

SEARCHING FOR THE WILL OF GOD
FAIRVIEW, TX
June 26, 2010

Ron Dart's sermon at the Feast of Tabernacles = Knowing the Will of God

“When God gives you an example - Follow it
When God gives you a command - Obey it
When God gives you a promise - Wait for it
When God gives you a lesson - Learn from it”

When God gives you an example - Follow it

John 13:

- 1 Now before the feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that His hour had come that He should depart from this world to the Father, having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the end.
- 2 And supper being ended, the devil having already put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray Him,
- 3 Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into His hands, and that He had come from God and was going to God,
- 4 rose from supper and laid aside His garments, took a towel and girded Himself.
- 5 After that, He poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet, and to wipe them with the towel with which He was girded.
- 6 Then He came to Simon Peter. And Peter said to Him, "Lord, are You washing my feet?"
- 7 Jesus answered and said to him, "What I am doing you do not understand now, but you will know after this."
- 8 Peter said to Him, "You shall never wash my feet!" Jesus answered him, "If I do not wash you, you have no part with Me."
- 9 Simon Peter said to Him, "Lord, not my feet only, but also my hands and my head!"
- 10 Jesus said to him, "He who is bathed needs only to wash his feet, but is completely clean; and you are clean, but not all of you."
- 11 For He knew who would betray Him; therefore He said, "You are not all clean."
- 12 So when He had washed their feet, taken His garments, and sat down again, He said to them, "Do you know what I have done to you?"
- 13 "You call me Teacher and Lord, and you say well, for so I am.
- 14 "If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet.
- 15 "For I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you.
 - When God gives you an example - Follow it

1 Corinthians 10:

- 1 Moreover, brethren, I do not want you to be unaware that all our fathers were under the cloud, all passed through the sea,
 - The cloud led them
- 2 all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea,

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- The sea baptized them
- 3 all ate the same spiritual food,
 - They were fed manna
- 4 and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them, and that Rock was Christ.
 - Water came from a rock
- 5 But with most of them God was not well pleased, for their bodies were scattered in the wilderness.
- 6 Now these things became our examples, to the intent that we should not lust after evil things as they also lusted.
 - All of those experiences point to Holy Days
 - They are examples for us to follow
- 7 And do not become idolaters as were some of them. As it is written, "The people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play."
- 8 Nor let us commit sexual immorality, as some of them did, and in one day twenty-three thousand fell;
- 9 nor let us tempt Christ, as some of them also tempted, and were destroyed by serpents;
- 10 nor complain, as some of them also complained, and were destroyed by the destroyer.
- 11 Now all these things happened to them as examples, and they were written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages have come.
 - We need to follow the examples throughout our lives

When God gives you a command - Obey it

John 15:

- 10 "If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love.
- 11 "These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full.
- 12 "This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.
- 13 "Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends.
- 14 "You are My friends if you do whatever I command you.
- 15 "No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you.
- 16 "You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you.
- 17 "These things I command you, that you love one another.

Of course, the Torah is one complete set of commandments, including the Ten Commandments. There is nothing in the Torah that is difficult to follow, unless it is taken to the extent of legalism, which Jesus taught against. But the Holy Days are all

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commanded to be kept. The laws of how to treat one another and how to worship God are all commandments.

Ecclesiastes 12:

- 1 Remember now your Creator in the days of your youth, Before the difficult days come, And the years draw near when you say, "I have no pleasure in them":
- 2 While the sun and the light, The moon and the stars, Are not darkened, And the clouds do not return after the rain;
- 3 In the day when the keepers of the house tremble, And the strong men bow down; When the grinders cease because they are few, And those that look through the windows grow dim;
- 4 When the doors are shut in the streets, And the sound of grinding is low; When one rises up at the sound of a bird, And all the daughters of music are brought low;
- 5 Also they are afraid of height, And of terrors in the way; When the almond tree blossoms, The grasshopper is a burden, And desire fails. For man goes to his eternal home, And the mourners go about the streets.
- 6 Remember your Creator before the silver cord is loosed, Or the golden bowl is broken, Or the pitcher shattered at the fountain, Or the wheel broken at the well.
- 7 Then the dust will return to the earth as it was, And the spirit will return to God who gave it.
- 8 "Vanity of vanities," says the Preacher, "All is vanity."
- 9 And moreover, because the Preacher was wise, he still taught the people knowledge; yes, he pondered and sought out and set in order many proverbs.
- 10 The Preacher sought to find acceptable words; and what was written was upright-words of truth.
- 11 The words of the wise are like goads, and the words of scholars are like well-driven nails, given by one Shepherd.
- 12 And further, my son, be admonished by these. Of making many books there is no end, and much study is wearisome to the flesh.
- 13 Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God and keep His commandments, For this is man's all.
- 14 For God will bring every work into judgment, Including every secret thing, Whether good or evil.

