

## **GUIDANCE FROM GOD SERIES**

### **THREE KEYS TO THE WILL OF GOD**

We are on the guidance of God. It's such a blessing to know the Word of God. To be taught the Word of God and to be able to walk in the will of God. The purpose of this series is in order to help each one of us even more closely to the will of God in our lives. I believe that there is no greater call than to do God's perfect will. Forget about fortune. Forget about fame. Forget about all the things of this life because all these things God can easily add them on to you. The most important goal that we have and we must have in our lives is to do God's perfect will. I was speaking to one of the graduates of the bible school and he was about to go back to his home country. He had been here for sometime. He asked me several questions and I left one last word with him. I said the most important thing that you ever seek in your life it's not fortune, it's not fame, it's not the thing of this world but it's God's perfect will. I pray that word stays in his life.

In order to do God's perfect will, we need to hear God. Hearing is something, which we grow into. It's not necessary something that comes instantly. John 10: 27 did not say, "My lambs will hear My voice," but it says "My sheep hear My voice." From the time we were born again we are little lambs in God. It takes us time to grow to be a sheep to discern and hear God's voice. It didn't say My lambs hear My voice, He says My sheep hear My voice. What do the lambs do then? The lambs follow the sheep until they learn to hear the voice of God. I have only three

little points to share this morning for guidance from God.

We will read first from Joshua 1: 8, Joshua had taken over leadership from Moses. It is not easy to fill in Moses' shoes. Joshua was a servant to Moses for forty years. Now that Moses had died and gone home to be with God. Joshua has to fill in his shoes. I would gather those were huge shoes. It's not easy to move into a position where Moses had acquired over forty years. God was encouraging him and the word 'be strong and of good courage' is repeated many times to Joshua. God spoke these words to him through Moses before Moses died. Spoken by the people to Joshua. Not only does he have to fit in those shoes, he has one of the most important things to do, which Moses did not succeed. He has to lead the people into the Promised Land. In verse 8, God gave him a personal promise.

Joshua 1: 8 *"This book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success."*

He is giving him a revelation on how to obtain guidance from Him. How to walk in the will of God for his life and do what God called him to do. The first point that I would like to share on, I have titled it "Hard working hands and feet." God spoke these words to him. I like to point to verse 3, *"Every place that sole of your foot will tread upon I have given you, as I said to Moses."* Every place where your sole tread upon will be yours. We could look at it positively and negatively. Looking at it negatively means that any place that you are too lazy to step on is not yours. If you were to just stand in one corner and put your feet there in that corner and wait for Me to give you that Promised Land, I am not going to give that Promise Land. If you are going to be a lazy bum then you will not have the Promised Land. If you are going to step on only one square foot of land, that's all that is going to be and it's not even big enough to build your toilet let alone to put your bed on it. God says every place where your foot steps upon will be yours. It seems that the discovery of God's will in our life and the possession and manifestation of God's will in our life require effort on our part. Not forgetting verse 8 whatever you do will prosper provided you have done certain homework about the book of the Law, about meditating the Word of God. Then whatever you do will prosper. But again we see the emphasis there is a doing. Without he going

and doing there is no revelation that God will bring forth.

Along the way, as he fought the battle, there were things that he needed to call upon God. Like how he cried unto God and commanded the sun and the moon to be still. How he depended on God and God worked in their lives. Conquering the Promised Land was not just walking into it. We know what it entails. They had to take their sword in the hands and the shield in the other. They go out and fight in order to possess the land. That is the picture of Christian possessing the promises in Jesus Christ. Yet how many Christians who are waiting for God's will to be done in their lives are just sitting somewhere around. It's alright to pray in your prayer closet, we need to continue doing that. It's alright to meditate on God's Word; we need to continue doing that. Please continue strongly in that. But if all we do is sit around and wait in a corner we will not possess the land. We need to do something about it. There is a doing.

Lets turn also to Psalms 1: 3 *"He shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that brings forth its fruit in its season, whose leaf also shall not wither; and whatever he does shall prosper."*

## **1. Hardworking Hands and Feet**

Your prosperity and the will of God accomplished in your life depend on your doing and your going besides your being. Now first point in discovering God's will in our life is what I called hard working hands and feet. It can be rephrased in this manner for our understanding. Unless you do with all your heart, mind, soul and strength and all that you know how to do, there will be no other thing coming forth. I repeat again in case you missed it. Unless we work hard with our heart, mind, soul and strength and put all our energy to do our best, in all that we know how to do, you will not discover the other parts of God's will. There are a lot of people who are not doing their best. They are not doing their best to please God. They are not doing their best, giving their best effort to do all that they know how to do. Now it's fine if you don't know what to do and how to do. But when you know how to do and what to do and you don't give God your best, put all your

strength and energy into it, put all your heart into it, put all your mind into it, put all your physical energy into it, put all your resources and finances into it, put all your time into it, knowing that that is what God wants you to do, there will be no more revelation that comes. And you can sit around for another fifty years and nothing will happen.

