

The Greatest Preparation



Ephesians 5:17NKJV says:

“Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is.”

If I should be asking you, how are you preparing or what are your preparations for the new year, I’m so sure that I will hear diverse stories. These will include the proposed *“New Year Resolutions”*, a customary practice for most people, a list of items bought or intended to buy, places to visit and appointments to keep, plans for a career change, and others. Amazingly, some might even have plans to have a *“new look”*, a *facelift* they call it, according to this group of people, *looking good is a good business*. I agree!

A critical examination of this list, among others, reveals a theme; *“My Will”*. This is not to castigate anyone, be rest assured, you are not alone, it isn’t shocking but quite common to all *“natural”* beings. Our *“world”*; as an individual or as a planet, is so materialistic and very selfish. It has always been me and me, and not that alone, like *Oliver Twist*, we always want more, even amid excess. Never be surprised, it goes in line with the world’s ruling system (2 Corinthians 4:4). Now, you would ask if it is *normal* to pursue *“our will”*, what’s the issue again? Fine, it might be normal, but it isn’t right. We are the generation that seeks God, seeks His face to know *His Ways* and *His Will* (Psalm 24:6).

It is the highest level of folly to embark on an unknown journey cluelessly or ignorantly. Alas! This is just the pattern that many people have been following all their lives. Continually, they have been ignoring the Great Shepherd, sojourning without His blessings, not knowing, or understanding His Will for them regarding the voyage ahead. Remember, there are 366 days in 2024, being a Leap Year and it implies that there are 366 days full of evil ahead. That will not be for you and me in Jesus Christ’s name.

“Redeeming the time, because the days are evil.” - Ephesians 5:16

Beware! That the days ahead are evil is a reality, don’t let it sound religious to you. Stay on any news channel for just five minutes and you will be able to substantiate this truth. The good news is that we can still redeem these wicked days, making the most of the time, making every minute count, and using every opportunity. Making these days rewarding can only be possible on one crucial condition: *understanding His Will for the year ahead*.

It is critical to be fully conscious of the will of the Lord for the year 2024 and subsequent years ahead. Friends, I need to understand His, you need it as well and everyone needs to know His Will for their lives. It must be emphasized that as children of the Most High, we must always be sensitive to happenings around us, particularly to time and seasons.

In the Scripture, it was credited unto the children of the tribe of Issachar that they were people who understood the signs of the times. As a result of this quality, they knew the best course for Israel, they knew what to do on each occasion (1 Chronicle 12:32).

As you are preparing for 2024 and purpose to know the will of the Lord for your life, my prayer is that you will never be stranded in life. Remember, it was said of our Lord Jesus Christ that He always knew what to do at any time and in any situation (John 6:6). Some believers might want to contend that our biggest preparations as believers should be toward the second coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and nothing else. As a true Christ follower, you shouldn't be preparing for His coming but prepared and ever ready.

Scripturally, concerning His second coming, we must be prepared and expectant.

“You also must be ready all the time, for the Son of Man will come when least expected.” -Matthew 24:44NLT

In respect of career, gender, and race, among others, going to the new year without the knowledge of the “Will” and “Ways” of God is suicidal. We shouldn't forget that God's Ways are embedded in His Will. *You can only pursue His Will while walking on His paths.*

What are the gains of knowing His Will?

1. You have constant access to divine direction.

He shows you where to go, and you will be anxious for nothing.

“Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take.” - Proverbs 3:6NLT

2. You will be continually blessed

“Blessed be the Lord, who daily loadeth us with benefits,” - Psalm 68:19KJV

Your days being loaded with His benefits means that He will bear your burdens daily, carry you in His arms, treat you with kindness daily, and prosper you daily, among others.

3. Life of abundance is sure.

In His Will is the flourishing of life, the richness of life, the best quality of life, not on earth alone but for life eternal as well.

“.....I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.” - John 10:10KJV

4. Adequate protection is guaranteed.

This is a comprehensive protection; it covers you and all your interests.

**“Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil;
For You are with me;**” - Psalm 23:4NKJV

5. It is “shame proof” and “reproach proof”.

“For the Scripture says, “Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame.” - Romans 10:11NKJV

6. It is a source of strength.

“...but the people that do know their God shall be strong and do exploits.” - Daniel 11:32KJV

7. It enables scaling varying levels of glory.

You shall be attaining greater heights with ease; never shall you be found at the same point.

“But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.” - 2 Corinthians 3:18KJV

8. Divine rest is guaranteed.

You will cease from every labor and enter complete rest.

“Now we who have believed enter that rest, just as God has said.....”

“For anyone who enters God's rest also rests from their works,” - Hebrews 4:3,10NIV

Having known some of the benefits of knowing God's Will for your lives, how do you come under His Will? What are the ways of becoming partakers of the glory of accessing His Will?

How does He reveal His Will?

It's equally important to know that absolute submission is the foundation of receiving from God.

“Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.” - Romans 12:2NLT

These are some of the ways by which He makes "His Will" known to us.

1. By His Word

“Your words were found, and I ate them, And Your word was to me the joy and rejoicing of my heart; For I am called by Your name, O LORD God of hosts.” - Jeremiah 15:16NKJV

2. By His Holy Spirit.

“But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.”-John 14:26KJV

3. Through prayer, a prayer of inquisitiveness.

“See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.” - Psalm 139:24NIV

I pray that the Lord will reveal His Will to you and guide you to walk in His Ways in 2024 and beyond. You shall achieve your purpose and make maximum impact. It will be a fulfilling year and full of great testimonies for you and your loved ones.

Welcome to 2024, your year of “*amazing*” glory.

Jesus Christ is Lord