



GGN is a teaching resource for ministers and churches all over the world. We advocate the gospel of the grace of Jesus Christ - Jesus alone, grace alone, faith alone. Our purpose is twofold: to help the Church rediscover Jesus and to take this message to the world.

GLOBAL GRACE NEWS

MAY – JUNE 2013



Why You Don't Have to Fear Missing the Will of God!

By Evan Beecham

There is no need to complicate what God has made so simple.

→ **M**any Christians spend much of their waking hours seeking, trying to find and fit into God's will for their lives. They prefer His perfect will but most feel like they fall short and will accept His good or acceptable will for their lives. It is hard to be at peace while searching for something that you don't think you have or afraid you're going to lose. In fact, trying to find and stay in God's will by works seems as though you



It is hard to be at peace while searching for something that you don't think you have or afraid you're going to lose.



can never get the promise because it is always just out of reach. You think you're almost there but it eludes you. That is the ministry of condemnation (2 Cor 3:9). What drives this perpetual tail-chasing? Fear! Fear of missing God, not being good enough, falling out of fellowship or being unqualified. The list goes on and on, with fear as the driver. It becomes a lifetime of obsessing for many because if you're not in His will, then you're not right. So they spend everyday of their lives obsessing about "how to" do the right thing to be right, to please God.

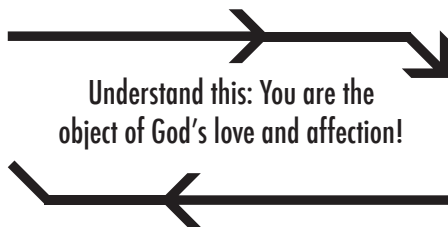
Fear as the driver

When fear is the driver in our lives,

we are driven by our anxieties and worries because of **unbelief**. We fear missing God's will; therefore we try to do more to please God. The law is fear-based - afraid if you don't "do" then you will not be pleasing to God. Understand this: You are the object of God's love and affection! His desire (will) is that you discover your redeemed identity as a result of the finished work of the cross. Christians lacking this revelation are still wandering in the wilderness of **unbelief**. They are still trying to find where they fit into God's plan for their life. They are seeking acceptance by the One who has forever accepted them. Yet because of unbelief, they miss this and

are fearful that God is not pleased with them.

Fear causes a “disturbance of the peace.” It will attempt to bring unrest in your life. Ex 17:8 says that Amalek fought Israel at Rephidim. Let’s look at the meaning of this scripture - it is fascinating. Amalek means “labor or continuous toil (intellectual doubt that erodes our **sense of belief**).” Rephidim means “rest.” Unbelief fights to unseat you from your place of rest.



Understand this: You are the object of God’s love and affection!

The Promised Land is His Rest

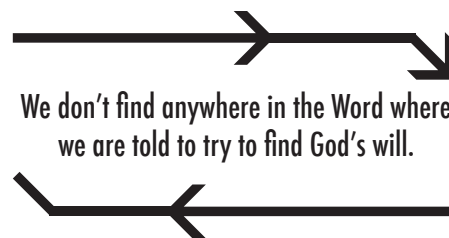
The Promised Land is His rest, and notice that Heb 3:19 says, “So we see that they could not enter in because of unbelief.” Our own unbelief keeps us wandering in the wilderness seeking God’s will for our lives. **Believing** what Jesus has done for us, (the revelation of our righteousness) as a result of the finished work of the cross, is what brings us to this place of rest! This is our promised land, where He wants us to be, and we access it by believing. It is by His grace - not our self-efforts. You can exit the wilderness experience, and enter the promised land of His rest, by believing what God has said about you.