Have you noticed that the people who move into doing God's will in this earth, throughout history, besides the life of Jesus Christ, and even in the Old Covenant and the New Covenant, have you realized that there is something about their lives? Whatever they do, they do with all their hearts. There is no half measure. Let me tell you why point one is important. There are too many Christians who do things with half measure. I have walked with God for twenty years in the ministry. Before I was in the ministry, I was born again in 1974. I went into ministry in 1976. I have been twenty-two years in the Lord. Twenty of those years have been in the ministry. I have found one thing about God. If you don't do with all your heart, energy and resources what you know it's God's will nothing else happen. If God calls you into the ministry and God tells you for example go and build a bible school. If you are not willing to sell your car and your house and put all your money to do that, don't expect a miracle from God. I didn't say that you have to do it but you must be willing to do. And if God calls you into the business world, a chosen generation and God reveals to you and says, "This is what I call you to do, to bring the finances of the world into the kingdom of God. This is what I have revealed to you. This is the business that you must go in." You only act in half measure because you play safe. The word *play safe* is another word for lack of faith and you give Him a half measure.

Let me explain, God does not take half measures. When you do something for God, He expects you to be willing to put your whole life into it. God does not want your money. He wants your life because He knows if He has your life He will use all your resources. There are far too many Christians who are not finding God's will. They ask God, "Why is it that there are so many of Your people are not discovering the fullness of Your will?" God replies, "They don't love Me with all their heart, mind, soul and strength. If I were to ask them to do something they give me only half a measure. I tell them something to do and they give only one percent of their commitment. The most they would go is only 10% of their commitment. They are not willing to touch on all of their resources to do what I

called them to do.” If they keep doing that, even for the next hundred years, they would still not see the glorious church. Let me encourage you. If you want to accelerate then move into the fullness of that which God’s wants to do. Then do it with all your heart. And within five years you will reach what takes place fifty years. Not only will you have the blessings of that but also the most important thing is you have done God’s perfect will. The others are still struggling to discover His will. God expects us to flow into the fullness of that.

Joshua may not know a lot of things yet to do. He may not know what other things he has to do but he will take it one step at a time. God will not reveal His will entirely. He reveals His will a little bit at a time. We see in part and we know in part. We do not have the capacity to see everything at one time. God prefers to reveal it that way so that we exercise trust and faith in Him. One of the first laws is the law of hard working hands and feet. With your hands and your feet symbolically, you do all that you know how to do and God will show up. If you don’t do it with all your heart, God will not show up. I have seen so many miracles of God. I have seen it when you do something and you use it to the last one cent and God comes through. But if you don’t use it to the last one cent, God doesn’t come through. Thank God. He does.

Think about the people in the bible. You can name anyone. Abraham walked with God but not in the full measure. God says in Genesis 12, *‘Abraham, get out of your kindred and of this land and go into the land which I have called you.’* And he went out but he did something that God never asked him to do. He took his nephew Lot along. Because of Abraham’s partial obedience, God couldn’t reveal anything else. God could only bless him to the extend that God could because God is a God of love. He blesses us to the maximum possible with the commitment we have.

Have you ever wondered why Abraham took his nephew along? There are multiple theories why Abraham took Lot with him. One of the most possible cases that we could argue from is he took Lot either as an emotional or physical security; as a just-in-case-something-fouled-up. Now you cannot say it was Lot who followed Abraham. The bible says Abraham took Lot. I could argue from context too. See Abraham was someone who doesn’t say goodbye easily to those whom he loves or to those whom he has established a relationship.

In Genesis 12: 4, *“So Abram departed as the Lord had spoken to him, and Lot went with him. And Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran. Verse 5, “Then Abram took Sarai his wife and Lot his brother’s son.”*

He took, the Hebrew word means he took his wife and he took Lot. Why did he take him? I could research Abraham’s emotional make up and prove to you from the book of Acts 7 as compared to Genesis 11 and show forth that by the time God called him in Genesis 12: 1, it was a second time God called him because the first time that God called him was in Acts 7 and was recorded by Stephen. Acts 7: 2 *“Brethren and fathers, listen: The God of glory appeared to our father Abraham when he was in Mesopotamia.’* See the word there ‘before’ and he says that, *“Before he dwelt in Haran.”* Now in Genesis 11: 31 *“And Terah took his son Abram”,* according to Joshua chapter 24, Terah was an idol worshipper and *“Terah took his son Abram and his grandson Lot, the son of Haran, and his daughter-in-law Sarai, his son Abram’s wife, and they went out with them from Ur of the Chaldeans to go to the land of Canaan; and they came to Haran and dwelt there.”*

