible to look for God's will for his life?

---

---

---

7. When Andrew was hungry for God, what happened?
- A. People discouraged it
  - B. He didn't care about anyone but himself
  - C. God showed up
  - D. He ordered a pizza
  - E. Nothing

8. The idea that God leaves you to figure life out on your own is what?

---

---

---

9. True or false: It's okay to do your own thing and ask God to bless it.

10. Why don't you have to ask God to bless what He told you to do?

---

---

---

11. What's one reason so many people are praying for God to come to their assistance?

---

---

---

12. Others may have stumbled into God's will for their lives, but what don't they have?

---

---

---

13. Discussion question: Can God count on you to follow His leading? Why or why not?

---

---

---

14. How well do you need to know that you are doing what God made you for?
- A. Beyond the shadow of a doubt
  - B. Somewhat
  - C. Not well at all
  - D. All of the above
  - E. None of the above

15. Why isn't it good to wander aimlessly through life?

---

---

---

# SCRIPTURES • 1.1

## **ROMANS 12:1-2**

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.

## OUTLINE • 1.2

- V. When you aren't going in the right direction, He will sometimes turn you around by giving you a sense of unrest, or what I call a "holy dissatisfaction."
  - A. The dissatisfaction that God uses to give direction to believers who are seeking Him is completely different from the turmoil of negative emotions.
  - B. God doesn't use depression to guide you—one of the ways He speaks to you is through the desires of your heart.
  - C. One of the reasons that some people aren't satisfied with getting up and going to work, coming home, watching television, going to bed, and then getting up and doing the whole thing over again is because they aren't doing what God called them to do.
  - D. You need to know that you are on a path that is making a difference and changing others.
- VI. Many people were raised, whether in a Christian home or not, to think that their lives are their own, and they can do whatever they want with them.
  - A. The Lord's plan for your life is far better than that.
  - B. You aren't a mistake, you didn't miss out on the talents you need to accomplish God's will, and you don't have to struggle through life, bouncing from one crisis to the next.
  - C. You have a specific purpose in life, and God wants you to discover what that purpose is.
- VII. At the same time you were being physically formed, God wove in your talents, abilities, and purpose.

*I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well. [15] My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place. When I was woven together in the depths of the earth, [16] your eyes saw my unformed body. All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be. [17] How precious to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them!*

PSALM 139:14-17, NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION 1984

- A. Before you were even born, God had already written down what your life is supposed to be.
- B. You may think you made yourself, but you can't bring out what God didn't put in.
- C. God gave you a disposition.
- D. Some people are vivacious and lively, while others are quiet and reserved.
- E. Your personality can be influenced and changed to a degree, but you have a genetic disposition to be a certain type of person with a certain type of personality.

- VIII. God won't force His will for your life to come to pass.
- A. One of the things that keeps people from finding and recognizing God's will for their lives is a fatalistic attitude that whatever is meant to be, will be.
  - B. You can't just let circumstances move and control you.
  - C. Many think that whatever God's will is comes to pass, but that isn't how it works.
  - D. God is sovereign in the sense that He has supreme power and is Master of all things, seen and unseen, but He is not sovereign in the sense that nothing can happen without His permission.
  - E. Everything that happens in your life is not God's will.
  - F. For example, God wants every person to be saved, yet not everyone will be saved (2 Pet. 3:9 and Matt. 7:13-14).
- IX. The reason God's will does not automatically come to pass in your life is that you have a part to play.
- A. You choose whether or not you will be saved by your response to Jesus.
  - B. In the same way, God has a plan for you, but you have control over your own life.
  - C. You were born a man or a woman, at this time in history, in the nation you were born in for a reason—it isn't a coincidence.
  - D. God chose you.
  - E. He has a purpose for you, and He gave you gifts and abilities to accomplish that purpose.
- X. If you feel like a square peg in a round hole, it might be because you have allowed circumstances to move you away from the direction God has planned for you.
- A. You will never have the degree of success you could have in life until you first find God's will.
  - B. When I first started seeking the Lord, I knew I was called to minister, but I didn't know in what capacity.
    - i. Over a period of time, I discovered that I was called to teach—my gifting was toward the body of Christ, to help believers learn who they are in Christ.
    - ii. Initially, however, I didn't know exactly what area of ministry I was called to.
    - iii. But after I held my first Gospel meeting, I knew that I was made to travel and minister in exactly that way.
    - iv. I felt a new sense of liberty, satisfaction, and joy when I started ministering in the way God created me to.



- C. God taught me during that period and I learned a lot, but I wasn't yet in the *center* of His will.
  - D. You don't go from *not* being in God's will to instantly being *in* the center of His will—it's a process and happens progressively.
- XI. One night, the Lord woke me up and told me I was just then beginning to fulfill what He had called me to do, and if I had died before then, I would have missed His perfect will for my life.
- A. It was discouraging to hear that, because I had been ministering for thirty-one years and had seen great things happen.
  - B. But it also encouraged me because I was already seeing God do wonderful things and felt extremely blessed to be doing what He had called me to do.
  - C. Since then, our ministry has grown extensively, and we're reaching more people than ever with the Gospel, but we didn't get here overnight.
- XII. The reason you might find life hard or are not experiencing satisfaction is because God created you to do something different from what you are doing.
- A. Maybe you just fell into what you are doing.
  - B. Life might have just kind of taken a path on its own, which happens.
  - C. But I hope you recognize now that God created you for a unique purpose and that you have to intentionally pursue that purpose.

# DISCIPLESHIP QUESTIONS • 1.2

16. Discussion question: How would you describe a holy dissatisfaction?

---

---

---

17. “A sense of unrest” is not to be confused with what?
- A. “Pressure from friends to do what they think is best”
  - B. “Having difficulty sleeping at night”
  - C. “The turmoil that comes from negative emotions”
  - D. “Favorable circumstances”
  - E. “Unfavorable circumstances”

18. Discussion question: When you experience a holy dissatisfaction, how does God speak to you through the desires of your heart?

---

---

---

19. Discussion question: Why do you suppose there are Christians who think their lives are their own, and they can do whatever they want with them?

---

---

---

20. True or false: You didn't miss out on the talents you need to accomplish God's will.

21. True or false: There will be times in life when you will have to bounce from one crisis to the next.

22. Read Psalm 139:14-17. At the time you were being physically formed, what did God weave in?

---

---

---

23. If you think you made yourself, what don't you realize?

- A. That you're not the only one
- B. That you can't bring out what God didn't put in
- C. That you're really only a product of your environment
- D. All of the above
- E. None of the above

24. You have a \_\_\_\_\_ disposition to be a certain type of person with a certain type of personality.

25. True or false: God will force His will for your life to come to pass.

26. What's one thing that keeps people from finding and recognizing God's will for their lives?

---

---

---

27. God is not \_\_\_\_\_ in the sense that nothing can happen without His permission.

28. Read 2 Peter 3:9 and Matthew 7:13-14. What do these two passages prove?

---

---

---

29. Why doesn't God's will automatically come to pass in your life?

- A. Because God doesn't think you're holy enough
- B. Because people hinder God's will
- C. Because you have too much unbelief
- D. Because you don't have enough money
- E. Because you have a part to play

30. Discussion question: Though you have control over your own life, what should you do with it?

---

---

---

31. You will never have the degree of \_\_\_\_\_ you could have in life until you first find God's will.

32. What did Andrew feel after he held his first Gospel meeting?

---

---

---

33. What does it take to be in the center of God's will?

- A. A successful fundraiser
- B. Time and progression
- C. Agreement from family
- D. All of the above
- E. None of the above

34. Discussion question: What do you think your response would be if God had told you what He told Andrew?

---

---

---

35. The reason you might find life hard or are not experiencing satisfaction is because God \_\_\_\_\_ you to do something different from what you are doing.

36. God created you for a unique purpose, but you have to do what?

- A. Start making friends
- B. Intentionally pursue that purpose
- C. Do whatever a church leader advises
- D. Take out a loan
- E. Sell everything you own

# SCRIPTURES • 1.2

## **ROMANS 8:6**

For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.

## **PSALM 139:14-17, NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION 1984**

I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well. [15] My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place. When I was woven together in the depths of the earth, [16] your eyes saw my unformed body. All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be. [17] How precious to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them!

## **2 PETER 3:9**

The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

## **MATTHEW 7:13-14**

Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: [14] Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.

## OUTLINE • 1.3

- XIII. Galatians 1:13-15 says that God chose Paul and set him apart from his mother's womb to preach the Gospel—before he ever did anything good or bad or developed his talents and abilities.
- A. *From the very moment of conception, God had a plan, and from your mother's womb, God already had a purpose designed for you.*
  - B. Your talents and abilities can be an indication of God's will, but many have hidden talents and gifts that they have never recognized or developed.
  - C. You won't see your real potential until you get beyond yourself and get into a realm of trusting God for something supernatural.
  - D. Too many people are trying to figure out what to do with their lives by looking at their natural abilities—or worse, at the results of a personality test.
  - E. A personality test can give you a snapshot of where you are at the time you take the test, but the results aren't true forever—and it can't tell you God's real plan and purpose for your life.
  - F. God didn't look at Paul when he was twenty or thirty years old and say, "Wow, you've spent twenty years studying under Gamaliel and have all of this knowledge under your belt, so I think I'll use you to preach the Gospel and write half the New Testament."
  - G. Paul was schooled in the Jewish religion—he knew the Law frontward and backward, and he also had a revelation of grace—so who better to convince a legalistic Jew than Paul?
  - H. Peter wasn't polished or religious, so most would have thought he'd have been a great guy to send to the heathen.
  - I. Yet God sent Paul to preach to the heathen and Peter to preach to the legalistic Jews.
  - J. God will always call you to do something that is beyond your natural ability, forcing you to rely on Him.
  - K. If you only do what you feel you are naturally equipped to do—what you are capable of doing in your own strength and ability—then you will be tempted to give yourself the credit for success.
  - L. In fact, if you are simply doing what comes naturally to you, then you probably haven't found God's will for your life yet.
- XIV. Major life changes can be unsettling to contemplate, especially if you have a career and things are going well or if you are thinking about retirement and looking forward to coasting for a while.
- A. No matter how unpleasant the thought of change may seem, it is important to know whether or not you have found your life's purpose.
  - B. You only have one chance to fulfill God's will for your life.

- C. God's intention is not that you do whatever you want with your life and then, as long as your heart is pure, everything will be all right.
  - D. Only with effort and time will you see God's will for your life come to pass.
  - E. You have to take charge of your life and pursue God's will.
- XV. You will never have another today.
- A. You have to spend every day moving in the direction that God wants your life to go.
  - B. It can feel a little threatening to get out of a routine and do something new, especially if we have been doing the same thing for a long time, but you have to be willing to get out of your comfort zone in order to find God's purpose for your life.
  - C. I promise, knowing the joy of being in the center of God's will makes it all worthwhile.
- XVI. There are certain people who would never hear me preach the Gospel.
- A. You have a sphere of influence—people in your life—that might never receive the full anointing God has for them unless you reach your potential.
  - B. You will be happier and a much greater blessing to the people in your life once you find your purpose and start heading in that direction.
  - C. God calls more people into business and labor than He calls into full-time ministry.
  - D. Regardless of what you are called to do, God wants you to reach people and manifest His power in the world.
- XVII. I think it would be terrible to live your whole life and not know for sure that you are doing what God created you to do.
- A. It would terrify me to go to bed and wake up not having a clue if I am following God's will.
  - B. The only thing worse than not knowing God's will is knowing His will and choosing not to do it—either because you have talked yourself out of it or have let others talk you out of it.
  - C. To know that God made you for a purpose and to feel unqualified or incapable of fulfilling it, is worse than not knowing at all.
  - D. A God-given purpose and a life driven by the Holy Spirit motivate me to work through life's hardships.
  - E. Going to work because it beats starving to death is a terrible way to live your life.
  - F. You need to live your life on purpose.
  - G. God has a perfect plan for your life, and His plan is better than your plan for yourself.

