

# Book Three

## Living the Christian Life

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## Chapter One – Knowing the Will of God

People “know” the will of God in three ways:

- 1) Objectively through keeping the New Testament commands.

What do the following verses say is God’s will?

**Colossians 3:16:** \_\_\_\_\_

**John 14:15:** \_\_\_\_\_

**James 1:22:** \_\_\_\_\_

- 2) Objectively thorough what God says is His will.

What do the following commandments say is God’s will?

**Romans 12:2:** \_\_\_\_\_

**1Thessalonians 4:3:** \_\_\_\_\_

**1Thessalonians 5:18:** \_\_\_\_\_

**1Peter 2:15:** \_\_\_\_\_

- 3) Subjectively through living in perpetual submission to Christ.

What do the following verses say and mean?

**Isaiah 32:17:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Proverbs 11:14:** \_\_\_\_\_

**John 7:17:** \_\_\_\_\_

If you fail to do what God objectively says is His will, He will refuse to aid you in determining His will in the subjective areas of life.

The “Permissive Will of God” deals with issues where God allows a person to have what he wants, but it is not God’s perfect will for his life.

1. What do the following verses teach regarding the permissive will of God?

**Psalm 106:13-15**

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**Matthew 19:8**

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If you believe God desires the best for you, you should avoid at all costs His permissive will. If you do not believe God desires the best for you, you are void of hope. Can you imagine what He could do to you if He wished to hurt you?

2. How was the will of God determined in the following illustrations?

**Numbers 27:21**

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**Proverbs 16:33**

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**Acts 1:26**

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There are a number of ways you can take a decision out of your hands so that you are no longer in control, such as the casting of lots.

3. What are some other ways you can determine God's will by taking the decision out of your own hands?

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**You cannot eliminate the risk of walking by faith, but you can eliminate presumption.**

4. If you elect to let go of making the decision, what does the following verse caution?

**James 1:8**

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**Once you remove yourself from the decision, do not change your mind. Say what you mean and mean what you say, otherwise you will tempt God and anger Him.**

## Chapter Two – Walking by Faith

The New Testament Greek has only one word for “faith” and “believe.” In English, “faith” is the noun and “believe” is the verb.

1. Look carefully at **James 2:19-20** and **Hebrews 11:4-31**. Explain the difference between “active faith” and “passive faith.”

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2. After thinking about **Matthew 7:21-23**, is it possible for a person to have “faith” that he is going to heaven, and be mistaken? Explain.

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The object of your faith determines the validity of your faith. For example, strong ice and weak faith equals safety; weak ice and strong faith equals disaster.

3. List some areas of your life in which the object of your faith will determine the validity of your faith:

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4. Why do you think God wove faith into the fabric of existence so that all people have to commit before they can know?

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5. What do the following verses teach regarding how God views the importance of faith?

**Genesis 15:6** \_\_\_\_\_

**Habakkuk 2:4** \_\_\_\_\_

**John 3:18** \_\_\_\_\_

**Romans 4:3** \_\_\_\_\_

**Hebrews 11:6** \_\_\_\_\_

6. What do you understand to be the reason God places such importance on walking by faith?

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## Chapter Three – Faith, Hope, Love, and Fear

There can be no authority in any sphere of life without fear. Fear is not the enemy of love, for we always fear in the direction of our love; fear and hope are the “head and tail of the same coin” – reveal your hope and you reveal your faith, and vice versa. Fear is the enemy of security.

1. According to **Hebrews 11:1**, in what two arenas do people express faith? Define the words “hoped for” as used in this verse.

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2. Meditate on **Romans 8:24-25** and explain the relationship between “hope” and “salvation.”

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3. After reading **John 14:21**, and **John 15:10**, explain the biblical relationship between “love” and “obedience.”

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4. Reflect on **1Peter 1:17** and **Hebrews 10:26-31** and comment on your understanding of your need to “fear God? “ What is the difference between “fear” and “respect?”

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5. Read carefully **1John 4:16-21**. In verse 18, whose love for whom “casts out fear?” How do the verses in the preceding and succeeding questions help you decide?

