

Wipers Blades Working?

Introduction

- *Purpose of windshield wipers?*
- *Purpose of “spiritual wipers?”*
 - *Knowing God’s Will means being able to see clearly.*
 - *Three things we’ll look at today*
- Are they making a noise or a sound, there is a difference?
- How do you change the wipers?
- Can you see clearly now?

What kind of noise are they making?

The definition of noise states is; “A sound that is especially unpleasant, loud, and disturbing.”

If your teen looks at the spiritual wipers as noise in their life rather than a sound of warning then chances are ...

1. Their personal relationship with God needs working on
 - They see God’s Will as something that limits their enjoyment of life
 - Life is like a spiritual straitjacket-just a bunch of rules
 - They prefer to turn off the noise and take their chances.
 - A spiritually mature teen hears something different. They see the sound as a potential warning allowing them to see clearly.
- 2). God’s will is rarely based on circumstances
 - This doesn’t mean that God can’t work through circumstances but those circumstances are usually grounded in a Biblical principle
 - **3 examples: (The Daily Devotion, The Trip to Israel, The Desire for a Degree**
 - II Corinthians 11:14 “**And no wonder, for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light.**”
 - This happens to teens a lot since they are built around emotion and certain circumstances can obviously drive their emotions. If Satan can get a teen disappointed through circumstances they thought were part of God’s Will for them then a lack of trust will start developing.
- 3). God’s will is rarely emotionally related
 - What do I mean?

- Emotions can be influenced by every wind of doctrine, especially in a teen
- Ephesians 4:14- *"Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming"*.
- How and why does an "infant" get misled so easily?
- God's Will is for us (our teens) to not be misled by the wrong kind of teaching.

Example of misled teachings

- Certain teaching might make us feel good emotionally but it doesn't mean it's right. Even in the church there is false teaching that can deceive a believer
- Many a preacher says that God doesn't want us to feel bad about our sin. Instead He wants us to always be set free from this negative thinking. They spend all this time talking about our positive self-esteem. Be very careful with this type of thinking. It sounds so good and so right but has an element of falsehood.
- High self-esteem doesn't mean you are redeemed
- Yes, God wants us to be set free from sin. Romans 8:1 says, "For now there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus."
- All of Chapter 6 and most of Chapter 7 of Romans addresses the issue of being set free from our past life of sin. Paul concludes in Romans Chapter 8 verse 37 that "we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us."
- In Summary: I have been set free from the bondage of sin and I don't have to live a defeated life anymore. I have Christ and through Him I can be victorious over sin.

However....

- In that same passage of scripture Paul writes that my sin is what caused death not only to me but to Christ.
- Romans 5:19 says, *"For just as through the disobedience of the one man (Adam), the many were made sinners (us), so also through the obedience of the one man (Christ), the many will be made righteous."*
- Romans 6:23 says, *"For the wages of sin is death but the free gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."*
- Romans 7:24, *"What a wretched man I am! Who will save me from this body of death?"*

Does it sound like God wants us to take sin lightly to you? According to Scripture, why did God die on the cross for you and me and for us to believe in Him?

Two main reasons- Love, and freedom over sin (John 3:16, I Cor. 15:57, Rom. 8:37, Phil 4:13, Rom. 8:31, Rom. 8:2, John 8:32)

- If Satan can get your teen thinking that sin really isn't that bad and it really didn't cost Christ much then they will make wrong choices about God's will and they can eventually become confused and disillusioned about life.

- Just because you “feel” this is God’s will doesn’t mean it is God’s will
- Example: Marrying a non-believer
 - II Cor. 6:4 (“Don’t be unequally yoked”, and I Cor. 7:39-“He must belong to the Lord.”)
 - How can a non-believing husband fulfill the purpose of marriage found in Eph. 5:27-“*Husband love your wife as Christ loved the Church and gave Himself up for her to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing, with water through the word, and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless.*”
 - End result?

What are some of the warning signs that a change is needed when we hear a sound rather than a “noise? What’s wrong with each of these?

- We are never content in our circumstances
- We worry a lot
- We become frustrated easily
- We show anger more than we used to
- We are making a lot of bad decisions that are costing us emotionally, physically, and spiritually.
- We keep digging a deeper hole financially
- We feel lost and without direction
- We put more emphasis on material things than spiritual things
- We start doubting our salvation
- God seems distant and far away

How to Change the Wiper Blades So We Can See Clearly

- #1- Start thinking differently
 - We must be willing to change our paradigm. In other words, we must be willing to get out of our normal pattern of how we think about things and be willing to develop a true “faith based” ideal of thinking.
 - Romans 12: 2 says “*Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world. But be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is-His good, pleasing, and perfect will.*”
 - Example: How a teen feels about God’s Will (per the worlds perspective) verses what the fact of God’s Word says

Look more closely at the God fact vs. world feeling

GOD'S WILL FOR US IS GOOD, PLEASING, AND PERFECT

What does this mean to us and our teens? Use all three ideas

The word "good" has the idea of "fitting just right"-

The word "pleasing" has the idea of having a purposeful relationship

The word "perfect" has the idea of maturity or maturing.