# DISCIPLESHIP QUESTIONS • 1.3

37. Discussion question: What do you think about the fact that God had a plan and purpose for you before you were born?

---

---

---

38. Too many people are trying to figure out what to do with their lives by looking at what?

- A. The new charismatic televangelist
- B. What they see other people doing
- C. Circumstances working out a certain way
- D. Their natural abilities or a personality test
- E. The money in their bank accounts

39. Why aren't the results of a personality test true forever?

---

---

---

40. True or false: Personality tests can't tell you God's real plan and purpose for your life.

41. Discussion question: Why do you think God will always call you to do something that is beyond your natural ability, forcing you to rely on Him?

---

---

---

42. If you only do what you feel you are naturally equipped to do—what you are capable of doing in your own strength and ability—then you will be tempted to give \_\_\_\_\_ the credit for success.

43. True or false: No matter how unpleasant the thought of change may seem, it is important to know whether or not you have chosen your life's purpose.



44. Discussion question: How do you deal with change, even if it is unpleasant?

---

---

---

45. \_\_\_\_\_ with effort and time will you see God's will for your life come to pass.

46. How often do you have to move in the direction God wants you to go?

---

---

---

47. What does Andrew promise?

---

---

---

48. What two things will you be once you find your purpose and start heading in that direction?

- A. Warm and filled from good home cooking
- B. Happier and a greater blessing to the people in your life
- C. Popular and uncontested in everything you do
- D. All of the above
- E. None of the above

49. Discussion question: Why do you think God calls more people into business and labor than He calls into full-time ministry?

---

---

---

50. What's the only thing worse than not knowing God's will?

---

---

---

51. What motivates Andrew to work through life's hardships?
- A. A God-given purpose and a life driven by the Holy Spirit
  - B. Fear of failure and embarrassment
  - C. Knowing he needs to keep ministering to pay the bills
  - D. Pressure from what everyone expects of him
  - E. A promise he made to himself a long time ago
52. True or false: Going to work because it beats starving to death is an awesome way to live your life.
53. Discussion question: Why do you think God has the perfect plan for your life that is better than your own?

---

---

---

# SCRIPTURES • 1.3

## **GALATIANS 1:13-15**

For ye have heard of my conversation in time past in the Jews' religion, how that beyond measure I persecuted the church of God, and wasted it: [14] And profited in the Jews' religion above many my equals in mine own nation, being more exceedingly zealous of the traditions of my fathers. [15] But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb, and called me by his grace.

# OUTLINE • 1.4

XVIII. I can tell you emphatically what God's primary will for your life is: to know Jesus.

A. In order to be saved, or to be in right relationship with God, you must be born again.

*Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.*

JOHN 3:3

B. You have to do more than mentally acknowledge God's existence; you have to submit yourself to Him.

C. You have to commit your life to Him personally, and when you do that, the Bible says you are born again from above—you get changed on the inside.

D. If you have not committed your life to God personally, you need to.

E. This is the first and most important step in finding God's will for your life.

XIX. It doesn't matter how good of a person you are—everyone falls short of God's standard of perfection.

A. Nothing you can do will make you worthy of receiving God's love.

B. No amount of good works will earn you the privilege of being righteous in God's eyes.

C. The only thing that will restore you to a right relationship with God is putting your faith in Jesus and submitting to Him as Lord of your life.

*If thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.*

ROMANS 10:9

D. The words are easy to say, but you also have to believe what you say in your heart.

E. You have to really mean that you are turning your life over to Jesus—which isn't to say that you'll never sin again.

F. Jesus paid for salvation by taking the punishment you deserved in His own body on the cross.

G. He suffered, died, and defeated death by rising again.

H. Jesus earned salvation for you because you couldn't.

I. So, all you have to do to be saved is say this prayer out loud, believe it in your heart, and you will be born again—it's that simple:

*Father, I'm sorry for my sins. I believe Jesus died to forgive my sin, and I receive that forgiveness. Jesus, I make You my Lord. I believe that You are alive and that You now live in me. I am saved. I am forgiven. Thank You, Jesus!*

- XX. Once you are in relationship with God, you can move on to find out what His *particular* will for your life is.
- A. Fortunately, God wants you to know and live out His will even more than you do.
  - B. For the remainder of this study guide, I will share things that you can do to draw on the power of God and cause Him to reveal His will to you.
  - C. The first thing you need to do is refuse to go any further without knowing God's will for your life.
  - D. As long as you can live without knowing God's purpose for your life, you will.
- XXI. After you insist on finding God's will and commit to seeking Him with your whole heart, He will immediately put everything in motion to reveal Himself to you—but the first step is making a commitment.
- A. God is faithful and just to keep *that which you commit*—no committing, no keeping (2 Tim. 1:12).
  - B. If you are willing to make a total commitment to seeking God and finding His perfect will for your life, then I would like to pray with you.
  - C. This prayer will be a step of faith that is going to start the process of God revealing His will to you:

*Father, I love You. I thank You for the knowledge that You desire to reveal Your will to me. I don't want to do things on my own anymore. Father, I want to know Your will. I want to know what You created me for. I want to take everything that I am and use it to accomplish Your purpose for me.*

*I know it's a process, but I am making a commitment to begin seeking and continue seeking, until I find. I'm not going to be content with living my life for myself. I now humble myself to You, Lord, and ask You to reveal Your will to me. Father, give me supernatural revelation.*

*Lord, I believe that right now the process has begun. I have made a commitment, and I believe You are going to keep that which I commit. I believe You are going to draw me to a place where I will emphatically know what Your purpose and will for my life is. I thank You, Father, in advance, knowing that You will reveal Yourself to me in a way that I can see and understand. I thank You for this in the name of Jesus. Amen.*

# DISCIPLESHIP QUESTIONS • 1.4

54. What is God's primary will for your life?

---

---

---

55. Read John 3:3. What happens when you commit your life to God personally?

---

---

---

56. If you haven't committed your life to God, what do you need to do?

- A. Ask God if it's His will that you do so
- B. Wait until the next altar call
- C. Commit your life to God
- D. All of the above
- E. None of the above

57. True or false: There is something you can do to make you worthy of receiving God's love.

58. True or false: No amount of good works will earn you the privilege of being righteous in God's eyes.

59. What is the only thing that will restore you to a right relationship with God?

---

---

---

60. Discussion question: Read Romans 10:9. Why do you think you have to believe in your heart?

---

---

---

61. How did Jesus pay for salvation?
- A. With all the gold He received from the wise men
  - B. With the gold that Peter retrieved from the fish's mouth
  - C. With the money He'd saved from His carpentry work
  - D. With the condition that He would make you pay for it at a later time
  - E. By taking the punishment you deserved in His own body on the cross

62. Once you are in relationship with God, what can you do next?

---

---

---

63. Discussion question: Why is it good news that God wants you to know and live out His will even more than you do?

---

---

---

64. If you can live without knowing God's purposes for your life, what will you do?

---

---

---

65. After you insist on finding His will and commit to seeking the Lord with your whole heart, what will He do?

- A. Nothing
- B. Say thank you
- C. Relent from punishing you for the day
- D. All of the above
- E. None of the above

66. According to 2 Timothy 1:12, what will God keep?

---

---

---

# SCRIPTURES • 1.4

## **2 PETER 3:9**

The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

## **ROMANS 10:13**

For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.

## **JOHN 3:3**

Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.

## **JAMES 2:19**

Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble.

## **ROMANS 10:9**

That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.

## **2 TIMOTHY 1:12**

For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day.



# OUTLINE • 2.1

- I. Our lives can get so complicated that it's hard to figure out how to get from where we are to where God wants us to be.
  - A. We all make mistakes, and it's easy to start thinking about what might have been if we had done just a few things differently.
  - B. Rather than reliving the past, it's better to understand that God has ways of getting us from where we are to where we need to be—after we surrender our lives to Him.
  - C. It's always better for us to focus on the solution instead of the problem.
- II. First Samuel tells the story of Saul, Israel's first king.
  - A. Saul had no desire to be king, but he was anointed by God and became a powerful ruler with the support of the people.
  - B. But two years into his reign, he decided to make the burnt offering that Samuel was supposed to make, because Samuel hadn't shown (the offering was a request for the Lord's blessing before they fought the enemy).

*And Saul said, Bring hither a burnt offering to me, and peace offerings. And he offered the burnt offering. [10] And it came to pass, that as soon as he had made an end of offering the burnt offering, behold, Samuel came; and Saul went out to meet him, that he might salute him. [11] And Samuel said, What hast thou done? And Saul said, Because I saw that the people were scattered from me, and that thou camest not within the days appointed, and that the Philistines gathered themselves together at Michmash; [12] Therefore said I, The Philistines will come down now upon me to Gilgal, and I have not made supplication unto the LORD: I forced myself therefore, and offered a burnt offering.*

1 SAMUEL 13:9-12

- C. In those days, only priests who were anointed by God could make burnt offering sacrifices.
  - D. Regardless of what delayed Samuel, Saul was wrong in overstepping his bounds and moving into the office of a priest.
  - E. Saul said “*I forced myself*,” which shows that he knew it was wrong.
  - F. He admitted that normally he wouldn't have done such a thing but that the situation compelled him to do it.
- III. Saul's behavior reveals a character flaw that's true of many people today—the tendency to do whatever is in their immediate best interests, regardless of whether or not it's the right thing to do.
  - A. We need to get to a place where we say, “This is nonnegotiable. If God tells me to do something, I'll stand here and do it, even if it kills me. I will not change.”

- B. We have to be uncompromising about the will of God because we will veer off track if we start giving in to circumstances.
  - C. Saul knew he wasn't supposed to offer that burnt offering, but he forced himself because it was the convenient thing to do—he compromised.
- IV. Samuel said that if Saul had obeyed God that day, he would have ruled over Israel *forever* (1 Sam. 13:13-14).
- A. If Saul had obeyed God, there never would have been a King David.
  - B. Saul was *not* just a temporary king until David came along; he was God's first choice.
  - C. David became king because Saul failed to do what God called him to do, but look at what God did with second best!
    - i. David became a mighty man of God.
    - ii. He was a man after God's own heart.
    - iii. He accomplished great things.
- V. You shouldn't speculate about what could have or should have been in your life.
- A. If you have wasted time chasing your own dreams or if you made some bad decisions, don't get caught up in mulling over the past—just start seeking God and submit to Him.
  - B. He can take you from wherever you are today and make His *plan B* for your life better than you could ever have imagined *plan A* would be.
  - C. The fastest route to God's perfect will for your life is to simply start seeking Him today.
- VI. Saul's life also demonstrates that God doesn't sovereignly move you around and make everything automatically work out according to His will.
- A. Saul didn't cooperate with God; therefore, he missed God's will for his life.
  - B. Don't get worried, though—God has never had anybody qualified working for Him yet!
  - C. You will make mistakes, but God is so awesome that He can take the little bit you submit to Him and use it to accomplish His will.

