

Seven Gospel Inspired Notes on Seeking to Know and to Do God's Will

Note 1: Be 100% Confident

If you are humbly seeking to know God's will for you 24/7, you can be 100% confident that God the Father will reveal it to you by the inner promptings of the Holy Spirit whom Jesus and the Father have sent to you, as Jesus promised. "If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper [the Holy Spirit] to be with you forever." [Jn 14: 15-16] "The Helper is the very Spirit of Truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor know him. But you know the Holy Spirit, because he lives with you, and he will be in you." [Jn 14:17] "All this I have spoken while still with you. But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you." [Jn 14:25-26]

Note 2: Do Each Task God Wills with the Mind of Christ:

"Not my will but your will be done." [Lk 22:42] "Have the same mind in you that was in Christ Jesus." [Ph 2:5] Do God the Father's will with unwavering confidence in God's pure goodness and pure love, as Jesus did. **Humbly follow the Holy Spirit.** The Spirit is the very One who inspires you to want to know God's will and enables you to do the Father's will with a mind like Christ's.

Note 3: Good Samaritan Events: Be alert!

God might interrupt a particular task and call you to do another task. Even Jesus' primary ministry "to preach the good news" was constantly interrupted. The way Jesus handled those "Interruptions" makes up a large portion of the good news of the gospels. Your life walking with God will—most likely—not be very different from Jesus' as regards "interruptions" being opportunities to witness to his gospel. [Lk 10:25-37] [Mk 1:38]

Note 4: LOVE is always Your "First Task".

Love is always your first task within each task or interruption. The "first task" is to make LOVE the intentions of your heart and mind 24/7 as Christ Jesus did. The first danger of **not** putting love first is that you could falsely believe that God approves you simply because you did God's will—the "to do list" that God and you went over at the beginning of your day. The second danger is that you deceive yourself about what LOVE is in the eyes of God. And so that we not be deceived, let the Holy Spirit remind us what LOVE is: "Love is patient! Love is kind! Love is not envious! Love is not boastful! Love is not arrogant! Love is not rude! Love is not irritable! Love is not resentful! Love does not insist on its own way! Love does not rejoice in wrongdoing! Love rejoices in the truth! Love bears all things! Love believes all things! Loves always hopes! Love endures all things! Love never ends! [1 Cor 13:4-8] *God never stops loving! Love can never stop loving.* **Created in the image and likeness of God**, who is pure love, our human nature, our truest, deepest self, is, therefore, to be love and to love always. Indeed, as God is love and we are his children, the children of Love, to be truly and fully human is to be love and to love always. And as God is always with us, there is no moment when we cannot love. Jesus confirms this when he commands us to love one another as he has loved us, when he commands us to love our enemies and when he states that the two greatest commandment are: love God and love neighbor.

Note 5: Seeking to Know God's Will Can Be Done Anytime:

Seeking to know God's will can be done the night before, as many do, or in the morning, as a greater number do. If you forget, you can always re-center yourself in Christ and seek with the help of the most willing Holy Spirit, to know the Father's will at anytime in the day. **[Recall the Nineveh Spiritual Disciplines!** It provides insight into what it means to do God's will: (1) be where God wants you to be, (2) be doing what God wants you to be doing and (3) be doing it with the mind of Christ.]

Note 6: Jesus Commands Sanctification

"Be boundless in goodness as your heavenly Father's goodness is boundless." [Mt 5:48] "Be perfect as your heavenly Father is perfect." [Mt 5:48]

Jesus prays for our sanctification: "Father, sanctify them in truth; your word is truth. ... And for the sake of _____, I sanctify myself, so that _____ also may be sanctified in truth." [Jn 17:17, 19]

Christ modeled sanctification—virtue-filled living—in the gospels. That means that sanctification or holiness is the same as becoming ever more like Christ in virtue 24/7.