Interestingly the word *agape*, which is God’s perfect unconditional love, is so rich in its meaning. The very word actually implies that God’s rest is His will. I would like to share the definition of *agape* that I recently read: The Greek word for the love of God is *agape*, from *ago*, meaning to lead like a shepherd guides his sheep, and *pao*, meaning to rest. Wow, what an amazing Father. In Christ we have perfect

redemption which gives us His rest. If you fail through unbelief to enter His rest, you will encounter fear! Heb 3:11 and 4:3 (MT): “Oh if only they would enter into My rest.” Unbelief kept them from His rest. They died in the wilderness because of **unbelief** (Heb 3:19 and 4:6). They believed a lie about themselves. (Numbers 13:33: “and we were like grasshoppers in our own sight, and so we were in their sight.”)

God’s will transforms our thoughts

We don’t find anywhere in the Word where we are told to try to find God’s will. Most people refer to Romans 12:2 as the verse guiding us to “pursue” His good, acceptable and perfect will in our lives - creating another doctrine that just isn’t there. A clearer rendering of this verse would be: (verse 2) “Do not allow current religious tradition to mold you into its pattern of reasoning. Like an inspired artist, give attention to the detail of God’s desire to find expression in you. Become acquainted with perfection. To accommodate yourself to the delight and good pleasure of Him will transform your thoughts afresh from within” (MT).



We don’t find anywhere in the Word where we are told to try to find God’s will.

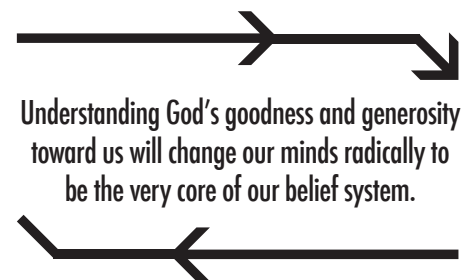
If you note the context, Paul’s discussion is the unbelief of the religious Jews of that period of time. The word “world” is the Greek word *aion* which is traditionally translated as “do not be conformed to this world.” *Aion* actually points to a period of time of specific influence. The “*current religious tradition*” Paul referred to, still applies today.

God’s will is the revelation of His righteousness (Romans 1:16-17) and renewing our minds to the good news of

grace. Understanding God’s goodness and generosity toward us will change our minds radically to the very core of our belief system. Furthermore, we need to understand that there is no longer any debt between us and God. We have free, open and continual communion and fellowship with God.

A “do-it-yourself” project

Many people don’t realize just how simple this gospel is. These folks manage to complicate it into some kind of mysterious maze of endless, fearful decisions. If you take a wrong turn, it may lead you to difficulty or



Understanding God’s goodness and generosity toward us will change our minds radically to be the very core of our belief system.

a dead-end. They then claim they must not have heard God right. This is all done in the name of “trying to be righteous.” Christians are fearful if they make a “wrong turn” they will miss God and lose their right standing with Him. At this point, they have gone back to works- righteousness. They begin their laborious task of getting back into the will of God.

Sin-conscious Christians attempt to seek His will by subtle signals they feel will lead to safe choices, free from difficulty. This can paralyze them in trying to find the right house, job, spouse, etc. They can actually become paralyzed with fear through **unbelief**. They are fearful of “missing” His will and falling short in their righteousness. Maybe a better way to describe this is falling short in their self-righteousness or works-righteousness. After all, that is what this experience has become to them - a do-it-yourself project.

Many begin to doubt their own diligence on seeking God's will. Maybe they didn't try hard enough, maybe they didn't seek long enough, or maybe their sin prevented it? I know of Christians who spent weeks making a decision, fearful that they might have missed God's will for themselves.

The motivation here is that if they can locate the "perfect will" of God, and stay in it, they will continue to be right with Him and everything will be fine. They are making an effort at trying to become righteous, instead of just receiving His gift of righteousness.

They try to become what God has already made them: righteous, accepted, qualified, holy, and filled to overflowing, living in the freedom of His grace, innocent, guiltless, and extremely loved by their Father.

I liken it to when my grandchildren are seated (His rest) in the car (in Christ), safely and secure. They are with their daddy, and secure in His will, going where daddy takes them.