# DISCIPLESHIP QUESTIONS • 2.1

1. It's better to understand that God has ways of getting you from where you are to where you need to be—after what?

---

---

---

2. What is always better to focus on?
- A. What others think about you
  - B. The next time to eat
  - C. The solution instead of the problem
  - D. All of the above
  - E. None of the above

3. Discussion question: Read 1 Samuel 13:9-12. If you were in a situation where you had waited a specified time for something, would you have done the same thing King Saul did?

---

---

---

4. What does Saul's behavior reveal?

---

---

---

5. True or false: You need to get to a place where you say, "This is nonnegotiable. If God tells me to do something, I'll stand here and do it, even if it kills me. I will not change."

6. Discussion question: What do you think about the idea that there never would have been a King David if Saul had obeyed?

---

---

---

7. What did God accomplish through David, His second best?

---

---

---

8. What shouldn't you speculate about?

- A. Who the greatest in the kingdom of God is
- B. What could have or should have been in your life
- C. Where to invest your money
- D. Whether you should've eaten that last slice of pizza last night
- E. Who's going to win the next ball game

9. What should you do instead?

---

---

---

10. True or false: This is not the fastest route to God's perfect will for your life.

11. How do you know that Saul's life demonstrates that God doesn't sovereignly move you around and make everything automatically work out according to His will?

---

---

---

12. True or false: God has people who are qualified working for Him.

13. Discussion question: How do you think God can take the little bit you submit to Him and use it to accomplish His will?

---

---

---

# SCRIPTURES • 2.1

## 1 SAMUEL 9:14-10:1

And they went up into the city: and when they were come into the city, behold, Samuel came out against them, for to go up to the high place. [15] Now the LORD had told Samuel in his ear a day before Saul came, saying, [16] To morrow about this time I will send thee a man out of the land of Benjamin, and thou shalt anoint him to be captain over my people Israel, that he may save my people out of the hand of the Philistines: for I have looked upon my people, because their cry is come unto me. [17] And when Samuel saw Saul, the LORD said unto him, Behold the man whom I spake to thee of! this same shall reign over my people. [18] Then Saul drew near to Samuel in the gate, and said, Tell me, I pray thee, where the seer's house is. [19] And Samuel answered Saul, and said, I am the seer: go up before me unto the high place; for ye shall eat with me to day, and to morrow I will let thee go, and will tell thee all that is in thine heart. [20] And as for thine asses that were lost three days ago, set not thy mind on them; for they are found. And on whom is all the desire of Israel? Is it not on thee, and on all thy father's house? [21] And Saul answered and said, Am not I a Benjamite, of the smallest of the tribes of Israel? and my family the least of all the families of the tribe of Benjamin? wherefore then speakest thou so to me? [22] And Samuel took Saul and his servant, and brought them into the parlour, and made them sit in the chiefest place among them that were bidden, which were about thirty persons. [23] And Samuel said unto the cook, Bring the portion which I gave thee, of which I said unto thee, Set it by thee. [24] And the cook took up the shoulder, and that which was upon it, and set it before Saul. And Samuel said, Behold that which is left! set it before thee, and eat: for unto this time hath it been kept for thee since I said, I have invited the people. So Saul did eat with Samuel that day. [25] And when they were come down from the high place into the city, Samuel communed with Saul upon the top of the house. [26] And they arose early: and it came to pass about the spring of the day, that Samuel called Saul to the top of the house, saying, Up, that I may send thee away. And Saul arose, and they went out both of them, he and Samuel, abroad. [27] And as they were going down to the end of the city, Samuel said to Saul, Bid the servant pass on before us, (and he passed on,) but stand thou still a while, that I may shew thee the word of God. [10:1] Then Samuel took a vial of oil, and poured it upon his head, and kissed him, and said, Is it not because the LORD hath anointed thee to be captain over his inheritance?

**1 SAMUEL 13:9-14**

And Saul said, Bring hither a burnt offering to me, and peace offerings. And he offered the burnt offering. [10] And it came to pass, that as soon as he had made an end of offering the burnt offering, behold, Samuel came; and Saul went out to meet him, that he might salute him. [11] And Samuel said, What hast thou done? And Saul said, Because I saw that the people were scattered from me, and that thou camest not within the days appointed, and that the Philistines gathered themselves together at Michmash; [12] Therefore said I, The Philistines will come down now upon me to Gilgal, and I have not made supplication unto the LORD: I forced myself therefore, and offered a burnt offering. [13] And Samuel said to Saul, Thou hast done foolishly: thou hast not kept the commandment of the LORD thy God, which he commanded thee: for now would the LORD have established thy kingdom upon Israel for ever. [14] But now thy kingdom shall not continue: the LORD hath sought him a man after his own heart, and the LORD hath commanded him to be captain over his people, because thou hast not kept that which the LORD commanded thee.

**1 SAMUEL 13:1**

Saul reigned one year; and when he had reigned two years over Israel.

**ACTS 13:21**

And afterward they desired a king: and God gave unto them Saul the son of Cis, a man of the tribe of Benjamin, by the space of forty years.

**2 SAMUEL 5:4**

David was thirty years old when he began to reign, and he reigned forty years.

## OUTLINE • 2.2

- VII. Second Samuel 11:1 says that it was time for kings to go forth to battle, so David should have been out leading his troops.
- A. But he stayed home and got away from what God called him to do.
  - B. When David was running for his life from Saul and it looked like he could die at any moment, he sought God with his whole heart.
  - C. After he became king, God blessed him and he was more successful than any other king before him, but he stopped seeking after God wholeheartedly.
  - D. The awesome truth we need to understand here is that success, not failure, is the true test of character.
  - E. The question is, are we going to seek God as strongly during the good times as we do when we are struggling?

- VIII. When everything is fine, the majority of people tend to forget their need for God—which leads to trouble:

*And it came to pass in an eveningtide, that David arose from off his bed, and walked upon the roof of the king's house: and from the roof he saw a woman washing herself; and the woman was very beautiful to look upon. [3] And David sent and enquired after the woman. And one said, Is not this Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam, the wife of Uriah the Hittite? [4] And David sent messengers, and took her; and she came in unto him, and he lay with her; for she was purified from her uncleanness: and she returned unto her house. [5] And the woman conceived, and sent and told David, and said, I am with child.*

2 SAMUEL 11:2-5

- A. If David had been doing what God called him to do as king, this temptation would never have come.
  - B. To cover up their adultery, David plotted the murder of Bathsheba's husband, Uriah—who was one of the mighty men off fighting the wars David himself should have been fighting.
  - C. After Uriah was dead, David took Bathsheba as his wife (2 Sam. 11:6-26).
  - D. The lesson for us is that the moment we achieve our dreams is the time we are most vulnerable to an attack.
  - E. After a victory, we need to be more dependent on God than we have ever been in our lives.
- IX. The Bible says, "*But the thing that David had done displeased the LORD*" (2 Sam. 11:27).
- A. So, the Lord sent the prophet Nathan, who went to David and told him a story about a rich man who stole his poor neighbor's only lamb, killed it, and used it to feed a guest.

- B. David said, “Any man who would do such a thing deserves to die!”
  - C. Nathan said “You are that man” and gave a prophecy that the child conceived by Bathsheba in adultery would die (2 Sam. 12:1-14).
  - D. I believe that the reason Nathan presented the prophecy in parable form is that God was letting David prescribe his own judgment.
  - E. If David had been merciful, I believe he would have received mercy in return, but because he showed no mercy to the man in this parable, David passed sentence on himself and received no mercy.
- X. After the death of his baby, it says that David comforted Bathsheba, and they conceived another son whom they called Solomon.
- A. The Lord sent the prophet Nathan to announce that his name was Jedidiah (2 Sam. 12:25), which means *beloved of the Lord* in Hebrew.
  - B. God anointed Solomon to be David’s replacement as king of Israel (1 Kin. 1:17 and 1 Chr. 28:5).
  - C. The Bible says there will never be another man who approaches the wisdom and the riches of Solomon.
  - D. All of this came to a person who was totally outside of God’s original plan and purpose.
  - E. David’s relationship with Bathsheba was never God’s will, yet He blessed their marriage after they repented.
- XI. Maybe you think you have blown it because of bad decisions you have made in the past, but you can’t blow it any more than David did.
- A. God took the mess David made of his life and worked it together for good—to the extent that he is remembered as a great man.
  - B. God made an everlasting covenant with David, resulting in blessings to his descendants even when they weren’t serving Him.
  - C. I hope this encourages you.
  - D. You may have made some less-than-perfect choices, but it is pointless to spend your time regretting the past.
  - E. It would be wrong to walk away or try to reverse your life and go back.
  - F. You are where you are because of the choices you have made.
  - G. The thing to do is humble yourself, seek God, and realize that He can take where you are right now and work everything together for good.



- XII. David made some serious mistakes that cost him a great deal of agony—decisions that also cost his family a lot of pain.
- A. He could have beaten himself up over his mistakes, but instead, he trusted God.
  - B. He chose to be strong in the grace that is in the Lord (2 Tim. 2:1), which is a great lesson.
  - C. I am absolutely convinced that regardless of where you are today or how badly you may have missed God's will for your life, He still has a plan for you.

XIII. The Apostle Paul wrote in his letter to the Romans,

*For the gifts and calling of God are without repentance.*

ROMANS 11:29

- A. God doesn't change, and whatever His purpose for your life was when He created you hasn't changed either.
  - B. You might be a long way from where God wants you to be right now, but God can get you where you need to be.
  - C. God can take what you have done and figure a way to get you back on track.
  - D. You can still get where God planned for you to go.
  - E. It doesn't matter what the devil does, and it doesn't matter how much you blow it or mess up—God is able to take whatever you have done to ruin your life and turn it around.
- XIV. Your failings are no match for God's grace—they aren't even worthy to mention in the same breath.
- A. You just need to yield to the Lord and say, "God, here I am. Do with me what You want."
  - B. God can redeem the last days.
  - C. The simple fact that you are reading this study guide shows that God is drawing you and trying to reach out to you.
  - D. But you can't do things the way you always have in the past and expect different results.

# DISCIPLESHIP QUESTIONS • 2.2

14. Why wasn't David seeking God with his whole heart?

---

---

---

15. Success, not failure, is the \_\_\_\_\_ test of character.

16. Discussion question: Are you going to seek God as strongly during the good times as you do when you are struggling?

---

---

---

17. Read 2 Samuel 11:2-5. What do the majority of people tend to do when everything is fine?

---

---

---

18. True or false: If David had been doing what God called him to do as king, this temptation would never have come.

19. What did David do to cover up his adultery with Bathsheba?

---

---

---

20. Then what did he do?

- A. He made public announcement
- B. He honored Uriah for his loyalty and valor
- C. He took Bathsheba as his wife
- D. All of the above
- E. None of the above

21. Discussion question: The fact that Nathan prophesied that David and Bathsheba's child would die, what does that tell you about how God felt about what they did?

---

---

---

22. Why does Andrew believe that Nathan presented the prophecy to David in parable form?

---

---

---

23. What would have happened if David had been merciful?

- A. He would have been better liked
- B. He would have been shown mercy
- C. He still would have received justice
- D. All of the above
- E. None of the above

24. How did the Lord feel about Solomon, David and Bathsheba's second son?

- A. He tolerated him
- B. He felt sorry for him
- C. He despised him
- D. He envied him
- E. He loved him

25. Discussion question: What do you think about how God blessed Solomon, even though He didn't originally approve of David and Bathsheba's relationship?