The bible says in Acts 7: 2 before verse 31, before he dwelt in Haran. But Abraham is someone whom God has dealt with too. He’s just like us. He’s a great man of faith eventually as he walked with God. Some of you who are walking with God, you make mistakes, you have done things in your life, please don’t worry about it. Just keep going. The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord. Though he falls yet he shall not be cast down. Just pick yourself up and go on. There are many times Abraham has fallen and failed. He picked himself up and go on. Eventually he became a mighty man of faith. Before he dwelt in Haran God spoke to him. But Abraham could not give up his father easily. He could not give up all those things around him easily. That’s the revelation of the character and the emotion of Abraham. Only when his father died, did God spoke to him again because God looks at him and says it’s no use speaking to him now. Terah is too much an influence and too great a voice to him. So God could be on one side and God says, ‘Abraham come and follow Me. This is God speaking.’ And Terah would be on the other side and says, ‘Abraham come to me, I am Terah your father.’ The bible says in Joshua 24 that Terah was an idol worshipper. Here is

Abraham; he is caught in between. He hears two voices: the voice of God and the voice of his father. God knew, God has called in Acts 7: 2 before he dwelt in Haran but Abraham did not hear God's voice. Maybe he heard and he shut it down. Maybe he heard and he put it down. But the voice of Terah, the terror was too loud. What did you do? Talk about the will of God? It could be our life that we are talking about. Maybe you had your Terah in your life. Maybe the Terah in your life need to die before you discover God's will. I pray God it will not be so. Do you know why? You don't want to be seventy-five years old when you do God's will. Abraham had to wait till his father died. That does not mean some of you are praying for someone to die. Pray for them to be converted. Terah was an idol worshipper who did not know God, who did not respect God. Some of you do not know your bible that well. Better read that verse two otherwise you think is this real. It's as real as the bible you hold in your hand, which if you didn't know this truth you probably didn't read that part.

*Joshua 24: 2 "Joshua said to all the people, 'Thus says the Lord God of Israel: Yours fathers, including Terah, the father of Abraham and the father of Nahor, dwelt on the other side of the River in old times; and they served other gods.'"*

Maybe there is a Terah in your life that prevent you from discovering God's will in your life. It may be in a form of a person. It may be in the form of an organization. It may be in the form of an emotional grudges that you got in the early days of your life. You know what God does? He kept calling Abraham, Abraham did not hear. And on the other side he said to Terah, "Yes daddy." And what does God do? God says I will forget about him until Terah died. Maybe that's God's will in our lives. We haven't discovered God's will. We haven't heard God's voice because there are other voices that are crowding out the voice of God. I bring all those things to show how that even when Terah died, Abraham heard God's call the second time. The moment Terah's funeral was over, God said, 'Abraham.' Now there is only one voice because the other voice is now silent. God said, "Get out; I have spoken to you for years and years and years ago. Get out of this place. I am calling you." And he heard God's voice. He packed all his goods and possessions and he took his wife's family, and you know sometimes some of us have an emotional grudge, something that's sentimental to you. It could be a person. It could be a thing. And he takes Lot along. He has only one problem. Lot was not as dedicated to God as he. My friends, if you ever form a team of business

colleague, if you ever form a team of ministry, make sure they have the same dedication. If you have people of different level of dedication you will realize it will affect your operation. Somewhere along the line, they start quarreling because their commitment is different. That shows something about Abraham. He wanted to do God's will like many Christians. Like many Christians by the mercy of God a lot of hindrances like Terah has been removed but it's more their own personal decision now that they are not committing their heart, mind, soul and strength and energy and all their resources to God. Along the way because of their lack of commitment, in a sense God did speak but most of the time is silence from heaven. Sometimes they are wondering why God is so silent. Why God does not reveal. Why God does not speak.

Let me explain something. There has been many times in my life, when I have put my all for God, and I have felt many times that Abraham offering Isaac. I have nothing left to offer Him. I have given and given and offered until I have nothing left. I said, 'God I only have my life.' I shared the other time, in the offering time I said, it is an attitude that every time we come to God we should have something in our hands for Him. We come to God to worship Him. In the Old Testament we worship God we have to bring something. Now we all are thankful that Jesus replaced all those sacrifices. Lets not forget that when we come to God, lets have something to bring to Him because you love Him. It can be represented by anything. Some of us don't have much because we are in need. Let me tell you what you have, you can always find something to bring to God. If you don't have finances, you are really down to your last two mites like the widow; you gave your last two mites away. You have nothing more to give. The next Sunday you have nothing more to give. Do you know what you can give? Give your time. There is no such thing that any human being has nothing to give to God. We should learn to have that attitude.

