



THE SIGNAL

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The psalmist cries, "Teach me to do Thy will; for Thou art my God: Thy Spirit is good; lead me into the land of uprightness" [Psalm 143:10]. Truly this is the heart-cry of every genuine child of God. The only thing that matters in this life and in eternity is knowing and doing God's will.

It was the mindset of our Savior. Psalm 40:7-8 speaks of Him prophetically: "Then said I, Lo, I come: in the volume of the book it is written of Me, I delight to do Thy will, O My God: yea, Thy law is within My heart." In His High Priestly prayer in John 17:4, He declared, "I have glorified Thee on earth: I have finished the work which Thou gavest Me to do."

Before we were saved, we had no real interest in the will of God. We were only concerned with our way [Isaiah 53:6]. When we come to Christ in surrender, we can say with the psalmist, "Thou art my God," and we find ourselves praying, "Teach me to do Thy will."

This is what happened to Saul on his way to Tarsus. After he met the Lord, he cried in Acts 9:6, "Lord, what wilt Thou have me to do?" A heart praying like this indicates that a work of grace has been wrought.

This prayer in Psalm 143:10 indicates that God has a purpose and plan for the lives of each of His children. The prayers of the apostles often included requests for the knowledge of God's will [Col. 1:9]. When we read about the lives of great Christians from the past like Wesley, Whitfield, William Carey, Adoniram Judson, and Amy Carmichael, there is no doubt they moved along in the plan and purpose of God for their lives.

God is ready and willing to reveal His will to His children. He is always far more willing to guide us along the pathway of His will than we are willing to be guided. He desires His best for us.

We see in this prayer the conditions one must meet in order to know and do God's will.

First, we must have a pliable attitude. Notice David prays, "*Teach* me to do Thy will." He had a child-like spirit, and he acknowledged his need to be taught. "O Lord, I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps" [Jeremiah 10:23].

Second, we must have an intense desire to know God's will [Psalm 37:5; Proverbs 3:6, 16:3; James 1:5].

Third, there must be a willingness to do His will, whatever it involves. Here David prays, "Teach me to

do Thy will," not just, "Show it to me and see if I want to do it." When we pray this prayer, we must be willing to do what God wants whether it is pleasing to us or painful, or whether or not it is what we had in mind [John 7:17].

Finally, we should ask the question, "How does the Lord teach us His will?" He does it first by the teaching of His Word. The Bible gives us general principles to govern our lives and the choices we make. Most of the guidance God gives in His Word is through certain clearly-stated principles. Someone contemplating marriage has the plain command in 2 Corinthians 6:14 to "Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers." There are many such principles given to guide our decisions and actions.

God also leads us by the promptings of His Spirit. Our text declares, "Thy Spirit is good; lead me..." And Romans 8:14 reminds us of this: "For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God." Since God leads us first by His Word, we know the Holy Spirit of God will never lead contrary to His Word.

Lastly, God leads us by the overruling of His providence. This means that He guides us through the circumstances of life. He opens and closes doors. "I know thy works: behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it" [Revelation 3:8]. Paul mentions in 2 Corinthians 2:2 that "...I came to Troas to preach Christ's gospel, and a door was opened unto me of the Lord." And in 1 Corinthians 16:9 he declares this: "For a great door and effectual is opened unto me, and there are many adversaries."

These principles will harmonize together. When it is God's will for us to take a certain step, He will lead us by the teaching of His Word, the promptings of His Spirit, and by the overruling of His providence. Remember that "the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth forever" [1 John 2:17].

We see not, know not; all our way
Is night—with Thee alone is day;
From out the torrent's troubled drift,
Above the storm our prayers we lift,
Thy will be done!

The flesh may fade, the heart may faint,
But who are we to make complaint,

Or dare to plead, in times like these,
The weakness of our love of ease?
Thy will be done!

We take with solemn thankfulness
Our burden up, nor ask it less,
And count it joy that even we
May suffer, serve, or wait for Thee,
Whose will be done!

Though dim as yet in tint and line,
We trace Thy picture's wise design,
And thank Thee that our age supplies
Its dark relief of sacrifice,
Thy will be done!

If for the age to come, this hour
Of trial hath vicarious power,
And, blest by Thee, our present pain,
Be liberty's eternal gain,
Thy will be done!

—John Greenleaf Whittier

We appreciate your prayers and support for these
broadcasting ministries. May the dear Lord guide us
all into His perfect will.

Your servant,
Chris Lamb

BACK TO THE BIBLE

WITH NAT CRAWFORD — WEEKDAYS AT 6:30 A.M.

Back to the Bible was Founded in 1939 by Theodore H. Epp on the KFOR radio station in Lincoln, Nebraska. Soon after, *Back to the Bible* expanded by supporting missionaries and broadcasting via shortwave radio to other countries. By the mid-1950s, it was being broadcast somewhere in the world at any given moment, and in 1954 the organization's first international Bible teaching ministry office opened in Canada. By the time of Epp's retirement in 1981, the *Back to the Bible* program was syndicated as a 30-minute daily broadcast on more than 800 radio stations worldwide. Warren Wiersbe, former pastor of Moody Church in Chicago, Illinois, served as the leader of the Lincoln-based ministry between 1984 and 1990 and as the broadcast's bible teacher for many years until his death in May of 2019.

Back to the Bible is a worldwide Christian ministry dedicated to leading people forward spiritually. Using media and technology, *Back to the Bible* meets people at their own spiritual level and walks with them daily into a living, growing, and passionate relationship with Jesus Christ by equipping and motivating them to engage with the Scriptures daily. With every 25-minute study, listeners will gain a better understanding of what the Bible says, what it means, and how to apply it to everyday life.

Pastor Nat Crawford is the new Bible teacher on *Back to the Bible*. Nat's passion is to help people know what they believe and why they believe it. He has a master's degrees in biblical exposition and Christian apologetics from Moody Bible Institute and Biola University. Nat completed his undergraduate studies at Grace University, majoring in biblical studies and business leadership, and went on to serve as a teaching pastor at First Free Church in Lincoln, Nebraska. Nat is currently writing a book and plans to begin his doctoral studies in 2021. Nat and his wife, Tiffany, have three boys and live in Lincoln, Nebraska.

THE BIBLE MINUTE

WEEKDAYS AT 2:20 P.M.

The Bible Minute is hosted by *Back to the Bible* contributor Dr. Bryan Clark. Bryan says, "My passion is to help people understand the great truths of God's Word in a way that genuinely affects their daily lives."