This is the simple gospel of grace. All this "will seeking" does is twist the truth. There is no place for this struggle among Christians in the rest of

God. Stop struggling, believe Jesus finished all the work for you and enter into His rest. In the Old Testament, His rest was a place where everything was provided - houses they didn't build, vineyards they didn't plant, and wells they didn't dig. In this new covenant rest, it is a place where everything is provided and nothing is lacking - the work is finished!

Your life is His plan!

I like this quote from Andre Rabe's book, *Adventures In Christ*, page 70; "Forget about trying to find His plan for your life - your life is His plan! Neither your location nor your timing matters - He has dawned His eternal day. You are His moment; you are His location!"

Colossians 2 tells us that our lives are hidden in Christ, in God. When we are resting in the finished work of Christ, we fully recognize that we are in Him and resting in His will for us. I liken it to when my grandchildren are seated (His rest) in the car (in Christ), safely and secure. They are with their daddy, and secure in His will, going where daddy takes them. They're not fretting nor worried because they are at the right place, at the right time. They are in His rest.

Previously, I had mentioned that fear is the driver of this laborious pursuit.

There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear because fear implies punishment. He who fears has not understood God's perfect love for them. Perfect love is God's love for you; not you loving perfectly, because you can't. But He does, perfectly, and with great intensity. He loves you!

Don't complicate what God has made so simple. Realize your identity in Christ and enjoy His rest. In Him you are righteous and complete. Today, be free from the worry of missing His will for you. Your worry and fear will only cause you to engage in your repair mode, disturbing your rest, and compel you to attempt to earn your righteousness. Instead, stay in His peace, rest, and reign in life today.



EVAN BEECHAM

Pastor of Grace Without Measure Ministries,
Fort Morgan, Colorado USA
Business Owner

www.gracewithoutmeasure.com



He is the One Who Loves You Deepest!

By Mary Felde



There have been some days of transformation in my life – days that really have affected and marked my life. Several of them are related to the revelation of God’s awesome and unconditional love. How difficult it can be for us sometimes to really understand and fully trust that God’s love is totally unconditional.

The world is full of conditional love, conditional benefits, conditional wages, etc. As God’s heart becomes more and more revealed to us, we are established in a deeper and deeper security which affects all areas of our lives; both in our personal life and in the ministry.

Security comes from your Relation with Him

1 John 4:16: *And we have known and believed the love that God has for us...*

(Amp) And we know (understand, recognize, are conscious of, by observation and by experience) and believe (adhere to and put faith in and rely on) the love God cherishes for us...

Some people wear themselves out trying to always meet other people’s expectations - in an effort to feel loved.

Both John and Jesus lived in the security that they were loved unconditionally. It was John who called himself the disciple that Jesus loved, and it was Jesus who said about Himself:

John 5:19-20: *The Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He sees the Father do; for whatever He does, the Son also does in like manner. For the Father*

loves the Son, and shows Him all things that He Himself does

Jesus had no need to follow people’s expectations, He only did what the Father showed Him. Some people wear themselves out trying to always meet other people’s expectations - in an effort to feel loved. But we are first loved by God, and that enables us to both give and receive love from others. God will teach us when to say yes and when to say no.

1 John 4:19: *We love Him because He first loved us.*

1 John 4:11: *Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.*

We can also see how Jesus, in His security, did not need to control and manipulate people - He gave them the freedom to choose. When He said: “Will you also leave me,” the disciples immediately answered: “Where shall we go, you have eternal life.”

John 15:9: *As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love.*

A man came to a pastor and asked for prayer so he would not lose his job. Terminations and leaves were going on and the man was afraid. The pastor

replied: “No, I’d rather pray that you shall be able to see that it is Jesus

We can also see how Jesus, in His security, did not need to control and manipulate people — He gave them the freedom to choose.

and not the job that is your source of security.’ It is of course not wrong to pray that we shall keep our jobs, but if something other than Jesus is the source of security and satisfaction in our lives, then a wrong dependency may develop. And fear may develop too. It is good to remember that Jesus is not limited by circumstances (He fed the 5,000 with five loaves and two fishes), and if something is broken, He creates another vessel.

