

KNOWING GOD'S WILL LIVING AN AMAZING LIFE

We are all in pursuit of amazement.

This happens more than we realize.

Every time I watch a sports event I expect to be amazed.

Without exceptional plays it is a disappointing game, unless the Leafs win.

In sports we want amazing saves, amazing receptions, amazing volleys.

When I golf I hope for an amazing shot.

Those who golf with me are rarely disappointed.

I can make amazingly bad strokes.

Have you ever said, "That meal was amazing!"?

Parents want kids to bring home amazing report cards.

Amazing musicians, athletes, chefs, writers, actors, or directors.

Award ceremonies are all about honoring their amazing accomplishments.

How you ever stopped to think what is amazing in the Church?

I was amazed when the kids recited the books of the Old Testament last week.

We sing songs, "Your love is amazing", "Amazing Grace".

"I stand amazed in the presence of Jesus the Nazarene.

And wonder how He could love me a sinner condemned unclean."

Occasionally a song or a sermon or a testimony amazes us.

Do you know what should be the most amazing thing about the church?

You and me should be the most amazing thing about the church.

The world should look at us and say, "WOW, I didn't see that coming!"

Isn't that just the guy up the street who works on his truck?

Isn't that the lady who shops at Extra Foods?

Doesn't that person work the drive through or cook the fries?

Anyone who follows God's will is amazing.

Nothing else even comes close.

The Psalmist recognized that fact in writing Psalm 119.

Verses 1 and 2 start with the word "Blessed" (straight, level, happy, prosper).

You are blessed when you desire to know God's plan for your life.

Last week in Psalm 19 we saw amazing qualities of God's will.

This week while I was on prayer retreat I read Psalm 119.

It was part of my progression of reading through the Psalms.

It is 176 verses packed with God revealing His will.

Interestingly in the notes of my Bible Psalm 19 and 119 were compared.

In Psalm 19:7-14 every verse contains the word law or equivalent.

Every verse in Psalm 119 contains the word law or its equivalent.

Law, testimony, ways, precepts, statutes, commandments, ordinances.

That is just the first 7 verses.

God lays His plan out for us - no mystery - just amazing.

There is no magic formula.

Lloyd John Ogilvie says, **"The longing to know God's will is a gift."**

Wanting God's will is an indication that God's Spirit is at work in your life.

He creates that longing (vs. 4-6, diligent, steadfast, fixed).

Maybe that is a new concept for you - God makes us hungry to know His will.

Knowing the will of God is not some huge mystery with an elusive answer.

Rather the foundation of God's will is a relationship with Him (v. 10).

God is seeking us.

He wants to communicate His ultimate will to us (v. 12).
That is where His stunning revelation begins.
God's will comes out of fellowship with Him.
He discloses His purpose, power, and plan for our lives.
It becomes amazing when we realize God created us for this knowledge.
We have the capacity to experience the nature of God (v. 2, whole heart).
We can be holy as He is holy (v. 9).
We can love as He first loved us.
We can experience peace and joy, qualities of our Heavenly Father.
We can be people after God's own heart.
We were meant to think God's thoughts.
We have the capacity to receive and express His love.
The most amazing thing is the desire to know and do His will (v. 14).
This was not by accident, but by God's perfect design for our lives.
God made us for a magnificent purpose - to receive His love and glorify Him.
This is why He came to dwell in our flesh.
Jesus came to restore the broken fellowship with God caused by sin.
He affirmed God's will that every Jew knew.
"Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. And ... you shall love your neighbor as yourself."
Jesus did not change God's will.
Jesus clarified it by His own example.
He showed love in its purest expression, sacrifice.
And He loved us so that we could be restored to fellowship with God.
Knowing Jesus and putting our faith in Him is the foundation of God's will.
There is no point in seeking God's will until we have sought Jesus.
Jesus asked many times, "who am I"
There were all kinds of theories about who Jesus was.
A prophet, a great teacher, even Beelzebub - all theories.
If Jesus is a theory, God's will is nothing more than a theory.
We have to know Jesus to know God's will.
Confused thinking about Jesus puts our will in bondage.
A will in bondage will only distort God's will.
That is the devastation of sin.
Sin sends us in any direction other than to where God is.
Sin deprives us from fulfilling the reason we were born.
We have two choices; God's will or a life of willfulness (vs. 21-22).
A life of willfulness is like a child in a tantrum of will.
A child like that can't be reasoned with.
They eventually become so distraught they don't know what they want.
They just don't want what the parent wants.
We all lived like that because of our broken relationship with God.
He is the parent and we are the temper-tantrum-infested child.
And that is exactly why Jesus came.
In Jesus life becomes miraculous and amazing.
In Jesus we desire God's guidance in our daily life.
We have been wonderfully created to respond to the will of God.
God created us with the mind, spirit, and soul.
I like this insight from Lloyd John Ogilvie.
"They enable us to receive God's mind, respond to God's Spirit, and have our souls prepared for eternity." (v. 11)
Do you want to see something amazing this morning?
Simply look at the people sitting around you.
We are living an amazing life when we seek God and desire His will.
James says, God **"yearns jealously over the spirit which He has made to dwell in us. ... You ought to say, 'If the Lord wills, we shall live and we shall do this or that.'"** (James 4:5, 15)