

# STRENGTH *in* WEAKNESS

## Following God – When the Way Isn't So Clear

### 2 Corinthians 1:12-22 (ESV)

<sup>12</sup> For our boast is this, the testimony of our conscience, that we behaved in the world with simplicity and godly sincerity, not by earthly wisdom but by the grace of God, and supremely so toward you. <sup>13</sup> For we are not writing to you anything other than what you read and understand and I hope you will fully understand—<sup>14</sup> just as you did partially understand us—that on the day of our Lord Jesus you will boast of us as we will boast of you. <sup>15</sup> Because I was sure of this, I wanted to come to you first, so that you might have a second experience of grace. <sup>16</sup> I wanted to visit you on my way to Macedonia, and to come back to you from Macedonia and have you send me on my way to Judea. <sup>17</sup> Was I vacillating when I wanted to do this? Do I make my plans according to the flesh, ready to say “Yes, yes” and “No, no” at the same time? <sup>18</sup> As surely as God is faithful, our word to you has not been Yes and No. <sup>19</sup> For the Son of God, Jesus Christ, whom we proclaimed among you, Silvanus and Timothy and I, was not Yes and No, but in him it is always Yes. <sup>20</sup> For all the promises of God find their Yes in him. That is why it is through him that we utter our Amen to God for his glory. <sup>21</sup> And it is God who establishes us with you in Christ, and has anointed us, <sup>22</sup> and who has also put his seal on us and given us his Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee.

The **context**:

The **question**: How can I know and follow God's will for my life?

*Paul said “he wanted to ...”, but what he wanted didn't happen! (v. 15)*

*Did Paul miss God's will?*

*If Paul didn't get it right, how can I hope to?*

*What do I do if I feel like I “missed God's will”?*

How do I understand “**God's will**”?

God's will of \_\_\_\_\_ - Trust it!

God's will of \_\_\_\_\_ - Obey it!

God's will of \_\_\_\_\_ - Don't \_\_\_\_\_; instead ...

**4 big questions** we need to ask *first* regarding knowing God's will:

Is my \_\_\_\_\_ clear?

How's my \_\_\_\_\_ right now?

Am I \_\_\_\_\_ in the ordinary stuff of life?

Do I make my plans " \_\_\_\_\_ " ?

**4 biblical realities:**

God doesn't tell us His \_\_\_\_\_ plans for our lives. (There are bigger issues).

God can give \_\_\_\_\_ direction (but that doesn't make such revelations \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_ for us).

God offers us \_\_\_\_\_ for good decision-making:

**5 conclusions:**

I should check \_\_\_\_\_.

I should pray often for \_\_\_\_\_.

I should hold my plans \_\_\_\_\_ and be willing to \_\_\_\_\_ as God leads.

I should be less concerned about following \_\_\_\_\_ and far more concerned with following \_\_\_\_\_.

Love God. Love people. Seek His kingdom. And \_\_\_\_\_.

**A final word** to those who feel like they missed God's will: