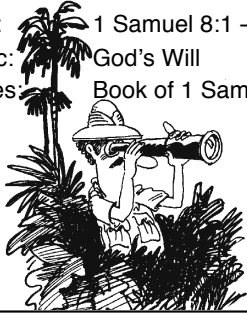


Text: 1 Samuel 8:1 – 12:25
Topic: God's Will
Series: Book of 1 Samuel

Focal Point Radio Ministries

January 23 & 24, 1999

Pastor Mike



In Search of God's Will

Hints for People Who Want God's Best

1. Always _____ (8:1-22)

2. Don't _____ (9:1 – 11:15)

3. When _____ (12:1-25)

Application Questions

These questions are provided for your further study and application of today's message. It is recommended that you take time this week to write out your response to each of these questions. This will help to drive home the point of today's message and will help you apply the principles to your life situation.

1. In Theodore Dreiser's *What I Believe* he writes, "As I see him, the unutterably infinitesimal individual weaves among the mysteries a floss-like and wholly meaningless course – if course it be. In short, I catch no meaning from all I have seen and pass quite as I came, confused and dismayed." Wow. Bummer! The non-Christian world view provides no hope of meaning or purpose for human existence – which, after all, had its origin in a cosmic accident. Right? Fortunately, that is not reality. God created us with a plan in mind! Not just for the world in general, but for each of us specifically. Read Ephesians 2:10. Though the details of your specific plan may be unclear to you, write out a prayer which expresses thanksgiving to God, the Great Architect, who has a plan for your life.

2. Our passage shows us that fear and insecurity can lead us astray in our quest to live in the center of God's will. How have these negatively influenced your decisions about what to do, where to go, or how to live? Be specific.

What other factors (other than fear and insecurity) have skewed your judgment and decision-making, that has sent your life on a spiritual detour?

3. What hasty or careless prayers have you prayed that God answered, but now you realize were more a reflection of your will than his?

Sometimes in this discussion difficult questions surface as to the relationship between "God's sovereignty" and our "free choice". Though not specifically about discovering or doing God's will, these paperbacks might prove helpful in grappling with this age-old question.

Basinger, David, and Randall Basinger, eds. *Predestination & Free Will: Four Views of Divine Sovereignty & Human Freedom*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 1986.

Carson, D. A. *Divine Sovereignty and Human Responsibility*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 1981.

Packer, J. I. *Evangelism and the Sovereignty of God*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 1961.

4. Is there currently a path in your life that God has allowed you to walk down of which you need to repent? What is it and how will you make the U-turn?
5. God is so gracious in taking our bullheaded mistakes and salvaging them for his glory. Write out a commitment to God that reflects your resolve to never give up on seeking his will and direction in your life, based on the truth that he never gives up on us (see 1Sam.12:20-25)!