Both in Good Days and in Bad Days

John 14:16: *And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever.*

I’ll never forget the day that God revealed to me the truth that He has come to STAY. I sat in a hotel room in Asia and had just listened to some sermons on CD. In the preaching, we were encouraged to open our hearts and tell God something we maybe never had told any person before. Just at that moment I realized a deep fear that I had carried for a long time. As I mentioned this to God, I immediately received a revelation.

if something other than Jesus is the source of security and satisfaction in our lives, then a wrong dependency may develop

The Holy Spirit gave me an example of a wedding. When people get married they promise to love each other in good days and in bad days. I have always thought that this means when the days are good and when the days are bad. But in that moment I saw that this means when I am good and when I am bad. This is the promise God has given us -

He will love us in both good days and bad days! The fear vanished instantly and was replaced with *security in God*.

He doesn't evaluate you, He helps you

Eph 2:4 (Amp): *...Because of and in order to satisfy the great and wonderful and intense love with which He loved us...*

One day I meditated on this passage. I asked God: "Father, why is your love for me so intense. Why is it so great? I can't understand this." I repeated it over and over. Then He showed me that even if I quit being a missionary and went home and sat on a couch for the rest of my life, He would love me just as much! For His love for me is *completely unconditional*.

As this truth started to settle in me, the next thought arose: "But then it means that you are not *evaluating* me to see if I'm good enough to be used by you, but instead you are on my side, *helping* me to live in and use everything you have put into me." A new security was established!

The great Mystery

Our relationship with Jesus is described in many ways, so that we can better understand who we are to Him. One example is members of a body; another example is a marriage. Let us first look at the example with members of a body.

Then He showed me that even if I quit being a missionary and went home and sat on a couch for the rest of my life, He would love me just as much!

Eph 5:28-29: *So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself. For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as the Lord does the church.*

Here the beautiful words *nourish* and *cherish* are used. Nourish means to provide healthy nutrition that will do us good. And the word *cherish* is about something that is very precious to us; something we keep close to our hearts. And that is precisely what you are to Jesus! Something precious that He keeps close to His heart!

There is *nobody* Jesus loves more than exactly you!

The second example, a marriage, is mentioned in the Bible as a *great* mystery.

Eph 5:31-32: *"For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church.*

So what is the big mystery? Every time I read this I always thought about the unity we have with Jesus; that we are one body with him. And it's true - it's a great mystery where we still shall gain deeper insight. But one day when I read this verse again, I was speechless and my tears flowed. That was because God showed me what the *first* part of this sentence says. "For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife." This is precisely what Jesus did. He made a choice to become human, to leave His father and to win His wife - a choice that would affect Him forever. And what is it that He is busy doing now? Staying close to His wife!

The great Love Gift

In John 17 we see Jesus praying to His Father, right before He goes to the cross. The strong word *desire* is used here. It is as if Jesus said, "Father, this

is what I crave; what I really want ..."

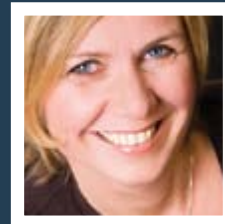
John 17:24: *"Father, I desire that they also whom You gave Me may be with Me where I am, that they may behold My glory which You have given Me; for You loved Me before the foundation of the world.*

It is our desire to be with him and see His glory, but He desire this even more than us!

When we give someone a gift because we love the person, then we can certainly call this a love gift. What was it that God gave Jesus because He loved Jesus before the foundation of the world? The glory? Yes, that's right. But there is something more in this verse. It is *we* who were given to Jesus. Jesus is God's love gift to you, and you are God's love gift to Jesus! We say: "Lucky us who have Jesus!" But can you hear Jesus say: "Lucky Me who has you!"

There is *nobody* Jesus loves more than exactly *you*!

When we see this strong love, we better understand that the commandment in the new covenant is precisely the commandment of love. It pleases God that also *others* show love to those whom *He* loves so deeply and unconditionally!



MARY FELDE

Editor, Global Grace News

Principal and teacher, WIBI in Kenya

www.globalgracenews.org