

Bay City Wesleyan Church
August 13, 2017

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Sunday Morning 08-13-2017

Our Challenge for 2017 is to regularly ask Jesus, "Am I following you?"
When was the last time you asked?

<http://bible.com/events/263255>

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[Image]

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Romans 3:20-28 NLT

For no one can ever be made right with God by doing what the law commands. The law simply shows us how sinful we are. But now God has shown us a way to be made right with him without keeping the requirements of the law, as was promised in the writings of Moses and the prophets long ago. We are made right with God by placing our faith in Jesus Christ. And this is true for everyone who believes, no matter who we are. For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard. Yet God, in his grace, freely makes us right in his sight. He did this through Christ Jesus when he freed us from the penalty for our sins. For God presented Jesus as the sacrifice for sin. People are made right with God when they believe that Jesus sacrificed his life, shedding his blood. This sacrifice shows that God was being fair when he held back and did not punish those who sinned in times past, for he was looking ahead and including them in what he would do in this present time. God did this to demonstrate his righteousness, for he himself is fair and just, and he makes sinners right in his sight when they believe in Jesus. Can we boast, then, that we have done anything to be accepted by God? No, because our acquittal is not based on obeying the law. It is based on faith. So we are made right with God through faith and not by obeying the law.

<http://bible.com/116/rom.3.20-28.NLT>

Romans 11:33-36 MSG

Have you ever come on anything quite like this extravagant generosity of God, this deep, deep wisdom? It's way over our heads. We'll never figure it out. Is there anyone around who can explain God? Anyone smart enough to tell him what to do? Anyone who has done him such a huge favor that God has to ask his advice? Everything comes from him; Everything happens through him; Everything ends up in him. Always glory! Always praise! Yes. Yes. Yes.

<http://bible.com/97/rom.11.33-36.MSG>

Romans 12:1-2 MSG

So here's what I want you to do, God helping you: Take your everyday, ordinary life—your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life—and place it before God as an offering. Embracing what God does for you is the best thing you can do for him. Don't become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking. Instead, fix your attention on God. You'll be changed from the inside out. Readily

recognize what he wants from you, and quickly respond to it. Unlike the culture around you, always dragging you down to its level of immaturity, God brings the best out of you, develops well-formed maturity in you.
<http://bible.com/97/rom.12.1-2.MSG>

There's one event from Jesus' life on earth that stands out in three of the four gospels. Matthew, Mark, and Luke record Jesus' prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane. This event raises a question about surrendering to God's will.

Matthew 26:36-46 NIV

Then Jesus went with his disciples to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to them, "Sit here while I go over there and pray." He took Peter and the two sons of Zebedee along with him, and he began to be sorrowful and troubled. Then he said to them, "My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with me." Going a little farther, he fell with his face to the ground and prayed, "My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will." Then he returned to his disciples and found them sleeping. "Couldn't you men keep watch with me for one hour?" he asked Peter. "Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak." He went away a second time and prayed, "My Father, if it is not possible for this cup to be taken away unless I drink it, may your will be done." When he came back, he again found them sleeping, because their eyes were heavy. So he left them and went away once more and prayed the third time, saying the same thing. Then he returned to the disciples and said to them, "Are you still sleeping and resting? Look, the hour has come, and the Son of Man is delivered into the hands of sinners. Rise! Let us go! Here comes my betrayer!"
<http://bible.com/111/mat.26.36-46.NIV>

FAQ #4

"How do I surrender to God's will in practice?"

Here a few things surrendering to God's will IS NOT.

fatalistic resignation
easy or automatic
a once in a life time event
something you do alone

Here a few things surrendering to God's will IS.

agreeing with a person you love and trust
praying through
a moment by moment life of love
something you learn to do from others

Luke 1:38 NLT

Mary responded, "I am the Lord's servant. May everything you have said about me come true." And then the angel left her.
<http://bible.com/116/luk.1.38.NLT>

Matthew 1:20-24 NLT

As he considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream. "Joseph, son of David," the angel said, "do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife. For the child within her was conceived by the Holy Spirit. And she will have a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All of this occurred to fulfill the Lord's message through his prophet: "Look! The virgin will conceive a child! She will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel, which means 'God is with us.'" When Joseph woke up, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded and took Mary as his wife.
<http://bible.com/116/mat.1.20-24.NLT>

Sermon in a Sentence:

You surrender to God's will each time you love and trust him enough to do what you know he wants you to do.

A New Point of View:

Many Jesus followers look for some life altering encounter with God. That may happen eventually but first you need to love and trust God enough to do what you know he wants you to do.

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In response to today's message, I will...

Change my mind by memorizing John 14:23

Pray daily: "Jesus, I want what you want more than I want what I want."

Ask the Holy Spirit if I'm doing all I know he wants me to do