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6. What is Jesus asking His followers in **Matthew 10:28**? Why shouldn’t people fear what other people can do to them? Does this statement of Jesus influence your understanding of **1John 4:16-21**? Explain.

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7. Do you agree with the statement, "There can be no authority without fear?" Please elaborate on your answer.

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8. In light of your study of this chapter, along with your understanding of both the Bible and the meanings of the words, how do "faith," "hope," "love," and "fear" relate to each other? Take time to state it as clearly as you can.

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## Chapter Four – What is the Ministry and Whose Job is it?

*(Read the booklet [Whose Job is the Ministry?](#) in the *Ministry in the Marketplace* series.)<sup>1</sup>*

The word “ministry” can refer to a variety of things. Your pastor is called a minister. Doctors and other caregivers minister to those in need. The Bible calls angels “ministering spirits.” When you refer to ministry from a biblical perspective, you must be careful to define what you mean. This study understands “ministry” only in terms of the eternal rather than the temporal.

1. According to **Matthew 28:18-20**, what are the major components of what is called “The Great Commission?” Why do you think Jesus did not include in this a command to meet the physical needs of others?

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2. According to **Mark 8:36-37**, what is the value of ministering to the physical needs of a person? Does this mean you should not try to meet the physical needs of others? Explain.

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Possibly no passage has been used to defend defining the Christian ministry in terms of alleviating the physical needs of others more than **Matthew 25:31-46**. This is a parable of Jesus pertaining to the last days and the Great Tribulation. The Savior does not identify the “nations” and the “brethren.” In light of the New Testament emphasis on depopulating hell and populating heaven, it seems best to interpret His Words as referring to God’s judging the nations on the basis of how they treated Israel during the Tribulation.

3. In **Matthew 6:24**, what does Jesus say you should do with your life?

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4. Meditate on **Ephesians 4:11-13** and relate whose job the ministry is, supporting your answer from the passage.

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<sup>1</sup> Refer also to [Laymen Look up, God has a Place for You](#) by William Garrison and Walter Henrichsen



5. According to **Matthew 16:18** who is building Christ’s church? In light of your answer, what role do you play in doing the work of the ministry?

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6. Meditate on **Romans 1:11-14**. Why does Paul say he is eager to minister in Rome? Who profits from his ministry? Why is the apostle in “debt” to the Roman church?

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The God of Scripture has no needs. When God gave His people the task of proclaiming the Gospel to the world, you cannot conclude that He needs them to accomplish His will. From beginning to end, He does what He wants. For this reason, the work of God cannot be created, measured, or controlled, and when God’s servants believe otherwise, they end using people instead of ministering to them.

7. Do you agree with this statement? Elaborate on your answer.

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8. What do you learn from Jesus’ words in **John 3:8** regarding who controls the work of God?

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This Bible study series is designed for the laity. They are called “laity” because they represent their Savior in the marketplace. For this reason the ministry must be seen from the perspective of your vocation. Read “Why Go to Work?” in the MIM series.

9. Read and meditate on **Matthew 6:25-34**, which is the application of **Matthew 6:24**, and state in your own word what Jesus teaches in this passage? What should this look like in the life of the laity?

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10. How, if at all, does Jesus’ words in **John 6:27** influence your understanding of **Matthew 6:24-34**?

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## Chapter Five – Stewardship

The dictionary defines “stewardship” as follows: “A person who manages for another his property or financial affairs; one who administers anything as the agent of another.” To say that you are stewarding your own assets is a misuse of the word. (Review Reward in the Ministry in the Marketplace series.)

1. In light of **1Corinthians 7:23**, to whom do you belong, and why is this so?

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2. According to **2Corinthians 5:15**, what does Paul mean in **1Corinthians 7:23**?

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3. What three rhetorical questions does Paul ask in **1Corinthians 4:7**?

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4. In **1Corinthians 3:21-23**, how did Paul view his life and possessions?

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5. What does Solomon in **Ecclesiastes 5:12-16; 6:2** say regarding your ability to control your assets?

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6. What does **Psalms 49:10-12** teach regarding what happens when you die?

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There can be no commandments without accountability.