A paraphrased version could be...

- God's will for you and I "fits us" just right for the purpose of helping us mature so we live the way we were intended to live, a life of purpose with God and man.

So how do we THINK differently in order to know God's good, pleasing, and perfect will? (Four Things)

First, we must accept the fact that God is sovereign, and nothing will stop His plan for our life.

His plan for our life is to eventually conform us into the image of Christ. Romans 8:29 says, "For those God foreknew he also predestined to be **conformed to the image** of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters".

Whether you like it or not, once you accepted Christ in your heart the Holy Spirit entered into your heart and now one way or another will conform you into the image of Christ. (Through maturity or calling you home)

We can either accept His plan for our life or we can reject His plan. He will give us the choice of accepting less than His good, pleasing, and perfect will.

We have to understand that no matter what happens to us throughout our life that God does indeed have a plan for us that is within His will. Once we accept that fact we can move on to the next fact.

Second, God's will doesn't change for you just because something negative happens

Accepting God's will for your life means you won't rebel and turn away from God when things don't quite go the way you want them to go for your life, especially bad things.

Please remember to try and not let your feelings get in the way of the facts. We must be reminded that God's Word says..."*And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.*" (Rom 8: 28)

His Word doesn't state that all things are good for us but that He works all things FOR the good. (What does that mean?) (What about poor choices and consequences?)

When we accept that fact and believe in our heart that God's will is for us and not against us then we can move on to the two remaining aspects of thinking differently.

- **Third, we must start thinking about God’s Word in two ways. His Word has precepts and principles.**
- *Precepts* in the Bible are instructions or commands from God that are very clear. We don’t have to question much about how God thinks about such things.
- Ephesians 6:4 says, *“Fathers don’t exasperate or “frustrate” your children, instead bring them up in the admonition of the Lord.”*
- It is clear from this *precept* that God tells dads not to deliberately frustrate their children by being inconsistent in their walk with God. Dads frustrate their kids when they talk one way about God and live another

Mark 12:30 to “love the Lord with all your heart, mind, soul, and strength.”

- We don’t have to question what kind of energy we put into that relationship. If we only act like we love God on Sunday’s and then live just the opposite on Monday through Saturday then we are ignoring His *precept*.
- When we get serious about following His *precepts* then we will think differently and our thought process will more than likely conflict with what the world says. Just the opposite can happen as well, when we start thinking the way the world thinks then more than likely we will come in conflict with how God thinks.

Examples of conflict between the way the world thinks and God thinks

- *“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. ²⁰ But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also Matt. 6:19-21.*
- **The world says just the opposite. The world says to indeed store up treasure for yourself by getting as many homes, cars, jewelry, fame, popularity, power, etc... as you can so you can prove your worth to the world.**
- *“Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. But in humility consider others more important than yourself. Don’t look out for your own personal interest only but also look out for the interest of others.” Phil 2:3-4.*
- **The world says just the opposite. The word says to grab what you can get to move up the ladder, even if it can hurt someone else. The world says how can you put others before yourself and become successful? You must think of what’s best for you before others as all times.**
- *“See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the basic principles of this world rather than on Christ.” Col. 2: 8.*
- **You can’t go on any college campus today where the philosophy that “God is dead” is implied or specifically taught. Many professors will put Christian young people on the spot trying to make them defend their faith against the professors’ philosophy of “anti-god”. I am seeing more and more that the freedom of speech on college campuses doesn’t support the freedom to express one’s belief in Christ.**
- *“Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.” James 1:2-3.*
- **The world says, “How can a good God let anyone go through any kind of suffering. If God really exist then He must be a cruel God to make anyone suffer.**

What about the principles of God's will?

- ***The teen ask, who should I marry, what about my career? The parents ask should I take this job or that job? Where do we live?***
- ***Nowhere in God's scripture is it plain what we are to do in those kinds of situations.***

To show how precepts and principles work suppose you are driving down the road and the speed limit says 55 miles per hour. That is a precept. Now suppose you are driving down that same road and a little later you see a sign that says "drive carefully", that's a principle. To make it a little even more complicated that principle could mean one thing when you are driving down the road at 3 o'clock in the morning on a deserted road and 3 o'clock on the afternoon in a school zone.