---

---

---

26. How is David remembered?

---

---

---

27. True or false: God's covenant with David resulted in blessings to his descendants even when they weren't serving Him.

28. It would be \_\_\_\_\_ to walk away or try to reverse your life and go back.

29. What should you do instead?

- A. Humble yourself
- B. Seek God
- C. Realize that He can take where you are right now and work everything together for good
- D. All of the above
- E. None of the above

30. What did David do instead of beat himself up over his mistakes?

---

---

---

31. According to 2 Timothy 2:1, what should you be strong in?

- A. Numbers
- B. Valor
- C. Odor
- D. Worldly goods and essentials
- E. The grace that is in Christ Jesus

32. Discussion question: Why is it that regardless of how badly you may have missed God's will for your life, He still has a plan for you?

---

---

---

33. Read Romans 11:29. True or false: Sometimes God changes.

34. You can \_\_\_\_\_ get where God planned for you to go.

35. Discussion question: How do you know this: Your failings are no match for God's grace—they aren't even worthy to mention in the same breath?

---

---

---

36. The simple fact that you are reading this study guide shows what?

---

---

---

37. You can't do things the way you always have in the past and expect what?

- A. Different results
- B. The same results
- C. Things to be done differently in the future
- D. All of the above
- E. None of the above

## SCRIPTURES • 2.2

### 2 SAMUEL 11:1-27

And it came to pass, after the year was expired, at the time when kings go forth to battle, that David sent Joab, and his servants with him, and all Israel; and they destroyed the children of Ammon, and besieged Rabbah. But David tarried still at Jerusalem. [2] And it came to pass in an eveningtide, that David arose from off his bed, and walked upon the roof of the king's house: and from the roof he saw a woman washing herself; and the woman was very beautiful to look upon. [3] And David sent and enquired after the woman. And one said, Is not this Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam, the wife of Uriah the Hittite? [4] And David sent messengers, and took her; and she came in unto him, and he lay with her; for she was purified from her uncleanness: and she returned unto her house. [5] And the woman conceived, and sent and told David, and said, I am with child. [6] And David sent to Joab, saying, Send me Uriah the Hittite. And Joab sent Uriah to David. [7] And when Uriah was come unto him, David demanded of him how Joab did, and how the people did, and how the war prospered. [8] And David said to Uriah, Go down to thy house, and wash thy feet. And Uriah departed out of the king's house, and there followed him a mess of meat from the king. [9] But Uriah slept at the door of the king's house with all the servants of his lord, and went not down to his house. [10] And when they had told David, saying, Uriah went not down unto his house, David said unto Uriah, Camest thou not from thy journey? why then didst thou not go down unto thine house? [11] And Uriah said unto David, The ark, and Israel, and Judah, abide in tents; and my lord Joab, and the servants of my lord, are encamped in the open fields; shall I then go into mine house, to eat and to drink, and to lie with my wife? as thou livest, and as thy soul liveth, I will not do this thing. [12] And David said to Uriah, Tarry here to day also, and to morrow I will let thee depart. So Uriah abode in Jerusalem that day, and the morrow. [13] And when David had called him, he did eat and drink before him; and he made him drunk: and at even he went out to lie on his bed with the servants of his lord, but went not down to his house. [14] And it came to pass in the morning, that David wrote a letter to Joab, and sent it by the hand of Uriah. [15] And he wrote in the letter, saying, Set ye Uriah in the forefront of the hottest battle, and retire ye from him, that he may be smitten, and die. [16] And it came to pass, when Joab observed the city, that he assigned Uriah unto a place where he knew that valiant men were. [17] And the men of the city went out, and fought with Joab: and there fell some of the people of the servants of David; and Uriah the Hittite died also. [18] Then Joab sent and told David all the things concerning the war; [19] And charged the messenger, saying, When thou hast made an end of telling the matters of the war unto the king, [20] And if so be that the king's wrath arise, and he say unto thee, Wherefore approached ye so nigh unto the city when ye did fight? knew ye not that they would shoot from the wall? [21] Who smote Abimelech the son of Jerubbesheth? did not a woman cast a piece of a millstone upon him from the wall, that he died in Thebez? why went ye nigh the wall? then say thou, Thy servant Uriah the Hittite is dead also. [22] So

the messenger went, and came and shewed David all that Joab had sent him for. [23] And the messenger said unto David, Surely the men prevailed against us, and came out unto us into the field, and we were upon them even unto the entering of the gate. [24] And the shooters shot from off the wall upon thy servants; and some of the king's servants be dead, and thy servant Uriah the Hittite is dead also. [25] Then David said unto the messenger, Thus shalt thou say unto Joab, Let not this thing displease thee, for the sword devoureth one as well as another: make thy battle more strong against the city, and overthrow it: and encourage thou him. [26] And when the wife of Uriah heard that Uriah her husband was dead, she mourned for her husband. [27] And when the mourning was past, David sent and fetched her to his house, and she became his wife, and bare him a son. But the thing that David had done displeased the LORD.

### **2 SAMUEL 12:1-14**

And the Lord sent Nathan unto David. And he came unto him, and said unto him, There were two men in one city; the one rich, and the other poor. [2] The rich man had exceeding many flocks and herds: [3] But the poor man had nothing, save one little ewe lamb, which he had bought and nourished up: and it grew up together with him, and with his children; it did eat of his own meat, and drank of his own cup, and lay in his bosom, and was unto him as a daughter. [4] And there came a traveller unto the rich man, and he spared to take of his own flock and of his own herd, to dress for the wayfaring man that was come unto him; but took the poor man's lamb, and dressed it for the man that was come to him. [5] And David's anger was greatly kindled against the man; and he said to Nathan, As the LORD liveth, the man that hath done this thing shall surely die: [6] And he shall restore the lamb fourfold, because he did this thing, and because he had no pity. [7] And Nathan said to David, Thou art the man. Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, I anointed thee king over Israel, and I delivered thee out of the hand of Saul; [8] And I gave thee thy master's house, and thy master's wives into thy bosom, and gave thee the house of Israel and of Judah; and if that had been too little, I would moreover have given unto thee such and such things. [9] Wherefore hast thou despised the commandment of the LORD, to do evil in his sight? thou hast killed Uriah the Hittite with the sword, and hast taken his wife to be thy wife, and hast slain him with the sword of the children of Ammon. [10] Now therefore the sword shall never depart from thine house; because thou hast despised me, and hast taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be thy wife. [11] Thus saith the LORD, Behold, I will raise up evil against thee out of thine own house, and I will take thy wives before thine eyes, and give them unto thy neighbour, and he shall lie with thy wives in the sight of this sun. [12] For thou didst it secretly: but I will do this thing before all Israel, and before the sun. [13] And David said unto Nathan, I have sinned against the LORD. And Nathan said unto David, The LORD also hath put away thy sin; thou shalt not die. [14] Howbeit, because by this deed thou hast given great occasion to the enemies of the LORD to blaspheme, the child also that is born unto thee shall surely die.

**JAMES 2:13**

For he shall have judgment without mercy, that hath shewed no mercy; and mercy rejoiceth against judgment.

**2 SAMUEL 22:26**

With the merciful thou wilt shew thyself merciful, and with the upright man thou wilt shew thyself upright.

**2 SAMUEL 12:25**

And he sent by the hand of Nathan the prophet; and he called his name Jedidiah, because of the LORD.

**1 KINGS 1:17**

And she said unto him, My lord, thou swarest by the LORD thy God unto thine handmaid, saying, Assuredly Solomon thy son shall reign after me, and he shall sit upon my throne.

**1 CHRONICLES 28:5**

And of all my sons, (for the LORD hath given me many sons,) he hath chosen Solomon my son to sit upon the throne of the kingdom of the LORD over Israel.

**1 KINGS 10:21**

And all king Solomon's drinking vessels were of gold, and all the vessels of the house of the forest of Lebanon were of pure gold; none were of silver: it was nothing accounted of in the days of Solomon.

**2 CHRONICLES 1:12**

Wisdom and knowledge is granted unto thee; and I will give thee riches, and wealth, and honour, such as none of the kings have had that have been before thee, neither shall there any after thee have the like.

**2 SAMUEL 13:10-14**

And Amnon said unto Tamar, Bring the meat into the chamber, that I may eat of thine hand. And Tamar took the cakes which she had made, and brought them into the chamber to Amnon her brother. [11] And when she had brought them unto him to eat, he took hold of her, and said unto her, Come lie with me, my sister. [12] And she answered him, Nay, my brother, do not force me; for no such thing ought to be done in Israel: do not thou this folly. [13] And I, whither shall I cause my shame to go? and as for thee, thou shalt be as one of the fools in Israel. Now therefore, I pray thee, speak unto the king; for he will not withhold me from thee. [14] Howbeit he would not hearken unto her voice: but, being stronger than she, forced her, and lay with her.



**2 SAMUEL 13:28-29**

Now Absalom had commanded his servants, saying, Mark ye now when Amnon's heart is merry with wine, and when I say unto you, Smite Amnon; then kill him, fear not: have not I commanded you? be courageous, and be valiant. [29] And the servants of Absalom did unto Amnon as Absalom had commanded. Then all the king's sons arose, and every man gat him up upon his mule, and fled.

**2 SAMUEL 15:10**

But Absalom sent spies throughout all the tribes of Israel, saying, As soon as ye hear the sound of the trumpet, then ye shall say, Absalom reigneth in Hebron.

**2 TIMOTHY 2:1**

Thou therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.

**ROMANS 11:29**

For the gifts and calling of God are without repentance.

# OUTLINE • 3.1

- I. The very first verse that God ever spoke into my heart and made come alive was Romans 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.*
- A. For almost eighteen months leading up to that revelation, I had been seeking God and studying the Bible to find His will.
  - B. This brings up an important point I can't overemphasize: God won't reveal His will for your life until you are ready to receive it.
  - C. He will start pointing you in a direction and moving you toward it, but He won't show you everything all at once, because you aren't ready to embrace what He has to say—it would overwhelm you.
    - i. You might think you are incapable of doing what He has planned for you, or you might become so impatient that you would never stay the course long enough for God to prepare you to carry out your calling.
  - D. It isn't that God is hesitant to show you His will—sometimes it just takes Him a while to bring you to a place where you are ready to receive it.
  - E. My hunger to know God's will led me to the verses in Romans 12—the revelation of what those verses meant led to an encounter with God on March 23, 1968.
- II. The first stage of finding God's particular will for your life is to become a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable unto Him (Rom. 12:1).
- A. He loves you more than He loves what you can do for Him.
  - B. It's true that you were created for God's pleasure and glory, but *His acceptance of you is not related to what you do for Him.*
  - C. The Lord sacrificed Himself so He could have *you*, not your *service*.
  - D. One of the things the Lord told me was, "I want you. If I get you, then I'll be able to use you however I want to."
  - E. I was praying "O God, use me. Show me what You want me to do. God, should I do this or that?" and the Lord finally spoke to me and said, "The reason I haven't used you is because you aren't *usable*. Quit praying that I'll use you; pray 'God, make me usable.'"
  - F. God wants to use you more than you want to be used.
  - G. If you make yourself a living sacrifice and commit your life to the Lord, I guarantee you, He will start developing your talents and directing you—as soon as you get usable, God will use you.