There are many times I have given and given and I said, Lord, there is nothing more I can do. Here is the good news. It is during those times that the voice of God is so clear. It is like you got direct line with heaven and God completely disallowed the devil from even tempting or inflicting. You know there are other times you are given a choice because of a test you are going through. I found that when you are Abraham putting your Isaac on the altar, the voice of God is so clear. It's like a direct line with God. You could be down to your last ounce of

energy and I have always heard God's voice so clear and says, 'Son, this is what you must do next.' And it's always something that He tells you to do. And it keeps you going and then along comes the breakthrough.

Let me challenge you. Law number one, if you want to hear God, you want to do God's will, you must put all your hands and feet. Put all your energy to do what you know that God already told you to do. Now some of us are not confident enough. God has repeated three times to you, five times to you, give you five prophecies, three confirmations and two scriptures and you still say, O God please confirm one more time. By His grace He did. But there comes a time when God say, 'Are you listening or are you not listening?' Sometime it's more of our willingness to obey than God's willingness to speak. Unless we have passed stage one, hard working hands and feet, you have done all you know. When I know that God speaks something, don't come and stop me because I want to do it even if it causes my blood. When I know that something is God's will, that's it, I will burn my bridges and go. Maybe other people have a different personality but that's me and that's the reason God called me into the call that God has for me. He adapts my personality to that.

It's important whether you are called into the ministry like me or you are called into any other area. If you want to succeed in your life, if you want to do what God calls you to do, if you want to go like Paul says, you have to be very hardworking. You know Paul was someone who worked hard. Why did Paul reach such heights of usefulness to God? You read Galatians, Paul says he excels above his contemporaries. He was someone who does not know how to serve God in half measures. If he serves the devil, he serves the devil with all his heart, which is bad of course. But if he serves God, he serves God with all his heart. He doesn't know half measure.

Maybe I should turn to that verse in Gal. 1: 14, when he was a Jew, he was the best Jew. When he was a Pharisee, he was the best Pharisee. When he was the persecutor, he was the best persecutor. Which is of course the sad part. But when he was a Christian, he was the best Christian. When he was a preacher, he wants to be the best. No half measure with him. He says in verse 14 of Galatians chapter one, *"And I advanced in Judaism beyond many of my contemporaries in my own nation,*

*being more exceedingly zealous for the traditions of my fathers.”* When he was a Pharisee he was a real Pharisee. That is why in one lifetime, he could touch the whole world. The whole known world in his time knew the ministry of the apostle Paul. If you want to live a life of mediocrity, go ahead you will have a mediocre reward in heaven. But you want to burn your life out for God. Not burnt out because of stress but burn for God like a bright flame. Burning even to the last drop of energy until Jesus comes and you will receive the reward from God.

Discover God’s will in your life. Hard working hands and feet. You see why Paul succeeded. Name anybody else in the bible. I can tell you that the main fact is when God reveals a little bit they go all their way to the best. There are so many revelations. Lets say God reveals one decigram of His voice and word and you obey God 100%. Then God reveals two decigram and you obey 100%. What about another person? God reveals one decigram and you do everything in half measures; half this, half that. Do you know that God will never reveal the second decigram? He will never. That explains why many Christians are not getting guidance from God. They haven’t even obeyed to what they know with all their heart. Law no. 1 was not operating. Their hands and their feet are not working for God to do what they know in their heart is God’s will.

## **2. The Stirring in Our Hearts and Minds**

Second law: the stirring in our hearts. Your hard working hands and feet is no. 1. No. 2 is the stirring in our hearts and in our hearts and mind. When we touch on stage one or law no. 1, many people have a problem because they say, “How do I know whether I am serving God in the flesh or in the spirit?” Most Christians in their heart really want to make sure that they serve God in the spirit and not in the flesh. We know how we can end up doing God’s will in the flesh. We used man’s method. We used man’s wisdom to do God’s work when God wants us to use spiritual methods. God wants us to use spiritual means to do His spiritual work. He does not want us to use our carnal energy, so we have to resolve that question, which is resolved by stage two here.