When God gives you a promise - Wait for it

Hebrews 6:

- 9 ¶ But, beloved, we are confident of better things concerning you, yes, things that accompany salvation, though we speak in this manner.
- 10 For God is not unjust to forget your work and labor of love which you have shown toward His name, in that you have ministered to the saints, and do minister.
- 11 And we desire that each one of you show the same diligence to the full assurance of hope until the end,

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- 12 that you do not become sluggish, but imitate those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.
- 13 For when God made a promise to Abraham, because He could swear by no one greater, He swore by Himself,
- 14 saying, "Surely blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply you."
 - Abraham had to wait many years before God proved His promise to be true
- 15 And so, after he had patiently endured, he obtained the promise.
- 16 For men indeed swear by the greater, and an oath for confirmation is for them an end of all dispute.
- 17 Thus God, determining to show more abundantly to the heirs of promise the immutability of His counsel, confirmed it by an oath,
- 18 that by two immutable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we might have strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold of the hope set before us.
- 19 This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which enters the Presence behind the veil,
- 20 where the forerunner has entered for us, even Jesus, having become High Priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.

Galatians 3:

- 16 Now to Abraham and his Seed were the promises made. He does not say, "And to seeds," as of many, but as of one, "And to your Seed," who is Christ.
- 17 And this I say, that the law, which was four hundred and thirty years later, cannot annul the covenant that was confirmed before by God in Christ, that it should make the promise of no effect.
- 18 For if the inheritance is of the law, it is no longer of promise; but God gave it to Abraham by promise.

Romans 4:

- 16 Therefore it is of faith that it might be according to grace, so that the promise might be sure to all the seed, not only to those who are of the law, but also to those who are of the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all
- 17 (as it is written, "I have made you a father of many nations") in the presence of Him whom he believed--God, who gives life to the dead and calls those things which do not exist as though they did;
- 18 who, contrary to hope, in hope believed, so that he became the father of many nations, according to what was spoken, "So shall your descendants be."
- 19 And not being weak in faith, he did not consider his own body, already dead (since he was about a hundred years old), and the deadness of Sarah's womb.
- 20 He did not waver at the promise of God through unbelief, but was strengthened in faith, giving glory to God,
- 21 and being fully convinced that what He had promised He was also able to perform.
- 22 And therefore "it was accounted to him for righteousness."

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- 23 Now it was not written for his sake alone that it was imputed to him,
- 24 but also for us. It shall be imputed to us who believe in Him who raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead,
- 25 who was delivered up because of our offenses, and was raised because of our justification.

When God gives you a lesson - Learn from it

Deuteronomy 4:

- 1 "Now, O Israel, listen to the statutes and the judgments which I teach you to observe, that you may live, and go in and possess the land which the LORD God of your fathers is giving you.
- 2 "You shall not add to the word which I command you, nor take from it, that you may keep the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you.
- 3 "Your eyes have seen what the LORD did at Baal Peor; for the LORD your God has destroyed from among you all the men who followed Baal of Peor.
- 4 "But you who held fast to the LORD your God are alive today, every one of you.
- 5 "Surely I have taught you statutes and judgments, just as the LORD my God commanded me, that you should act according to them in the land which you go to possess.
- 6 "Therefore be careful to observe them; for this is your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the peoples who will hear all these statutes, and say, 'Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people.'
- 7 "For what great nation is there that has God so near to it, as the LORD our God is to us, for whatever reason we may call upon Him?
- 8 "And what great nation is there that has such statutes and righteous judgments as are in all this law which I set before you this day?
- 9 "Only take heed to yourself, and diligently keep yourself, lest you forget the things your eyes have seen, and lest they depart from your heart all the days of your life. And teach them to your children and your grandchildren,
- 10 "especially concerning the day you stood before the LORD your God in Horeb, when the LORD said to me, 'Gather the people to Me, and I will let them hear My words, that they may learn to fear Me (*hold Him in awe*) all the days they live on the earth, and that they may teach their children.'

Titus 3:

- 9 But avoid foolish disputes, genealogies, contentions, and strivings about the law; for they are unprofitable and useless.
- 10 Reject a divisive man after the first and second admonition,
- 11 knowing that such a person is warped and sinning, being self-condemned.
- 12 When I send Artemas to you, or Tychicus, be diligent to come to me at Nicopolis, for I have decided to spend the winter there.
- 13 Send Zenas the lawyer and Apollos on their journey with haste, that they may lack nothing.

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- 14 And let our people also learn to maintain good works, to meet urgent needs, that they may not be unfruitful.
- 15 All who are with me greet you. Greet those who love us in the faith. Grace be with you all.

Be careful who you listen to

- Not everyone who sounds good is telling the truth

Be equally careful who you ignore

- Not everyone who cannot speak well is lying

Remember:

“When God gives you an example - Follow it

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When God gives you a lesson - Learn from it”

Then, you will be on the road to finding the will of God.