III. The problem is most people aren't usable.

- A. Making yourself usable doesn't mean that you try to go out and accomplish God's plan in your own strength and ability.

*Now when he was in Jerusalem at the passover, in the feast day, many believed in his name, when they saw the miracles which he did. [24] But Jesus did not commit himself unto them, because he knew all men, [25] And needed not that any should testify of man: for he knew what was in man.*

JOHN 2:23-25

- B. This passage describes a multitude of people who were willing to acknowledge that Jesus was the Christ, yet Jesus did not commit Himself to them, because He knew they weren't ready.

- i. They weren't born again.
- ii. They weren't filled with the Holy Spirit either.
- iii. Even after His disciples had spent three-and-a-half years with Him and had seen Him rise from the dead, the last thing Jesus told them was, "Don't go tell anybody I'm resurrected from the dead until you receive the power of the Holy Spirit. Then you'll be empowered to be My witnesses."

- C. Jesus is more concerned about the *quality* of ministry than He is the *quantity* of ministry.

IV. You need to get to where you aren't ministering out of your own ability—but through the power of God, and it takes a while for that to happen.

- A. The majority of people today who represent God are just teaching things they have heard someone else say.
- B. Their hearts may be good and they may mean well, but their teaching is not by the power of the Holy Spirit; therefore, it causes problems.
- C. Sure, the Lord is concerned about the witness you present to others, but it is also out of love and concern for you that He doesn't want you stepping out solely in your own power.

V. Satan fights against those who try to advance the kingdom of God.

- A. You are going to be met with opposition while fulfilling God's purpose for your life.
- B. The reason that some people haven't bumped into the devil is because they're going in the same direction—they haven't had any great problems in life because they aren't a threat.
- C. Personally, I believe that Satan is short-handed.

- D. Satan taught a lot of people a couple wrong things a long time ago, so now they're doing a wonderful job messing up their own lives.
- E. Satan puts a priority on people who are in the center of God's will, making an impact, and causing his earthly kingdom damage.
  - i. It's just like being in a battle: An army that is attacked on one flank will shift forces to reinforce that area and repel the attack.
- F. One of the main reasons God doesn't automatically reveal His will to you is that He doesn't want you out there trying to advance His kingdom in your flesh, unable to deal with the opposition and criticism that would come against you.
- G. He's not willing to sacrifice you—He doesn't see you as a disposable commodity.

# DISCIPLESHIP QUESTIONS • 3.1

1. What can't Andrew overemphasize?

---

---

---

2. Discussion question: What's wrong with thinking you're incapable of doing what God has planned for you?

---

---

---

3. True or false: God is hesitant to show you His will.

4. Read Romans 12:1. What is the first step to finding God's will for your life?

- A. Giving up popcorn and sodas
- B. Making sure there is no sin in your life
- C. Becoming a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable unto Him
- D. All of the above
- E. None of the above

5. God loves you more than what?

---

---

---

6. What did God do so He could have you?

---

---

---

7. What should you pray instead of “God, use me”?
- A. God, I am useless
  - B. God, only use me under certain conditions
  - C. God, don’t use me
  - D. God, make me usable
  - E. God, use that person instead of me

8. True or false: God wants to use you just as much as you want to be used.

9. What will God do if you make yourself a living sacrifice and commit your life to the Lord?

---

---

---

10. What’s one way to not make yourself usable?

---

---

---

11. Discussion question: Read John 2:23-25. Why do you think the fact that these people believed in Jesus’ name didn’t change Jesus’ decision not to commit to them?

---

---

---

12. True or false: Jesus is more concerned about the quality of ministry than He is the quantity of ministry.

13. What takes a while to happen?
- A. Ministering with the support of people
  - B. Ministering with enough financial backing
  - C. Ministering through the power of God
  - D. All of the above
  - E. None of the above

14. What is the reason God doesn't want you stepping out solely in your own power?
- A. Because He wants to share the glory with you
  - B. It's out of His love and concern for you
  - C. Because He wants to micromanage you
  - D. The answer varies per person
  - E. There really isn't a good enough reason

15. You're going to be met with what while fulfilling God's purpose for your life?

---

---

---

16. Discussion question: Why is it important to know that Satan is short-handed?

---

---

---

17. True or false: Satan is messing up everyone's lives.

18. What's one of the main reasons God doesn't automatically reveal His will to you?

---

---

---

19. What isn't God willing to sacrifice?

- A. Money
- B. Time
- C. Effort
- D. You
- E. Animals

# SCRIPTURES • 3.1

## **ROMANS 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.

## **MATTHEW 9:37-38**

Then saith he unto his disciples, The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few; [38] Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest.

## **JOHN 2:23-25**

Now when he was in Jerusalem at the passover, in the feast day, many believed in his name, when they saw the miracles which he did. [24] But Jesus did not commit himself unto them, because he knew all men, [25] And needed not that any should testify of man: for he knew what was in man.



## OUTLINE • 3.2

- VI. To become a living sacrifice, you have to die to yourself and your own selfish ambitions.
  - A. A sacrifice is at the mercy of the person doing the sacrificing.
  - B. Dying to one's *self* isn't what fallen human beings naturally desire, and the majority of Christians are *still* that way.
  - C. Selfishness is how Satan gains access to you.
    - i. God had created a perfect world for Adam and Eve, but Satan tempted them to think He was holding something back.
  - D. All human beings start out selfish, but they don't have to stay that way.
- VII. I was doing all the *right* things for all the *wrong* reasons.
  - A. Then, the night of March 23, 1968, God showed me that my heart was all wrong.
  - B. I started confessing all of the self-centered things I was seeing about myself—all of the lust and hate that was in my heart, and the way I thought of other people.
  - C. I expected God to kill me because of how unrighteous I was, but instead of wrath and rejection, the tangible love of God came over me and changed my life.
  - D. I knew it had nothing to do with me—it was solely according to His grace.
- VIII. Not everybody is going to have the same kind of dramatic encounter that I did, but everybody needs to have a similar experience—a time when you make the decision to quit sitting on the throne of your life, trying to determine your own future.
  - A. Until you reach that place, God can't reveal His perfect will—or He certainly can't reveal the entirety of it—because you would go out and try to do it in your own strength and would end up getting hurt or hurting others.
  - B. It will take a period of time for you to be able to learn God's plan and for Him to work some things out in you.
  - C. Yielding to the Lord isn't a one-time decision—you have to keep making the choice to surrender.
  - D. As long as you are breathing, you have a self, and that carnal nature is going to seek to reassert its desires.
  - E. I haven't always loved God flawlessly and avoided all selfishness, but as soon as I see selfishness rise up in my life, I repent—"Father, I'm not going that way. Thank You for showing me."
  - F. I committed myself to God in 1968 and have not been uncommitted since.

- G. You can reach a place where you literally turn everything over to God, and that's all there is to it—a place where no matter what God tells you to do, you will do it without discussion.
- IX. When the Lord first called Jamie and me to go to Pritchett, Colorado, I didn't have any desire to go there, but the moment I was sure God wanted me to do it, I did it.
  - A. Once I committed to following God's leading to go to Pritchett, He put His desires in my heart, and I fell in love with the place.
  - B. I have discovered that most people aren't like that.
    - i. It's one of the reasons God hasn't revealed His will to them yet.
    - ii. It's also the reason they are struggling.
- X. It solves a lot of problems when you figure out there's only one God—and you aren't Him!
  - A. The heart of God's will for you is to be a living sacrifice, committed unto Him.
  - B. Once you reach that place, you will have to rebel against God to keep from seeing His good, acceptable, and perfect will come to pass in your life (Rom. 12:2).
  - C. Commit your life to Him, and you will prosper and have the favor of God.
  - D. God can direct your life better than you can (Jer. 10:23), so don't lean unto your own understanding (Prov. 3:5).
  - E. Most people want to skip fully submitting to God and move on up to the top of the ladder—they want to stride right into the center of God's will and see great things happen.
  - F. The reason there are people in ministry who wind up committing adultery and stealing money is because they didn't take the time to build a foundation of character and integrity.
  - G. Don't make that mistake by trying to get around becoming a living sacrifice.
- XI. Most people don't trust God to advance them in life because they're too busy trying to advance themselves.
  - A. In general, they demand respect and assert their rights in an attempt to make everyone around them realize how important they are, which is pretty much the opposite of being a living sacrifice.
  - B. Being committed to God doesn't mean you lay down like a doormat every time you are confronted with a problem.

- C. If God tells you to do something to change your circumstances, you need to do it, but you shouldn't be motivated by selfish desires.
- D. If you are living a totally selfish life right now, you have a lot of momentum built up in that direction.
- E. It's going to take God some time to turn you around and get you moving in the right direction.
- F. The starting point is for you to be willing to allow God to begin the change.
- G. Even after you make a commitment with all of your heart, you're still going to have a self to deal with.
- H. The only way you can get delivered from your carnal self is to die physically.

# DISCIPLESHIP QUESTIONS • 3.2

20. What do you have to do to become a living sacrifice?

---

---

---

21. Discussion question: Why do you think the majority of Christians don't desire dying to self?

---

---

---

22. How did Satan gain access to Adam and Eve?

---

---

---

23. What happened after Andrew confessed all he did to God, and he expected God to kill him?

---

---

---

24. True or false: It had nothing to do with Andrew.

25. If you're sitting on the throne of your life, trying to determine your own future, what can't God do?

---

---

---

26. True or false: Yielding to the Lord is not a one-time decision.

27. Discussion question: Why do you think the carnal nature seeks to reassert its desires?

---

---

---

28. What does Andrew do when he sees selfishness rise up in his life?

- A. He welcomes it
- B. He denies it
- C. He repents of it
- D. All of the above
- E. None of the above

29. You can reach a place where you literally turn everything over to God—a place where no matter what He tells you to do, you will do it without \_\_\_\_\_.

30. What happened once Andrew committed to following God's leading to go to Pritchett?

- A. God didn't help him
- B. God changed His mind
- C. God criticized him for taking so long
- D. God made him His slave
- E. God put His desires in his heart

31. Discussion question: Why do you think people are struggling who aren't like that?

---

---

---

32. Discussion question: Once you are a living sacrifice, committed to Him, why do you think you would have to rebel against God to keep from seeing His good, acceptable, and perfect will come to pass in your life?

---

---

---

33. True or false: People who are committed to God don't necessarily have the favor of God.

34. Read Jeremiah 10:23 and Proverbs 3:5. Why shouldn't you lean unto your own understanding?

---

---

---

35. Discussion question: What are some reasons becoming a living sacrifice isn't optional?

---

---

---

36. Most people don't \_\_\_\_\_ God to advance them in life because they're too busy trying to advance themselves.

37. If you demand respect and assert your rights in an attempt to make everyone around you realize how important you are, what is that?

---

---

---

38. True or false: Being committed to God doesn't mean you lay down like a doormat every time you are confronted with a problem.

39. If you are living a totally selfish life right now, why is it going to take God some time to turn you around and get you moving in the right direction?

- A. Because God needs to teach you a lesson through it
- B. Because you have a lot of momentum built up in that direction
- C. Because God wants to take as long as possible
- D. All of the above
- E. None of the above

40. Even after you make a commitment with all of your heart, you're still going to have a \_\_\_\_\_ to deal with.

## SCRIPTURES • 3.2

### **ROMANS 12:2**

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.

### **JEREMIAH 10:23**

O LORD, I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps.