Let me explain the difference. The difference lies in the stirring up in our hearts and in our minds. The difference between serving God in the flesh is that you are doing something that the energy was not given from the inside. That was not stirring. The difference is on the internal mechanism, the internal energy. If there is no energizing from the inside of you, then that is serving God in the flesh. The difference is whether God told you to do it. When we do something that God never tell us to do that's in the flesh. We have to learn to hear God. Here is the balance. On one side, you are very hard working. Whatever God tells you to do, you do it with all your heart, mind, soul and strength. But you need the other side in order to check yourself that if God does not tell you anything, you will not even lift one finger to do anything. You will not even lift one finger to do anything unless you make sure that is really God. That must temper our character. We must make sure that it is God. We must make sure that it's God energizing us.

The difference between whether something is in the flesh or in the spirit is whether it's energized by God or energized by your own zeal. The difference is whether you have it on your inside. When you have it on your inside its different. When you have it on your outside its different. Do you know from the outside it both look the same. That's the interesting point because what determines it is on the inside not from the outside. A person with zeal looks the same as a person with zeal doing God's will. But those with the most discerning can tell the difference because of the presence of God. The peace and the love of God is present when you are walking with God. See God is love. When you are walking in God with great zeal the love is still there. But when you are walking with zeal without God's will love is absent. You lose love. You don't operate by love. The difference is not on the outside. To anyone on the outside it looks the same but it's on the inside. What's going on makes a great difference.

Let me tell you a secret that there are times I have been with God in prayer, the stirring is so great that I cannot stand it. I got to do something. If you understand what I am talking about, there is a stirring on the inside to do God's will. And if you really spend time with God and the more you spend time with God the stirring is greater. You could not do anything but to obey. Let me point to some scriptures here.

Galatians 2, first is the law of hard work. Second is the law of stirring of our hearts and minds. Galatians 2: 8-9 *“For he who worked effectively in Peter for the apostleship to the circumcised also worked effectively in me toward the Gentiles and when James, Cephas, and John, who seemed to be pillars, perceived the grace that had been given to me, they gave me and Barnabas the right hand of fellowship, that we should go to the Gentiles and they to the circumcised.”*

Notice in Galatians 2: 8 it says *he worked effectively in*. There’s something stirring in them on the inside. It’s the preacher in them who wants to go out. It’s the mission in them that want. Something was stirring Paul to go out on his missionary journey. It came into his heart. It came into his mind. There was a stirring from within. When you have that stirring you obey with all your heart, mind and soul. See when we serve God, it still takes fleshly energy. I am talking in a very brutal and blunt sense. It still takes energy. It takes energy to pray to God four hours a day. It takes energy to sit down and do all those planning God gives. It takes energy but the difference is your energy is energized by another power. When you are serving God you still sweat. You still have blood, sweat and tears. The other guy over there also has blood, sweat and tears. Don’t tell me that serving God does not consume your energy. Of course God recharges you. It takes your time. It takes your energy but there is a difference. You are empowered from within.

Paul in the book of Ephesians 3: 7 *“Of which I became a minister according to the gift of grace of God given to me by the effective working of His power.”* That is on the inside. The energizing of God is from the inside. The key difference is the stirring. You have a stirring from God.

I Cor.15, we say its by grace. Yes, it’s by grace. How does the grace operate? The grace stirs you. The grace energizes you. You feel like you have been charged ten millions volts and you just want to come out to do something. I Cor. 15: 10 *“But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me was not in vain.”* Do you notice that he still has to do something? God gives you the grace to do His will but if you don’t allow the grace on your inside to come out, the will of God will still not be accomplished.

Paul is the type of person who when he knows God's grace and God's will, he does it with all his heart and mind and soul and strength. In the next phrase, he says in verse 10, *"But I labored more abundantly than they all."* Who are *they all*? Look at the verse before that and they all refer to the other apostles. I am not making it up. Look in the bible. Verse 9, *"I am the least of the apostles, who am not worthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me was not in vain. But I labored more abundantly than they all, yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me."* Paul labored more abundantly than all the other apostles put together.

Some of us may sit around and say, well, Paul was called to be an apostle. That's why he was the way he is. Just called to be apostle to the Gentiles, that's why he was more famous and more well-known. I am sure there were other people called to be apostles, sent out to the Gentiles in various places and they received the grace of God too. Paul received the grace of God too. Then what makes the difference? He was more hardworking than the other apostles. Tom, Dick and Harry could be called to be prophets. They all received the same graces but what makes the difference is the extra hard work and diligence. Don't come and tell me that it's because one received a ten-fold anointing and another one received one fold and the other receive 1/10 fold.