Jesus taught sanctification: As a beginner's manual on sanctification, read Jesus' teachings in the Sermon on the Mount, starting from Matthew 5:13 and ending at Matthew 7:27.

Matthew 5:13 Begins: "You are the salt of the earth" ... and "the light of the world." [Mt 5:13-16] So as to be that salt and light, let us start by living these verses through Matthew 7:27; they teach us some basics of how to be that salt and light.

Three Core Salt & Light Teachings/Commandments:

Do not demean, ever! Jesus equates demeaning another person—like calling them a "fool" or "stupid", etc.—with murder and punishable as such. [Mt 5:21-23] [For more details, see GTKG, p.15, "Jesus Equates Demeaning Another with Murder".]

Do not worry! Jesus equates worrying as a sin of doubting the pure goodness and providential care of God. "O you of little faith." [Mt 6:30]. "Strive first for the kingdom of God and his ways of goodness (righteousness) and all else will be given to you as well." [Mt 6: 33]

Do not lust! Jesus considers lusting so anti-gospel, so anti-body of Christ and so destructive of relationships that he not only equates lusting of the heart and the imaginations of the mind as adultery but also commands us to take drastic step to stop lusting immediately. [Mt 5:27-30]

Strategies on Lusting: Life Transforming Habits in Christ coaches participants to immediately replace images and thoughts of lusting with images and thoughts of that person as God's very own beloved daughter or son. LTH coaches this based also on our Ground Zero training that makes us aware that God created us to be the Supreme Court Judges of the very thoughts and images that we allow to take root in our minds. We count on the assured help of the Holy Spirit to uproot any thoughts and images that are against Jesus' gospel teachings. The Holy Spirit will give us the necessary self-control and also the power over our thoughts and our imagination so that we can transform the temptation to lust into a trigger to think of the other as a beloved son or daughter of God.

Sanctification can be summed up: A new commandment I give you: "Love one another as I have loved you". [Jn:13:34-35] 1 Corinthians 13:4-8 and the Sermon on the Mount can be used as good, solid, starter guidelines as to what LOVE looks like in action, in thought and in our imagination.

Sanctification=Discipleship=More like Christ.

Now that you are starting to strive to live by these teachings, go back and ponder Jesus' Beatitudes teachings in Matthew 5:1-12. And precisely because you are now striving to have the mind of Christ, God will be able to open your eyes to see the truly abundant life, the luxurious life, contained in the Beatitudes.

The Holy Spirit is Our Sanctification Coach: The Holy Spirit (1) will bring to mind Jesus' gospel teachings so you can follow them more confidently, (2) will teach you to counter thoughts that tempt you to think or act against Jesus' gospel, (3) will guide you in recognizing the lies that the Evil One, the world and the flesh pop into your flow of thoughts to lead you astray, (4) will convict you of your sins, (5) will encourage you to immediately repent, (6) will assure you of complete forgiveness, (7) will restore the joy of your salvation and (8) will guide you to teach transgressors God's ways and sinners will return to God by the inner working of the same Holy Spirit who loves you. [Jn 14:15-17, 25-26; 16:7-11; Ps 51:12-13]

A Cautionary Red Flag to Note 6:

This Christ-Centered, Spiritual Discipline is about your Sanctification. It is not about your Salvation. By dying for you, Christ has assured the forgiveness of your sins and won your salvation from eternal alienation from Love, from God. Nothing you ever have done or could do can save you, except believing that it is Jesus who has saved you out of love for you and for the Father.

Therefore, pursue your sanctification, with gratitude and thanksgiving for all that Christ Jesus has done for you. In partnership with the Spirit, pursue "having the mind of Christ 24/7" with all your heart, all your strength, all your mind and all your soul.

Note 7: Freedom of Format in Discerning God's Will but not Freedom from Doing God's Will.

If you already have your own processes to know God's will for you each day, continue in the gospel grounded ways the Holy Spirit has taught you. However, Notes 1-6 and the Nineveh Spiritual Discipline always apply to you too.