### **PROVERBS 3:5**

Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.

## OUTLINE • 3.3

- XII. It's not like you commit once and never make another mistake or mess up.
- A. You make a total commitment, and within five or ten minutes, you are going to have an opportunity for a course correction.
    - i. Somebody is going to cut in front of you in line at the grocery store, cut you off in traffic, or say something rude.
  - B. The problem with a living sacrifice is that it keeps trying to crawl off the altar.
  - C. It doesn't mean you weren't committed to God or that you won't make it; it just means that you still have "flesh" that needs to be subdued.
  - D. Just deny your flesh and make a course correction.
- XIII. You will experience the beginning of God when you come to the end of yourself.
- A. This isn't to say that you can't encounter God every once in a while or that He can't touch you.
  - B. God loves you, and He will move in your life as much as you let Him.
  - C. But you aren't going to see the miraculous power of God consistently working in your life until you quit trying to do everything yourself, and put Him first.
  - D. Everyone is totally self-centered when they come out of the womb, and if you have never taken the step of putting God first, you are *still* self-centered.
- XIV. God created you to live for a greater purpose than just satisfying your own needs.
- A. Being a living sacrifice is not all there is to fulfilling God's will, but you can't do anything else until you take this first step.
  - B. If you made a total commitment to God but have gotten off course, just make a course correction and get back to the commitment you have already made to follow God.
  - C. The vast majority of people who are searching for God's will have probably never turned control of their lives over to the Lord.
  - D. Allow God to give you guidance about the direction to take with your future.
  - E. If you are feeling a tug on your heart to make a commitment, I suggest you respond now while the Holy Spirit is leading you.
- XV. Becoming a living sacrifice isn't only for the "super-saints" or those who *really* want to seek God.
- A. Every born-again believer is supposed to be a living sacrifice.



- B. The Christian life isn't about having a positive self-image; it's the Christ-image in you that matters.
  - C. Acknowledge that you are not capable of dying to yourself in your own strength.
  - D. Trust the Lord to start leading you out of selfishness and into His plans for your life.
  - E. Give God the freedom to show you the way you should go and then resolve to follow His leading.
- XVI. I believe that as you humble yourself under the mighty hand of God, He will lift you up (1 Pet. 5:6).
- A. As you turn your life over to Him, He will begin a process of renewal.
  - B. This step you are taking is not merely a mental acknowledgement of God's supremacy; it's a supernatural restoration process through which Jesus will begin to dominate your focus.
  - C. The moment you make this decision, you will begin to recognize how God is moving in your life to bless you and give you direction.
  - D. I believe that as you turn your life over to God, He will touch your heart, and you will never be the same.

# DISCIPLESHIP QUESTIONS • 3.3

41. True or false: You commit once and never make another mistake or mess up.

42. Why does a living sacrifice keep trying to crawl off the altar?

- A. Because that's the way God designed it
- B. Because a living sacrifice doesn't know any better
- C. Because no one said it shouldn't
- D. Because flesh has not been subdued
- E. Because it wasn't the best time

43. You need to deny your flesh and make a what?

---

---

---

44. Discussion question: How have you experienced the beginning of God when you came to the end of yourself?

---

---

---

45. God loves you, and He will move in your life as much as you \_\_\_\_\_ Him.

46. You need to take the step of putting God first if you don't want to be what?

- A. Selfless
- B. Holy
- C. Self-centered
- D. All of the above
- E. None of the above

47. Being a living sacrifice is not all there is to fulfilling God's will, but what can't you until do until you take this first step?

---

---

---

48. If you made a total commitment to God but have gotten off course, what do you need to do?

---

---

---

49. Discussion question: Why do you think the vast majority of people who are searching for God's will have probably never turned control of their lives over to the Lord?

---

---

---

50. If you are feeling a tug on your heart to make a commitment, what does Andrew suggest?

- A. That you respond now while the Holy Spirit is leading you
- B. That you consult your church leader before you do anything
- C. That you make sure no one knows what you're about to do
- D. That you take an entire day or more to think about it
- E. That you save up enough money to do so

51. True or false: Every born-again believer is supposed to be a living sacrifice.

52. What matters in the Christian life?

---

---

---

53. What should you acknowledge?

---

---

---

54. Therefore, what should you do?

- A. Trust the Lord to start leading you out of selfishness and into His plans for your life
- B. Trust a psychologist to start leading you out of selfishness and into His plans for your life
- C. Don't trust anyone to start leading you out of selfishness and into His plans for your life
- D. All of the above
- E. None of the above

55. \_\_\_\_\_ to follow His leading.

56. Read 1 Peter 5:6. Humble yourself under the mighty hand of God, and He will \_\_\_\_\_ you up.

57. This step you are taking is not merely a mental acknowledgement of God's supremacy, but what else is it?

---

---

---

58. Discussion question: How has God moved in your life to bless you and give you direction?

---

---

---

59. What will happen as you turn your life over to God?

---

---

---

# SCRIPTURES • 3.3

## **1 PETER 5:6**

Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time.

# OUTLINE • 4.1

- I. Becoming a living sacrifice is important, but having a renewed mind is equally important.
  - A. Without a renewed mind, you will end up missing God's perfect will for your life.
  - B. A commitment to go anywhere and do anything for God can leave you vulnerable to the devil's manipulation, unless you balance your commitment with knowledge of the truth in God's Word.
  - C. When I was growing up, it had been instilled in me that nothing could happen unless God allowed it to, so I thought that whatever happens in life must be God's will.
  - D. I spent a lot of time studying the Word, but I still didn't learn the truth that God doesn't tempt people with evil and that He's only the source of good (James 1:13 and 17).
  
- II. A traveling minister preached at our church that Satan couldn't do anything unless God allowed it; therefore, if you had a problem, God allowed it in your life to teach you something and help you grow.
  - A. He began to prophesy over me that I would be in a coma for eight years to make me holy, and when I came out, I would be like the Apostle Paul because God would have shown me great revelations.
  - B. I believed everything that preacher was saying—the devil had me convinced that God was going to use sickness to teach me a lesson—but the devil went too far when the preacher told me that for eight years, I couldn't read the Word.
  - C. I stood up and said, "I reject this in the name of Jesus. I don't understand everything, but I know God would never put me on a fast from the Word of God."
  - D. Praise God, my mind was renewed to just enough truth to recognize that he was preaching a lie.
  - E. You need to be a living sacrifice, but if you don't renew your mind to the truth, Satan will take advantage of your desire to do anything for God.
  - F. You need to balance your commitment to the Lord with a revelation of Truth that comes from His Word.
  - G. Being a living sacrifice can be dangerous if you don't have your mind renewed with the truth of God's Word.
  
- III. The Greek word that was translated "*conformed*" in Romans 12:2 means to pour into a mold.
  - A. The experiences of life are going to melt you—you aren't going to leave this world with the same mentality you had when you came into it.
  - B. Life is going to test you, but you get to pick the mold you get squeezed into.
  - C. You need to be changed into the image of Christ.

- IV. The way to keep from being conformed to the image of this world is through the renewing of your mind.
  - A. The Scripture says, “*Be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind.*”
  - B. The Greek word for “*transformed*” in that passage is *metamorphoō*, which comes from the same word we get “metamorphosis” from—the process of a caterpillar spinning a cocoon and emerging a little while later as a butterfly.
  - C. It’s a word picture for your life: If you want to change from something that is earthbound to something that is flying and beautiful—if you want *metamorphosis*—you have to renew your mind.

# DISCIPLESHIP QUESTIONS • 4.1

1. Why is having a renewed mind as equally important as being a living sacrifice?

---

---

---

2. Read James 1:13 and 17. God is doesn't tempt people with evil, and He's only the \_\_\_\_\_ of good.

3. Discussion question: The fact that the devil went too far, what does it say about him?

---

---

---

4. When your mind is renewed to the truth, what will you reject?

- A. A lie
- B. Dessert
- C. Teachers
- D. All of the above
- E. None of the above

5. What do you need to balance your commitment with?

---

---

---

6. Discussion question: In your own words, what does "*conformed*" mean?

---

---

---

7. True or false: You aren't going to leave this world with the same mentality you had when you came into it.



8. What do you get to pick?

---

---

---

9. You need to be changed into the \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ.

10. How do you keep from being conformed to the image of this world?

---

---

---

11. Discussion question: Why do you think the metamorphosis of a caterpillar into a butterfly is a picture for your life?

---

---

---

12. You have to renew your mind if you want what?

- A. Power
- B. God's love
- C. Trust
- D. To avoid late fees
- E. Metamorphosis

# SCRIPTURES • 4.1

**JAMES 1:13**

Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man.

**JAMES 1:17**

Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.

**ROMANS 12:2**

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.

## OUTLINE • 4.2

- V. People know that God can do anything, so they ask Him to rearrange their entire lives in an instant, but not everything happens by prayer alone.
  - A. Jesus taught that the kingdom of God also operates like a seed (Matt. 13:31)—the seed you have to plant to get kingdom results is the Word of God (Luke 8:11).
  - B. If you want to have prayers that are regularly answered, you have to sow the Word.
  - C. The Word of God shows you God’s way of thinking.
    - i. It renews your mind.
    - ii. It tears down the obstacles that prevent you from freely receiving all that Christ has already purchased for you.
  - D. A limited understanding of God’s Word won’t get you far.
- VI. The majority of believers aren’t renewing their minds—they let their minds be polluted by focusing on what’s happening in the world.
  - A. Whenever disaster strikes, Christians get into the same fear as unbelievers because they are poured into the mold of this world, instead of having their minds renewed by the Word of God and being poured into His image.
  - B. Meditating on the Word will make us think differently than the world.
  - C. We shouldn’t have the same fear-based reactions as people who don’t know Jesus.
    - i. We are spiritually alive; they are spiritually dead—that’s a big difference.
  - D. We should adopt God’s way of thinking.
- VII. Jesus said that the Word of God is the truth (John 17:17).
  - A. The truth is what sets you free—and it’s only the truth you *know* that sets you free (John 8:32).
  - B. You have to read the Bible and know what it says, not just say you believe it.
  - C. A lot of people are worried that the Word will lose its freshness or that it will become boring like a novel if they read it all—but that will never happen.
  - D. I’ve read through the Bible hundreds of times, and I get more out of it every time I read it.
  - E. It almost seems like you have to spend thirty years in the Bible just to learn enough to ask the right questions.

- F. I'm just now beginning to understand the Word in ways I never have before.
  - G. Even if you have read the Bible once, I guarantee that you didn't get it all.
  - H. You need to be studying the Word and renewing your mind with it on a daily basis.
- VIII. God has given every born-again believer the same authority.
- A. Once you recognize who you are in Christ, you can take your authority, speak to your body, and command sickness to leave.
  - B. Many Christians don't realize what God has *already* done for them, so they go to God like a beggar—pleading for an answer to prayer.
  - C. You need to get rid of that *stinking thinking* because it's killing you.
- IX. If Jesus was here in His physical body today, He would not be pleased with our inability.
- A. In the Gospel of Matthew, chapter 17, Jesus' disciples brought a man to Him because they had been unable to cast a demon out of the man's son.
  - B. Jesus called them a faithless and perverse group of people and said, "*How long shall I be with you? how long shall I suffer you? bring him hither to me*" (Matt. 17:17).
  - C. At the time of that story, the disciples didn't have the advantages we have: We have born-again spirits, we are empowered by the Holy Spirit to do the works that Jesus did, and we have the truth of God's Word at our fingertips.
  - D. Yet the sick people who come to us for healing aren't always being delivered to the degree that they should be.
  - E. Jesus told us to meet the needs of people, but we aren't even coming close.
- X. Transformation comes by renewing the mind, so in order to experience positive changes in our lives, we need to change the way we think.
- A. Our lives go in the direction of our dominant thoughts, so we need to make sure our thoughts line up with what we desire.
  - B. Believing that we have Christ's "raising-from-the-dead" power living inside of us makes it a lot more likely that we will see miraculous results when we pray.
  - C. If we don't believe that we have authority over sickness, we are not likely to see very good results when we tell sickness to leave our bodies.
  - D. As we think, that's the way we are (Prov. 23:7): If we think we are powerless, we will be.
- XI. It saddens me to see how far below their privileges many Christians live.
- A. The only reason I might see better results than most people is because I know what God has given me—and I use it.