When Jesus appeared to me in 1986, He taught me that the anointing could be increased. You cannot change your call but you can increase your anointing. It's pure laziness in us that refuse that anointing. It's nothing to do with God's call. We recognized you cannot do something God never called you to but after God called you to do, whatever He called you to do, it's up to how hardworking you are to tap on the maximum anointing you can. The anointing can increase in your life. The call is already determined before you were born but the anointing can be increased. We have the bible scriptures. Let me ask you this question. When Elisha had two times the anointing of Elijah, is it because God called him to be so? Or because he desired it? He desired it. His call cannot change but his anointing can be increased. It's how hardworking they are. You could be called to the business world, you could be called to be a financier and sit around in your laurels. If you know your call, it depends on how hardworking you are in working the

grace of God out in your life that determines how much you receive from God.

Remember King David, when he fell into sin, committed adultery with Bathsheba and God spoke to him. God said, I could hear the cry of the father. He was in a sense said to David, "David, I love you so much. I took you when you were nothing. I have done all these things for you. Given everything to you. Why do you have to do all these things? Why did you make My enemies mock Me because you are My chosen one." David was a billionaire by that time yet God said, "David, if all I have given you is not enough, if all the riches I have given to you are not enough, you could have asked Me for more." Is it God who set a limit or is it us? The grace of God draws the boundaries of your work and call. But how hardworking you are determines the extent of the anointing and the grace that you received. The anointing can be increased. Grace can be increased. It's in the bible story in the book of II Samuel. God said to David, "David! If all that I have given you up to now is too little, you could have asked Me for more and I will give to you. Only, O David, please don't sin. Whatever you do, don't sin. If what I have given to you, you consider it only a miserable pinch of salt, ask Me for more. I would have given you more." God said that to him.

II Samuel 12: 7-8 *"Thus says the Lord God of Israel: I anointed you king over Israel, and I delivered you from the hand of Saul. I gave to you your master's house and your master's wives into your keeping, and gave you the house of Israel and Judah. And if that had been too little, I also would have given you much more."*

He says, 'David if you are prepared to work hard for Me, you can tap much more but please don't sin.' There is a stirring that God placed. When we refer to I Cor. 15: 10 *"By the grace of God I am what I am."* Do you know everybody stops there? But don't forget the other part of the verse. *"And His grace towards me was not in vain."* That means God could give you the grace and because you are a lazy bum, it was in vain. Strong words. He implies that it could be in vain. I wonder whether God has given His grace to our lives in vain. Because we did not do the other part that Paul did. He says His grace towards me was not in vain. But I labored more abundantly than they all. He didn't say God labored. He didn't say the Spirit in him labored. Although we know the Spirit is in him. I tell you, when you labor with all your heart, mind and soul, when your Spirit is laboring you can't

tell the difference because your whole being is consumed by God. All you know is you want to do God's will with all your heart, all your mind and all your soul and with all your strength. He says I labored more abundantly than they all; yet not I but the grace of God which was with me. He recognized it was the stirring of God in his life that gave him the energy. O I thank God for this stirring. I have experienced the stirring of God. When God stirs me, when God put His stirring in my life, I feel I could do the work of ten people. Some people say how could you do so many things. It's the stirring of God. You are just energized to do all those things.

Get the stirring of God on your inside. Make sure you discern what God stirs you to do. When God reveals His will to you, He will put the grace of God to perform His will. Don't let the grace be in vain. Let the grace move in you and touch you. But do not be stirred from without. You know some people do something just because they are stirred from without. They either do it for fame or fortune. They do it for money. They do it for attention. They do it for popularity. They do it from with out. All these things will pass away. But when you do it from within, you don't care what the devil may do. You don't care what man may do. You don't care for anything but you are only concerned for the will of God. In stage two, I am talking about doing something for God from within. Say it's from within. Say it again; it's from within.

There are far too many people do it from with out. You know why some pastors are discouraged? You know why some ministers are discouraged? You know why some people are discouraged? Because they are doing it from without. When the without does not encourage them enough, when the without does not produce some results, when the without does not bring all those things then they expect people to bring to their lives, they get discouraged. Let me tell you if you do something from within, you don't care. You don't care even if the world doesn't care. You don't care even when no one cares. You don't care even when nobody cares. All you want to do is that you want to burn your life for God. Your life will move heaven and earth because your life is doing God's will. You don't care even when people don't care because you know you are moved from within. You know where you are going. There are a lot of people who don't know where they are going. You know where you are going and you know what you are doing.