7. According to following passages, what does Jesus say you should expect when He judges you?

**Luke 12:48**

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**Luke 19:12-27**

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8. Evaluate the following responses available to you regarding what you can do with the assets God has entrusted to you to steward for Him:

*Since God gave it to me, I can spend it any way that I wish to spend it.*

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*I can give all that I have away to others and look to God to provide for me through the generosity of those who have not give away their assets.*

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*I can ask someone else, like my church, to assume responsibility for stewarding the assets God has placed in my care.*

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*In a spirit of dependence, as the slave of Jesus Christ, I can look to Him to lead me on how He wishes His assets stewarded.*

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9. Which of these most accurately represents how you think God wishes for you to handle your assets?

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**“He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose” (Jim Elliott).**

## Chapter Six – The Person and Work of the Holy Spirit

The Bible teaches that there is One God manifested in Three Persons. This does not mean that we worship three gods, nor that each of the Persons in the Trinity are part God. Logically this does not compute, for it means that  $1 + 1 + 1 = 1$ . The theologian calls this an antinomy – a seeming contradiction that is nonetheless true. This phenomenon can be seen in a number of facets of life. For example scientists tell us that light is both waves and particles.

In this study we will briefly look at some aspects of the Person of the Holy Spirit that will help in understanding the strategic role He plays in people’s lives.

### The Holy Spirit in Salvation

Those who receive Jesus Christ as their Savior are included in the family of God. The Holy Spirit is the One who imparts new life to the believer and makes him “born anew.”

1. The Bible refers to the Holy Spirit as the Comforter/Counselor. What does Jesus say that the Holy Spirit will do when He comes?

**John 16:7-11**

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2. Death is separation. In physical death the body is separated from the soul. In spiritual death the soul is separated from God. What does **Ephesians 2:1** teach about death, and why and when does it occur?

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3. What does Jesus say must happen to those spiritually dead?

**John 3:3**

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### The Holy Spirit in Sanctification

Making you a new creature in Christ is what the Holy Spirit does to you. Appropriating your new life in Christ in the process of being more and more like Christ is what the Holy Spirit does with you as you participate with Him in sanctification.

4. What does the **2Corinthians 7:1** teach is your responsibility in the sanctification process?

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5. What do the following passages tell you about the role that you and God play in your becoming Christ-like?

**Philippians 2:12-13**

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**Romans 8:13-14**

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**The Holy Spirit's Assistance**

The Holy Spirit also brings into the believer's life the following certain benefits.

6. What do the following passages say are some of the benefits provided by the Holy Spirit?

**Romans 8:26** \_\_\_\_\_

**John 16:13** \_\_\_\_\_

**Ephesians 1:13** \_\_\_\_\_

## Chapter Seven – Telling Others Your Story

Christianity is the only “business” in the universe where the “salesman” is paid for the call rather than the close.

1. What does **1Peter 3:15** say regarding your obligation to share with others what God has done for you?

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2. In **Matthew 28:18-20**, what part of Jesus’ instructions let’s you know that God expects you to participate in the Great Commission, and not just the disciples of Jesus?

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3. In **Acts 26:1-26** the Apostle Paul gives his testimony to another. After carefully reading his account, outline the various parts or components of his story. How long did it take you to read what Paul said?

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**The “Three Minute Testimony”:** Like Paul, keep your testimony short. Draw out the person to whom you are witnessing. You are best served asking questions rather than lecturing. (Become familiar with and use the pamphlet “Steps to Peace with God”)

Write out your testimony and then share it with the man discipling you. Ask him to critique it and make suggestions on how to improve it. Avoid being critical of others, using Christian jargon that the non-Christian does not understand, and sounding “preachy.”

4. What does **1John 1:3** teach regarding your objective in sharing with others your faith?

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5. According to **Romans 10:9-17**, what is the responsibility of the evangelist? What does Paul say is the means whereby God brings people to faith in Christ?

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6. For what does Paul ask in **2Thessalonians 3:1**? What role does prayer play in evangelism?

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Use the card “Ten Most Wanted” (introduced in Book One, Chapter Two) to list the people God has laid on your heart, and pray daily for their salvation.