- B. God isn't waiting for us to try hard enough before He answers our prayers.
  - C. He lives on the inside of us, and He says that He is never going to leave us nor forsake us (Heb. 13:5).
  - D. We don't have to get our prayers past demons in order for them to reach God—or enlist enough prayer warriors to force God to listen to our prayers.
  - E. Weird doctrines like that only come up because we don't know what the Word says.
- XII. You've been squeezed into the mold of the world, and your ignorance of the truths in God's Word *is* killing you.
- A. You have to renew your mind if you want to find, follow, and fulfill your God-given purpose in life.
  - B. Making a commitment to the Lord is a start, but you have to get into the Word of God.
  - C. You need to focus on God to get godly results.
  - D. You shouldn't be absorbed by what's going on in the world—by all of this stuff that doesn't amount to anything.
- XIII. People who are struggling and haven't seen God's will manifest in their lives probably haven't renewed their minds to God's way of thinking.
- A. Don't be discouraged if you suspect that you fall into that category—now that you know what the problem is, you can fix it.
  - B. Renew your mind with the Word of God, and you will prove the good, acceptable, and perfect will of God—it's that simple.
  - C. After you renew your mind, you can count on seeing God's will come to pass in your life.

## DISCIPLESHIP QUESTIONS • 4.2

13. True or false: Not everything happens by prayer alone.

14. What is the Word of God?

---

---

---

15. A limited \_\_\_\_\_ of God's Word won't get you far.

16. What will make you think differently than the world?

- A. The best new soap opera
- B. The most popular minister
- C. Political power and influence
- D. Meditating on the Word
- E. A major university

17. Why shouldn't you have the same fear-based reactions as people who don't know Jesus?

---

---

---

18. Read John 17:17. Who said the Word of God is the truth?

---

---

---

19. According to John 8:32, it's only the truth you \_\_\_\_\_ that sets you free.

20. True or false: It's enough just to say you believe the Bible.

21. Discussion question: In what ways has the Bible not been boring to you?

---

---

---

22. True or false: If you have read the Bible once, it's possible that you got it all.

23. How often do you need to study the Word and renew your mind with it?

---

---

---

24. What can you do once you recognize your authority?

- A. You can give your authority, speak to your body, and command sickness to leave
- B. You can take your authority, speak to your body, and ask sickness to leave
- C. You can take your authority, speak to your body, and command sickness to leave
- D. All of the above
- E. None of the above

25. Many Christians don't realize what God has *already* done for them, so they go to God like a \_\_\_\_\_—pleading for an answer to prayer.

26. Discussion question: How can stinking thinking kill you?

---

---

---

27. Discussion question: Why aren't the sick people who come to us for healing always being delivered to the degree that they should be?

---

---

---

28. In order to experience positive changes in your life, what do you need to do?

---

---

---

29. Your life goes in the direction of what?

- A. Where you point
- B. The last thing you heard
- C. What you can afford
- D. Where most people are going
- E. Your dominant thoughts

30. True or false: If you don't believe that you have authority over sickness, you are not likely to see very good results when you tell sickness to leave your body.

31. Read Proverbs 23:7. If you think you are powerless, you \_\_\_\_\_ be.

32. If you know what God has given you, and you use it, you will see what?

---

---

---

33. True or false: God is waiting for you to try hard enough before He answers your prayers.

34. Discussion question: Why is it important to know that God will never leave you nor forsake you?

---

---

---

35. Weird doctrines only come up when?

- A. You don't know what the Word says
- B. You watch the news
- C. You have too much time to yourself
- D. All of the above
- E. None of the above



36. What will your ignorance of God's Word do to you?

---

---

---

37. You shouldn't be absorbed by what's going on in the world—by all of this stuff that doesn't \_\_\_\_\_ to anything.

38. People who are struggling and haven't seen God's will manifest in their lives probably haven't what?

---

---

---

39. Why shouldn't you be discouraged if you suspect that you fall into that category?

---

---

---

40. After you renew your mind, you can \_\_\_\_\_ on seeing God's will come to pass in your life.

# SCRIPTURES • 4.2

## **1 PETER 1:23**

Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.

## **MARK 4:13-14**

And he said unto them, Know ye not this parable? and how then will ye know all parables? [14] The sower soweth the word.

## **MATTHEW 13:31**

Another parable put he forth unto them, saying, The kingdom of heaven is like to a grain of mustard seed, which a man took, and sowed in his field.

## **LUKE 8:11**

Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God.

## **JOHN 14:1**

Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me.

## **PSALM 46:1-2**

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. [2] Therefore will not we fear, though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea.

## **JOHN 8:32**

And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

## **JOHN 17:17**

Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.

## **JAMES 4:7**

Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

## **MATTHEW 17:17**

Then Jesus answered and said, O faithless and perverse generation, how long shall I be with you? how long shall I suffer you? bring him hither to me.

## **PROVERBS 23:7**

For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he: Eat and drink, saith he to thee; but his heart is not with thee.

## **HEBREWS 13:5**

Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.

**MATTHEW 6:33**

But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

# OUTLINE • 5.1

I. I can't overemphasize how essential the Word of God is in discovering our spiritual identity and finding God's will for our lives.

A. The Bible reveals things to us that we could never figure out on our own.

*For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.*

HEBREWS 4:12

B. Functionally, most people think the soul and spirit are the same, but the spirit is the part of us that was born again when we believed in Jesus.

i. Our spirits are identical to Jesus.

ii. We have gifts of the Holy Spirit, such as love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, and temperance (Gal. 5:22-23) in our spirits.

iii. We also have the mind of Christ and an unction from the Holy Spirit and know all things (1 Cor. 2:16 and 1 John 2:20).

C. The soul isn't made completely new when we are born again—our spirits are.

D. The only way we can know what we have in our spirits is through the Word of God—it will divide between soul and spirit.

E. Finding God's will is really as simple as discerning whether our feelings are coming from the spirit or the flesh.

F. It's simple, but it isn't easy, because most of us don't know what is true in our spirits.

II. The Apostle John wrote that as Jesus is, so are we in this world (1 John 4:17).

A. Our physical bodies aren't like Jesus, but our *spirits* are identical to Him.

B. As humans, we tend to assume that if our spirits are identical to Jesus, we would just know it somehow, but that's not true.

*But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.*

1 CORINTHIANS 2:14

C. Our little "peanut" brains don't know what happened to our spirits when we were born again, *so our intellect doesn't know our spiritual identity.*

D. Some things can only be discerned spiritually.

- III. Jesus told His disciples, “*The words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life*” (John 6:63).
- A. If we don’t know the Word of God, we won’t know who we are in our spirits.
  - B. Our physical senses will dominate us, even though the whole time we have living inside of us the same Spirit that raised Christ from the dead (Rom. 8:9 with Eph. 1:19-20).
  - C. The only way we are going to get what is in our spirits to flow out into our lives is by letting the Word of God speak to us and direct us.
  - D. Understanding the makeup of the spirit, soul, and body will transform our lives<sup>1</sup>, because many of us are begging God for results instead of taking the Word of God and finding out our identity in Christ and using the Word like a sword.
- IV. In 2 Peter 1:1, “*like precious faith*” in the Greek means identical faith.
- A. Everyone who has been born again has as much faith as Peter had.
    - i. Peter walked on water (Matt. 14:29).
    - ii. He saw Dorcas raised from the dead (Acts 9:39-40).
    - iii. His shadow healed people as it passed over them (Acts 5:15).
  - B. Somebody might say “Yeah, I have faith, but it’s just in little seed form. It hasn’t grown yet,” but your faith isn’t growing—you already have the fullness of faith on the inside.
  - C. The way your faith becomes effectual, or the way it begins to work, is by *acknowledging what you already have* (Philem. 6).
  - D. You don’t need more faith; you need to realize that *you already have faith*.
- V. *Grace and peace are multiplied through the knowledge of God and Jesus Christ* (2 Pet. 1:2-4).
- A. It doesn’t matter how much you pray—you can have people pray for you until they rub all the hair off the top of your head—but you still won’t have God’s peace until you renew your mind.
  - B. You can’t operate contrary to your dominant thoughts.
  - C. God keeps you in perfect peace when you keep your mind focused on Jesus (Is. 26:3).
- VI. Notice that the Scripture says God *has* given us *all things* according to the knowledge of Him (2 Pet. 1:3).
- A. We receive all the fullness of God through salvation and experience it by renewing our minds with the Word of God.

- B. In a sense, any problems we have in life are knowledge problems.
  - C. Jesus said that He came to give us life and to give it abundantly (John 10:10)—and everything that it takes to have an abundant life comes through knowing God: healing, joy, peace, prosperity, abundance, vision, and every blessing.
  - D. But the promise of everything coming through the knowledge of God assumes that we are going to act on the knowledge we have.
    - i. Prosperity, for instance, comes when we know what the Word says and act on that knowledge.
    - ii. Likewise, we have health in our bodies when we know that Jesus provided healing on the cross and take the steps to receive what the Lord has already provided.
- VII. No problem exists that is bigger than God's supply.
- A. We just need to get away from being pressed into thinking the way the world thinks and renew our minds to the truth that *nothing is impossible for God!*
  - B. We have to stop believing who the world says we are and find out who God says we are.
  - C. We will find our spiritual identity in God's Word.

*Andrew's Recommendations for Further Study:*

I encourage you to get my teaching *Spirit, Soul & Body*. It goes into a lot more detail on this than I'm able to cover here and is foundational to understanding this.

# DISCIPLESHIP QUESTIONS • 5.1

1. True or false: Without the Bible, you could still figure things out on your own.
2. What is the part of you that was born again when you believed in Jesus?
  - A. Your spirit
  - B. Your soul
  - C. Your body
  - D. All of the above
  - E. None of the above
3. Your spirit is identical to \_\_\_\_\_.
4. True or false: The soul isn't made completely new when you are born again.
5. Why is the Word of God the only way you can know what you have in your spirit?

---

---

---

6. Discussion question: How do you know that finding God's will is really as simple as discerning whether our feelings are coming from the spirit or the flesh?