Second point was what I call the stirring of the heart and of the mind. It will put more energy in your life than you could ever dream. Some people are surprised that all the things can be done within 24 hours. I am surprised myself. I found that in five minutes time God could give you ideas and things to do that could have taken five years. When the stirring comes, it stirs your heart and mind. You just know what to do. You just know exactly what to do. It's just all in split second time. The best part of it is that those who work in the flesh they get knocked out. Those who work from the spirit from within, the spirit who live from your inside strengthen your mortal body and at the end of the day you are as fresh as ever. In fact I found it the opposite. When you have done all those things for God and sometimes you got so much anointing on your life you don't know what to do with it. In fact I have to go for a walk to release all the extra energy. There were too much energy flowing. I have to go for a walk to release all the energy. He gives extra. He does not just give you enough and you use it right to the end and you are knocked out. No, He gives you extra. More than enough. It just flows out from your system. In fact the more you do things for God, sometimes the anointing is so great, some of you who have experienced it, you got the anointing of God, it comes with the anointing so much in you that you can't sleep. You can't sleep not because you are worried. You can't sleep not because the cares for this world and the future on you. You can't sleep because of the presence of God. All you want to do is just praise God and worship God. You say God if this continue on this way we will all be – and go home to heaven. Sometimes the anointing is so great that you had to go out and work out the anointing. When it's all released out of you, finally you can sleep.

### **3. Open Ears and Open Hearts**

Point no.1 hardworking hands and feet. Point no.2 stirring of hearts and minds. Point no. 3 open ears and open hearts. Sometimes some people work hard for God with their ears closed. They are sometimes like some animals that are able to move their ears and close their ears. Some dogs do that. When the dogs are concentrating on something, their ears pick up and then when they are doing some other things their ears fall back. Some people have their ears folded back when they are working hard for God. We must have open ears and open eyes so that while you

are doing whatever God tells you to do, do it with all your heart. When there is stirring on your inside, yet at the same time you are so sensitive to God in the midst of the household activities, your ears are so sharp that if God whisper you could hear Him. Why is that necessary? Because God continue to speak when you fulfill the two laws. Put your heart into it and the Lord will stir forth. God continue to speak in the midst of your activities. I have found this to be so. God speaks to me all the time. Now I do spend time with God. I do spend time in the prayer closet. I find that in the prayer closet God gives me the plan. I have found that on the street God gives me the methods and He refines the various methods. I know what I am supposed to do from the prayer closet. But as I am out on the street or out in the land of Canaan fighting, God began to give me more details. Strategy. One thing I know, if I don't go out into the street, go out into the land of Canaan to fight against the giants I know I will never receive the details. But God does reveal His details.

*Turn to the book of II Samuel 5: 17 "Now when the Philistines heard that they had anointed David king over Israel, all the Philistines went up to search for David. And David heard of it and went down to the stronghold. The Philistines also went and deployed themselves in the Valley of Rephaim. So David inquired of the Lord, saying, 'Shall I go up against the Philistines? Will you deliver them into my hand?' And the Lord said to David, 'Go up for I will doubtless deliver the Philistines into your hand.' So David went to Baal Perazim, and David defeated them there; and he said, 'The Lord had broken through my enemies before me, like a breakthrough of water.'"*

Now when God spoke something to David, do you know it was blood, sweat and tears as he fought? It takes energy to accomplish God's will. It takes dedication. He had to fight. He had to kill people in order to perform God's will. We don't do that of course but I am just trying to show how physical it was when you do God's will. Today in the New Testament let me tell you that it's very physical when you are doing God's will and bring it into manifestation the thing that God tell you to do. *"And then they left their images there, and David and his men carried them away."* And then when the Philistines came again, David inquired of the Lord and He said, *'You shall not go up; circle around behind them,'* now David did not get stuck in the method. He did not get stuck in something. But it was something different. He heard from God. He knew what God wants him to do. And even as he is out in battle and he was about to fight, he didn't take things for

granted. In every incident he knew how to walk with God. God was right beside him and he is listening to God all the time. As he went out and this time God changed the whole strategy and he flowed along. When God say listen for the sound above the mulberry trees. As God spoke to David maybe in his prayer closet, he still didn't hear the sound but when he went out into the battlefield, he has to quicken his ears, listen carefully and wait. He has done all that he knew how. And when he heard the sound, then he went out probably the sound was the sound of angels being released, marching forth and when he went forth with the angels, he routs a great victory for God.

So third point is important. We have to have ears and eyes open even in the battlefield. You got to know what you are doing even if you are out there, doing battle fighting away, possessing the land. Your ears and eyes are opened to God where anytime He changes His instruction you are still in communication with Him.

