



I. How to discern the will of God.

- A. Listen carefully. What has God said?

- B. Keep your promises. (1 Corinthians 16:1-4; Romans 15:25)

- C. Constrained by the Spirit, obey. (20:22-23)

- D. Don't confuse believers' concerns for you with God's will.

II. I am ready. (13-15)

Discerning the will of God requires a readiness to do the will of God.

How does this apply to me?

INTRO FOR NEXT WEEK

LET ME TELL YOU.

PASSAGE OVERVIEW:

Arriving in Jerusalem, Paul went first to visit the church leaders. Even though Paul was an apostle, personally commissioned by Jesus, he respected the leadership in the Jerusalem church. James, the half-brother of Jesus, was the key leader among the elders. Paul gave a ministry report to these men, recounting the wonderful work of God as the church had been planted far and wide.

While the elders rejoiced with Paul at what God was doing around the world, they were aware that many local Jewish believers, living in Jewish Jerusalem, had heard false reports that Paul taught Jewish Christians outside of Jerusalem to abandon Jewish traditions. In fact, Paul never did this. Instead, he insisted that Gentile believers not be required to follow Jewish practices to become believers in Jesus. He also taught that Jesus had fulfilled the Law, completing the purpose of many of the historic Jewish traditions, and that Jews and Gentiles were brought into one new family, the church.

In order to put love before freedom in Christ, Paul accepted the leaders' recommendation that he observe a traditional vow along with four other Jewish believers.

While at the temple, a group of unbelieving Jews from Asia created an uproar that resulted in Paul's arrest. Paul used this opportunity, as he always did, to testify to the truth of the gospel of Jesus Christ. He shared his own salvation story and the crowd listened intently. But when he stated that Jesus had sent him to the Gentiles, their anger flared again.

Paul had told the Ephesian elders that his life was not precious to him. Instead, his desire was to complete the task given to him by Jesus. He wanted to tell everyone, everywhere about the gospel.

Who can you share the gospel with today? Who do you know that needs to hear? Regardless of the cost, will you tell them?

READING FOR NEXT WEEK

Acts 21:17 – 22:29

