

This past weekend in our worship services (and this week in many of our *Life Groups*) we learned about one of the most important principles for victorious Christian living – finding and fulfilling God’s will for every arena of our lives. Let me ask you several questions.

1. Have you discovered and are you fulfilling God’s will for the key relationships of your life?
2. Have you discovered and are you fulfilling God’s will in regards to your service and ministry in the kingdom of God (particularly through your church)?
3. Have you discovered and are you fulfilling God’s will in regards to your career?
4. Have you discovered and are you fulfilling God’s will in regards to your management of your finances?

Another question is, “Have you discovered God’s will in regards to your participation in supporting our A CITY TRANSFORMED: INVESTING IN ETERNITY emphasis, and have you made your 1-year commitment or re-commitment to helping us complete the ACTIIE projects? It is important that we come to a place where we can answer the above questions with a resounding “YES,” because knowing and doing God’s will in the crucial arenas of life is what determines whether we will live a victorious Christian life or a defeated Christian life.

We’ve learned in times past that the Lord is continually speaking to His people concerning His will and direction for their lives. Jesus said in John 10:27, “*My sheep hear My voice . . . and they follow Me.*” The Bible teaches that the Lord is constantly speaking His will to us as we: 1) read and study the Word of God (Psalm 119:103-105), 2) hear the Holy Spirit speak to us in our inner being (Acts 13:2), 3) receive direction and counsel from more mature Christians through sermons, *Life Group* participating, and mentoring relationships (Proverbs 15:22, 27:17), and 4) receive godly dreams and visions (Joel 2:28). Sometimes, however, we need to take some practical steps in order to hear the Lord speak to us through the above-mentioned venues.

We learned this past weekend in our services that “hearing the Lord’s voice” often requires:

- Slowing down in our lives – because busyness keeps us from hearing and doing God’s will
- Removing distractions from our lives – sometimes we allow people and circumstances to keep us from focusing on the Lord and hearing from the Lord
- Denying ourselves through some type of “fasting” – which enables us to really focus on the Lord and His will for our lives
- Dialoguing with the Lord – talking with and listening to the Lord. So often we find ourselves rushing into prayer saying “Listen Lord, for your servant is speaking,” rather than “Speak Lord, for your servant is listening” (1 Samuel 3:9).
- Determination in our lives – so often people pray 1-2 times about something and then give up trying to discern God’s will. Jesus said in Matthew 7:7: “*Keep on asking and you will receive what you ask*

for. Keep on seeking, and you will find. Keep on knocking, and the door will be opened to you.”

What steps do you need to take to hear from the Lord so that you can better know His will in every realm of your life? Then, what steps do you need to take to not only discern the Lord’s will, but live out the Lord’s will in your life?

It is important to know God’s will and then do what the Lord instructs if we desire to experience joy, liberty and victory. Living outside of God’s will leads to frustration, fruitlessness and failure. A pastor from the past, George Truett, once said, “To know the will of God is the greatest knowledge, and to do the will of God is the greatest experience.” A pastor from the present, Dennis Watson, has said, “The secret to success in life is discovering God’s will and getting in it.” A pastor from the Bible, John the Apostle, wrote, “*The world and its desires will pass away, but the person who does the will of God lives forever*” (1 John 2:17). May all of us strive to know and live out God’s will. As we often say here at Celebration, GOD’S WILL – NOTHING MORE, NOTHING LESS, AND NOTHING ELSE!

We will continue to receive commitments and re-commitments to A CITY TRANSFORMED: INVESTING IN ETERNITY over the next several weekends as our people continue to hear God’s voice and commit to doing God’s will. You can turn in your commitment or re-commitment by either bringing one of the Commitment Cards you’ve received to one of our worship services, picking up a Commitment form from the back of a chair in our worship center, or going online to our website (www.celebrationchurch.org). Receiving Commitment or Re-commitment Forms will enable us to know how fast we can move forward with our planned ACTIIE projects in the coming months.

This coming weekend (March 27-29) at our Metairie Campus, we will be hosting the MARTUREO Conference, and our special guest will be Dr. Michael Brown from ICN Ministries and the Generation2generation team of Daphne, Andrew and Daniella Kirk. Dr. Brown is one of the foremost defenders of Christianity today and a leader in bringing revival to the nations. He met the Lord in 1971 as sixteen-year old heroin-shooting, LSD-using Jewish rock drummer. Since then he has preached throughout America and around the world, he is the author of twenty books, and he is very involved ministry to Jews, homosexuals, and secular scientists and historians.

The MARTUREO Conference is targeting 15-35 year olds in our congregation, but is available to anyone who wants to learn how to be a vibrant missionary for the Lord in our culture as well as around the world. Information about registration for MARTUREO, and the Christian rap concert that will take place on Sunday evening can be obtained by visiting our church website. I’m praying that many will take advantage of this tremendous opportunity to be equipped and empowered to become a mighty missionary for the Lord.

Our pastors and I look forward to seeing you this coming weekend at Celebration Church.

Pastor Dennis