The bible tells us the story of how Samuel was sent to anoint David. It tells us in chapter 16, Samuel was told by God, go and anoint one of the sons of Jesse. The only problem was Jesse has eight sons. But God did not speak to him until he went to the house of Jesse. And that's what we are trying to get into each one of us. God will not speak to you again until you are in the midst of doing what God told you to do. Then as Samuel greeted the house of Jesse, and he asks, "Have you any sons? I like to see all of them." Naturally it always starts from the eldest. And so Samuel was sitting down looking at all the sons. Jesse was there and Jesse called the first one Eliab to come forth. Eliab walked by. I am not sure whether there was any music but it was like a model or procession. When Samuel saw Eliab, in his heart he says this must be the one. God says, "That is not the one. You look at the outward side. I look at the inward side." So Samuel said, "Next!" The next came - nothing. Now we look as if it's so easy. Let me tell you it was very physical. When you go to a home, you have the normal entertainment, the normal welcome, the normal hospitality. You will be sitting down and you will be bringing these people out. One by one and of course there may not have music at that time. Finally comes the last one. What would you do? If you are Samuel you get concerned. He looked around and there are no more sons. Did he miss God? What happened? Then maybe Samuel turned around and looked at Mrs. Jesse to see whether she is pregnant. Maybe the son is still in her mother's womb. But no, Mrs. Jesse was not

pregnant. Now Samuel gets concerned. He was down there in the battlefield. He was there doing what God wants him to do before he can hear God.

Talk about the will of God, we are on a series 'Guidance from God', you don't get guidance until you obey with all your heart. Until you are stirred by God and you obey the stirring of God. You are out there obeying God then you get your guidance. A lot of people are not out there obeying God and they are not having any guidance. Because they are not even faithful to what God called them to do. Not even taking one step. Not even moving their toenail. O God where are You? Why aren't You speaking? O God! Are You displeased? They can only hear the ministering angels says, 'Yes! God is displeased with you.'

We need to learn on how to wait on God. But you know what waiting on God means. Waiting on God is not seeking God's guidance. Waiting on God is a private love life you have with God. I am not there to get something from God when I wait on God. I am there to just love Him and let Him love me. But when God gives guidance, God just gives His guidance and that's it. Sometimes in my prayers, sometimes along the way, I keep obeying Him. See getting guidance from God is a secondary thing. It is just like an automatic thing that you establish with God. But what you have established is a love life, relationship with God. You still need to spend time with God to just be with Him. I love to be just to be with God and just worship Him. Sing praises to Him. That is very important but I am talking about guidance from God this morning.

Samuel is out there obeying God and then he turned around and said to Jesse, "Do you have anymore sons?" What a question? He got seven but that is not enough. Jesse said, "Yes. In fact I have one more." Samuel was excited. "Where is he?" he asked. "Bring him here." And he had to wait a while because they had to call David from the field. The moment David showed up, God spoke, "This is he." We are talking about guidance from God. God would not have spoken those words if Samuel had not obeyed. Now isn't it funny that God never revealed to him which son. He had to have a fashion parade. God wants him to obey to the best of his ability.

The same little Joshua; Joshua is fighting out in the battlefield. Did God tell him to stop the sun? No, he was fighting and he knew that he needed the time. He said, "God give me more time." God stopped the sun and stopped the moon. He stopped the sun and moon for twenty-three hours. He went fighting on and on. The bible tells us that there were hailstones that came. Do you know that hailstone will not come in the Jordan of fighting? But as they went out fighting and fighting and as they were fighting hailstones came and knocked out the enemies. Isn't it fun to work with God? The bible says, you read in the book of Joshua, there are more people who died from the hailstones than they are from the sword. That's fun doing God's work. The interesting part is that if you don't go out and fight, the hailstones are not going to help you. The hailstones are all waiting. When you go out, you will find that God comes.

As we close, let me encourage you. If you are in the ministry, you haven't obeyed God to your best ability; you won't see your breakthrough yet. Unless you are prepared to work hard for God and prepared to go to the open doors that God gives you. As you start your ministry, you are not going to see your ministry establish even in the next fifty years if you do not work hard. It takes hard work. For those in the business world, if God tells you to do something and you don't do it with all your heart, you are not going to see more guidance from God. But the good news is God wants you to be the head and not the tail provided we know how to obtain guidance from God and know how to obey God.

These three points I summarize for you: No.1, hardworking hands and feet. No.2, stirring of the heart and mind. No.3, open ears and open heart.

God will guide you and getting guidance from God, in fact, is the least problem. Although it's the main struggle of many Christians but to me it's just the least thing. If the majority of your life you spend just loving God then guidance is so easy. For me is just like you develop a relationship with God. God is so real to you. When He speaks to you, you will know. When He whispers to you, you will know. When He moves, you will know. It's so easy. You could hear God anytime, day and night. Twenty-four hour and just be doing God's perfect will.