Just remember that the main purpose of God's Word is to help reveal His Will to us. When we don't know much about God's Word there's a good chance knowing His will is going to be frustrating. On the other hand, the more we know of His Word the more we will see clearly things that happen in our life can be applied as direction from God. For example:

- Philippians 2:12-13 says, ***"Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed—not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence—continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose."***
- There are three specifics this verse highlights.
 - Look at the end first-It says God promises to work in you to accomplish His will for you and His good purpose
 - In order for that to happen the second thing must occur-There must be a level of **obedience**. ***"As you have always obeyed—not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence"***.
 - To fully have a better grasp of God's principles working in our life we must live a life of obedience to God's Word as well as being willing to walk by faith when certain doors open or close.
 - The third thing is to ***"continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling."*** (What does this mean?)
- It doesn't mean that we work for our salvation being scared and hoping things work out.
- ***"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—⁹ not by works, so that no one can boast. Eph. 2:8-9.***
- We can't work our way to heaven but we can know if we are going to heaven.
- ***"And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. The one who has the Son has this eternal life; the one who does not have the Son of God does not have this eternal life. I have written these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may KNOW that you have eternal life" | John 5:11-13.***

- So what does working out our salvation with fear and trembling mean? It means in order to have fear and trembling (a healthy respect of who God is), there must be a “sensitive spirit” to Him and His ways and look within and around.
- In Acts 16:6-10 it says, ***“Paul and his companions traveled throughout the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been kept by the Holy Spirit from preaching the word in the province of Asia. ⁷ When they came to the border of Mysia, they tried to enter Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus would not allow them to. ⁸ So they passed by Mysia and went down to Troas. ⁹ During the night Paul had a vision of a man of Macedonia standing and begging him, “Come over to Macedonia and help us.” ¹⁰ After Paul had seen the vision, we got ready at once to leave for Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them.”***
- **Notice the all the closed doors and the one open door.**
- Let’s quickly review. If we want to understand God’s principles in order to live within His will then we must first check the scriptures for God’s direction and be obedient, then look around and within to see if certain doors are opening or closing, and then finally we need to...
- **Listen to the counsel of qualified people.**
- Solomon wrote some wise words in Proverbs 20:5- ***“The purposes of a person’s heart are deep waters, but one who has insight draws them out.”*** Proverbs 27: 17 says, ***“As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another***
- All throughout scripture we see evidence of God using people to help “sharpen” others by offering counsel. Col. 3:16 says, ***“Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts.”***
- Romans 15:14 ***Paul said, “I myself am convinced, my brothers and sisters, that you yourselves are full of goodness, filled with knowledge and competent to instruct one another.”***
- When you need direction from God about His will first search the scripture, pay attention to what’s going on around you, and finally pass some thoughts around those who you feel are Godly people who can give you wise counsel from what you have experienced so far.
- When you are within God’s will two things will always be present.
 - **Peace-“Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body, and be thankful. Col. 3:15.**
 - Peace is to “rule” in our hearts. The original Greek means to “act as an umpire”
 - When you are within God’s Will, peace will act as an umpire and let you know if you are moving in the right direction or not. He’ll either call the action “safe” or “out” by the peace you experience in your heart (or I sometimes call the “spiritual gut”).
 - We then experience what Romans 15:14 stated above in that we will be “fully convinced” that we are doing what God wants us to do.

So how do I know once I make my choice that I'm within God's Will?

- **Satisfaction-If you are within God's Will you will experience real satisfaction and love doing it.**
- **Your conscience will be clear and you won't feel guilty doing it.**
- ***Author J. Grant Howard had some great insight into the will of God. He said the following....***

"Can I know the determined will of God for my life? Yes-after it has occurred! You now know that God's determined will for your life was that you be born of certain parents, in a certain location, under certain conditions, and that you be male or female. You now know that God determined for you to have certain features, certain experiences, certain teachers, certain interests, certain friends, a certain kind of education, and certain brothers and sisters, or perhaps to be an only child. In other words, everything that has happened in your life to this moment has been part of God's determined will for your life. It has happened because He has determined it to be so.

He went on to say...

What about the future? Can I know any part of God's determined will for my life in the future? Your spiritual position and eternal destiny are the only two things you can know with certainty. If you are in Christ now, you can know for certain that you will remain in Christ at every moment in the future (John 5:24; 10:27-29; Romans 5:1; II Corinthians 5:17). If you are not a Christian, you in in sin right now and you can know for certain that you will remain in that spiritually dead position in the future unless you personally receive Christ as your Savior (Ephesians 2:1-3)...

- He concluded by saying...

The remainder of your future is hidden from you until it happens. Your career, marriage partner, home location, grades in school, friends, sicknesses, accidents, honors, travel, income, retirement, etc., are all part of God's determined will but are not revealed to you ahead of time...

What should be the Christian's attitude toward the determined will of God? He should recognize it as a reality-clearly taught in the Word of God. Rest in it as good, because that's what God says about it-He causes all things to work together for good to those who love Him (Romans 8:28). Beyond that, don't worry about it and don't try to figure it out, because His ways are unfathomable. (Romans 11: 33)."

So don't sweat the stuff you can't control. Understand what God's Word teaches from His precepts and apply the principles from His Word to help you look for open and closed doors. When wrong choices are made thinking it was the right thing to do then you need to get back to God's Word and learn from your mistakes. God will often allow us to grow more from our mistakes than our successes. This too is part of His overall will for us. His overall will for us is to conform us to the image of Christ.