

THE GREATEST PREPARATION



Ephesians 5:17NKJV says:

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

As a way of introduction, I’m saying a Merry Christmas and a prosperous and fulfilling 2023 to you.

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 a lot. These might include a list of what you have bought or intend to buy, places to visit and appointments to keep, plans for a career change, and others. Funnily, some might even have plans to have a “new” look. If you have something similar to the ones listed, they are all good and look so lovely.

A careful look at this list, among others, points towards one direction; “*Our Will*”. Be rest assured, you are not the only one in this shoe, it is quite common to all “*natural*” humans. We are in a world that is so materialistic and very selfish in nature. It is always me and me, not that alone, we always want more, even when we have excess. Are these right? It is a complete and emphatic “NO”.

The Scripture says it is foolish, thoughtless, unwise, stupid, senseless, and completely ignorant to begin the year 2023 without knowing or understanding the *will of the Lord* for you. Remember, there are 365 days in 2023 and it implies that there are 365 days full of evil ahead. Not for you and I in Jesus Christ's name.

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

That the days ahead are evil is a reality, but we can still redeem them, making the most of the time, making every minute count, making use of every opportunity, taking advantage, and buying up every opportunity.

These are all possible but on one and only one condition: *knowing and understanding the will of the Lord for us in the year 2023 and subsequent years ahead.*

As children of the Most High, we must always be sensitive, particularly to time and seasons. When it comes to sensitivity, you should always remember the children of the tribe of Issachar in the Scripture. It was credited to them that they were men who understood the signs of the times. And because of this quality, they knew the best course for Israel, they knew what Israel should do per time(1 Chronicle 12:32).

As you are preparing to know the will of the Lord for your life in 2023, my prayer is that you will always know what to do. 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 people might want to say that our greatest preparations as believers should be toward the second coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and nothing else. Concerning His second coming, the Scripture says we must be expectant, ready, prepared, and watching, among others.

“You also must be ready all the time, for the Son of Man will come when least expected.” -Matthew 24:44NLT
As a true believer, you shouldn't be preparing for His coming but being prepared and ever ready. 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*. Therefore, the best and greatest preparation for 2023 is seeking the Will of the Lord.

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 henceforth.

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

2. You will be loaded daily with His benefits.

“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 that has to do with you.

“Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; For You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort 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 our lives, how do we come under His Will?
What are the ways of becoming partakers of the glory of accessing His Will?

How does He reveal His Will?

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. Absolute surrender

“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

3. 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

4. Through prayer, a prayer of inquisitiveness.

“Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts.

²⁴“See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.” - Psalm 139:23-24NIV

As you are entering a new year, 2023, I pray that the Lord will reveal His Will unto you and guide you to walk in His Ways in 2023 and beyond. This new year will be fulfilling and full of great testimonies for you. You shall achieve your purpose and make maximum impact. Most importantly, this year 2023 you will know and love God more. I welcome you to 2023, your year of glory in the mighty name of Jesus Christ.

Jesus Christ is Lord