---

---

---

7. Read 1 John 4:17. As Jesus \_\_\_\_\_, so are you in this world.

8. True or false: Your body is like Jesus'.

9. What is a human assumption?

---

---

---

10. Read 1 Corinthians 2:14. Some things can only be discerned how?

- A. Mathematically
- B. Spiritually
- C. Carnally
- D. All of the above
- E. None of the above

11. Read John 6:63. If you don't know the Word of God, you won't know what?

---

---

---

12. Read Romans 8:9 with Ephesians 1:19-20. What else will happen if you don't know the Word of God?

---

---

---

13. Discussion question: What are some things the Word of God has shown you about who you are?

---

---

---

14. Read 2 Peter 1:1. What does "*like precious faith*" mean?

---

---

---

15. Are there miracles Peter did that you can't do?

---

---

---



16. According to Philemon 6, the way to make your faith effectual is by \_\_\_\_\_ what you already have.

17. Read 2 Peter 1:2-4. Why won't you have peace until you renew your mind?
- A. Because peace is added through the knowledge of God and Jesus Christ
  - B. Because peace is earned through the knowledge of God and Jesus Christ
  - C. Because peace is multiplied through the knowledge of God and Jesus Christ
  - D. Because peace is lost through the knowledge of God and Jesus Christ
  - E. Because peace is divided through the knowledge of God and Jesus Christ

18. Discussion question: Why do you think you can't operate contrary to your dominant thoughts?

---

---

---

19. True or false: You receive part of the fullness of God through salvation and experience it by renewing your mind with the Word of God.

20. The promise of everything coming through the knowledge of God assumes what?
- A. That you are going to act on the knowledge you have
  - B. That you know more than what you currently do
  - C. That knowledge of the Word is easy to attain
  - D. All of the above
  - E. None of the above

21. Discussion question: Why is it important to renew your mind to the truth that nothing is impossible for God?

---

---

---

22. What do you need to stop believing?

---

---

---

# SCRIPTURES • 5.1

## **HEBREWS 4:12**

For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

## **GALATIANS 5:22-23**

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, [23] Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.

## **1 CORINTHIANS 2:16**

For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ.

## **1 JOHN 2:20**

But ye have an unction from the Holy One, and ye know all things.

## **1 JOHN 4:17**

Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment: because as he is, so are we in this world.

## **1 CORINTHIANS 2:14**

But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.

## **JOHN 6:63**

It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.

## **ROMANS 8:9**

But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.

## **EPHESIANS 1:19-20**

And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power, [20] Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places.

**2 PETER 1:1-4**

Simon Peter, a servant and an apostle of Jesus Christ, to them that have obtained like precious faith with us through the righteousness of God and our Saviour Jesus Christ: [2] Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord, [3] According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue: [4] Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

**MATTHEW 14:29**

And he said, Come. And when Peter was come down out of the ship, he walked on the water, to go to Jesus.

**ACTS 9:39-40**

Then Peter arose and went with them. When he was come, they brought him into the upper chamber: and all the widows stood by him weeping, and shewing the coats and garments which Dorcas made, while she was with them. [40] But Peter put them all forth, and kneeled down, and prayed; and turning him to the body said, Tabitha, arise. And she opened her eyes: and when she saw Peter, she sat up.

**ACTS 5:15**

Insomuch that they brought forth the sick into the streets, and laid them on beds and couches, that at the least the shadow of Peter passing by might overshadow some of them.

**PHILEMON 6**

That the communication of thy faith may become effectual by the acknowledging of every good thing which is in you in Christ Jesus.

**ROMANS 12:3**

For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.

**GALATIANS 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.

**LUKE 17:5-10**

And the apostles said unto the Lord, Increase our faith. [6] And the Lord said, If ye had faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye might say unto this sycamine tree, Be thou plucked up by the root, and be thou planted in the sea; and it should obey you. [7] But which of you, having a servant plowing or feeding cattle, will say unto him by and by, when he is come from the field, Go and sit down to meat? [8] And will not rather say unto him, Make ready wherewith I may sup, and gird thyself, and serve me, till I have eaten and drunken; and afterward thou shalt eat and drink? [9] Doth he thank that servant because he did the things that were commanded him? I trow not. [10] So likewise ye, when ye shall have done all those things which are commanded you, say, We are unprofitable servants: we have done that which was our duty to do.

**ISAIAH 26:3**

Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee.

**JOHN 10:10**

The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.

**ACTS 10:38**

How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him.

**JAMES 2:20**

But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead?

## OUTLINE • 5.2

VIII. The longest chapter in the Bible is Psalm 119, and every verse is about the importance of the Word of God.

*Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to thy word.*

PSALM 119:9

- A. I knew there was a million times more to the Christian life than I had ever seen or heard, but I didn't know how to get from where I was to where I thought I should be.
- B. One night, I heard the Lord say to me, "If you put My Word in your heart, it will teach you everything you need to know."
- C. I began to pour myself into the Bible and renew my mind by studying the Word.

*I have more understanding than all my teachers: for thy testimonies are my meditation.*

PSALM 119:99

- D. The Word of God will give us understanding.
  - E. If we meditate on the Word day and night, it will make our way prosperous—then we will have good success (Josh. 1:8).
  - F. Although we as Christians tend to value a lot of unimportant things above the Word, God still loves us.
  - G. But if we want to live victorious lives and if we want understanding, we have to meditate on the Word.
- IX. God directs your steps, but He doesn't show you the end of the path from the very beginning (Ps. 119:105), because He loves you.
- A. When God Almighty takes the time to talk to you and tell you to do something, why would you try to reason it all out in order to decide whether you're going to do it or not?
  - B. If that's the way you think, you aren't absolutely convinced that God is working for your best interest.
  - C. I would rather step out in what I think God is telling me to do and be wrong than not do what He is telling me to because I want to play it safe.
  - D. God knows what He is doing and the challenges you will face.
  - E. I don't want any of the miracles that God has put on the inside of me still there when I leave this world; I want to get them all out—I want to go for it!

- F. As you read God's Word, He will tell you something and then you act on it.
  - G. After you step into what God has said, you will be able to see the next step, and the next step, and so on.
- X. Seeds don't immediately sprout into fruit-bearing plants (Mark 4:26-29).
- A. It's a process: first the blade, then the ear of corn buds, and later the full fruit of corn appears.
  - B. The will of God comes in the same way: step by step.
  - C. Understanding this principle will really help you.
  - D. There is a growth process involved in finding, following, and fulfilling God's will for your life.
  - E. After you have been following God's leading for a while, maybe you will begin to see a bigger picture—but you won't get it all at once.
- XI. The strength of a person lies in his or her focus (Phil. 3:13-14).
- A. Paul said "*this one thing I do*" (emphasis mine), and that's the reason he turned the world "right-side up."
  - B. You have to be focused if you want to really accomplish something.
  - C. The way to kill a person's vision is to give them two visions.
  - D. Walking in the ways of the world hinders spiritual understanding; therefore, society is not conducive to knowing God.
  - E. Sadly, a lot of Christians are plugged into the world, and their hearts are divided, their understanding is darkened, and they are alienated from the life of God.
  - F. *Trying to build a relationship with God on scraps of discarded time is not going to bring you to the center of His will.*
  - G. You have to make fellowship with God and reading His Word a priority.
- XII. If you have made some mistakes or have been discouraged or hurt, the Word of God will convert your soul (Ps. 19:7-8)—it will restore your joy and your faith.
- A. The soul is the mental and emotional part of you that can experience turmoil—but your born-again spirit is perfect, and the Word will remind you of your true identity.
  - B. God's Word will make you wise—it will enlighten your eyes.
  - C. This passage isn't talking about your physical eyes; it's talking about the ability to see with your heart: to see by faith and perceive spiritual things that your physical eyes can't see.

D. The Word of God will open your heart to know things that you can't know by your five senses.

XIII. The Word is God is the answer for *any* and *every* problem you might have.

A. The Bible contains God's wisdom for man and everything you need for life and godliness.

B. I believe that the *King James* translation is the best version available, but if you can't handle the "thees" and "thous," then get a translation you enjoy reading.

C. Getting into the Word and learning God's way of thinking is the path to finding His will for your life.

D. Finding God's will for your life will give you a clear purpose and keep you from getting sidetracked by the challenges you face.

E. Knowing that you are doing what God created you to do will give you strength to weather the storms of life.

XIV. God has never made a piece of junk—He has never made a failure.

A. Every person born into this world was created by God for a special purpose.

B. Being in the center of God's will brings a sense of fulfillment.

C. The relationship you form with God will spill over into your life and bless the people around you.

D. The best part is that God's will isn't hard to find—He wants you to know it!

E. Once you make the commitment to find God's will, you will see Him begin to move in your life, and awesome things will start to happen.



# DISCIPLESHIP QUESTIONS • 5.2

23. Read Psalm 119:9. How do you get from where you are to where you should be?

---

---

---

24. Discussion question: Why does the Word of God need to be in your heart?

---

---

---

25. Read Joshua 1:8. If you want to live a victorious life and if you want understanding, you have to \_\_\_\_\_ on the Word.

26. Read Psalm 119:105. God directs your steps, but why doesn't He show you the end of the path from the very beginning?

---

---

---

27. If God tells you to do something and you try to reason it all out in order to decide whether you're going to do it or not, what aren't you absolutely convinced of?

- A. That you won't have another chance
- B. What you will do instead of what God has said
- C. That God is working for your best interest
- D. All of the above
- E. None of the above

28. True or false: After you step into what God has said, you will be able to see the next step, and the next step, and so on.

29. Read Mark 4:26-29. Understanding what principle will really help you?

---

---

---

30. What is involved in finding, following, and fulfilling God's will for your life?
- A. Making friends
  - B. Having enough money saved up
  - C. Getting man's approval
  - D. Plenty of sunlight
  - E. A growth process

31. Read Philippians 3:13-14. What do you have to be if you want to really accomplish something?

---

---

---

32. The way to kill a person's vision is to give them \_\_\_\_\_ visions.

33. Discussion question: What do you think it means to be "plugged into the world"?

---

---

---

34. What won't bring you to the center of God's will?

---

---

---

35. You have to make fellowship with God \_\_\_\_\_ reading His Word a priority.

36. Read Psalm 19:7-8. What will convert your soul—restore your joy and your faith?
- A. Your neighbor
  - B. The Word of God
  - C. The best new sitcom
  - D. All of the above
  - E. None of the above

37. Discussion question: Why do you need to see with your heart: to see by faith and perceive spiritual things?

---

---

---

38. What contains God's wisdom for man and everything you need for life and godliness?

- A. The internet
- B. Astrology
- C. The Bible
- D. A financial consultant
- E. Children

39. True or false: Knowing that you are doing what God created you to do will give you strength to weather the storms of life.

40. What brings a sense of fulfillment?

---

---

---

41. The relationship who forms with God will spill over into their life and bless the people around them?

---

---

---

42. True or false: The best part is that God's will is hard to find.

43. Discussion question: Why is a commitment to finding God's will needed before you see Him begin to move in your life?

---

---

---

## SCRIPTURES • 5.2

### **PSALM 119:9**

Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to thy word.

### **PSALM 119:99**

I have more understanding than all my teachers: for thy testimonies are my meditation.

### **JOSHUA 1:8**

This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.

### **PSALM 119:105**

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.

### **MARK 4:26-29**

And he said, So is the kingdom of God, as if a man should cast seed into the ground; [27] And should sleep, and rise night and day, and the seed should spring and grow up, he knoweth not how. [28] For the earth bringeth forth fruit of herself; first the blade, then the ear, after that the full corn in the ear. [29] But when the fruit is brought forth, immediately he putteth in the sickle, because the harvest is come.

### **PHILIPPIANS 3:13-14**

Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, [14] I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

### **PSALM 19:7-8**

The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple. [8] The statutes of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes.