

## **I. Unique Shiftings of Seasons**

A. There have been, and will continue to be, seasons of change in our lives; therefore, there is a very static and common reality for all believers to seek the Lord's will in every season. However, I would like to submit to you that I sense we are in a very unique season where the Lord is moving upon His church concerning major changes in seasons of life for many in our midst. The “why” of this unique season of shifting and reestablishing is still unclear to me, but it is undeniable that it is happening. (Over the last few months have you experienced or are you strongly considering a change in Job, Home, Ministry, or Relational Focus?)

1. I have found that when the Lord leads us in major changes of seasons that it's very common for many to feel overwhelmed, anxious, and intimidated by the weight of discerning the Lord's will and leadership.

B. My goal this morning is to exhort you with some general and practical wisdom when it comes to navigating seasons of shifting so that even in the midst of seeking the will of the Lord, in them you can have stability for your soul.

## **II. The Will and Leadership of God in General**

A. The urgency of seeking the Lord's leadership concerning major areas of life are cut down to size and seen rightly when we prioritize and understand the general will and leadership of God. There are a few very clear governing principles concerning God's will for our lives that are universal and transcendent in every season. When these principles are established in our hearts, the discerning of His will in specific arenas of our lives is far less intimidating and urgent.

B. God's General and Transcendent Will - We must look at these generalities of His will for our lives as a matter of far greater priority and importance than those of specific areas of our lives. In other words, if you are not saying “yes” to these areas of His will for your life, then saying “yes” in more specific areas of life is pointless.

1. Your Heart is His Priority - The main focus of His will for your life is not about where you live, what you do, or who you do it with. It's all about Him establishing you in feeling, experiencing, being conformed to, and walking in His love. (Mt. 22:37-40; Jn. 17:24-26)

2. He wants you Leaning - The posture of heart that God desires and can work with is an intentionally humble and needful one. If you find yourself in a place in your life where you are not knowing, not able, not feeling in control, and need God's help, there's a good chance you're walking rightly under his leadership. The peace of God is always described as supernatural peace because it's found in the midst of struggle, not through the absence of struggle. (Is. 57:15; Song 8:5; Mt. 7:7; Jn. 14:27, 16:33)
3. He wants to Refine and Purify your Love - Testing and trial is good and to be embraced and desired. The testimony of scripture is God exercising His perfect will and leadership in the lives of His people by leading them into uncomfortable circumstances. If your desire to walk in God's will for your life is motivated by desiring good circumstances constantly, you're setting your heart to be going against His will. (Ps. 26:2, 139:23-24; Song. 4:16; Heb. 12:5-9)
4. Sincere in Desire and Trusting in His Excellence - We can let our hearts and minds rest in the truth of God's excellence in bringing us into alignment with His will and leadership. The testimony of scripture is a story of His people being poor followers, Him being an unparalleled faithful leader, and praise and thankfulness breaking out when it is realized. We can rest assured that if we remain sincere in our desire to align with His will, He will bring us there. There is no power on earth or in hell that can stop the will of God from happening in the life of a sincere seeker. (Ps. 138:8; Heb. 12:1-2; Phil. 1:3-6)

### III. Seeking the Will and Leadership of God Practically

- A. We will now address some practical steps you can take to discern God's voice in the everyday choices. These choices are generally about where you live, what you do, and who you do it with.
- B. Harbor Lights - In his book on Guidance, Bob Mumford shared about a certain harbor that was very dangerous for ships to navigate.. The harbor master erected three harbor lights in a straight line on land. If a ship aligned itself rightly as it navigated into the harbor, the three lights would appear as one single light. If any of the three were off kilter, then the ship was not safe to come to shore. We have

three harbor lights we can use as Christians when we need to make specific decisions. (two or three witnesses)

1. Confirmed by the Scripture - The word of God is put forward as a lamp unto where our feet should go, and a light directing us down the correct path. If what you are feeling or being counseled to do does not line up with his Word, then we can be assured it is not God's voice or leadership we are hearing. (Ps. 110:104-105; 2 Tim. 3:16-17)
2. Confirmed by the Holy Spirit - The pullings and leanings of the conviction of the Spirit upon our hearts is to be paid attention to as one of the indicators of hearing the voice of God. Biblically, this is primarily discerned through the collective convictions of the counsel of many. I would encourage you to find people who love you and pray for you, and who do not have any bias in the situation, and ask them to seek the Lord with you concerning your decision. (Deut. 19:15; Mt. 18:20; 1 Cor. 14:27-29; Prov. 11:14; Acts 15:28)
  - a. Too often, our individual personal feelings or convictions we have concerning the leadership of the Holy Spirit are viewed as the only and primary witness of God's leadership. This is an out-of-balance error and, unfortunately, has led many to simply follow the desires of their own heart.
3. Confirmed by the Circumstances - Are the actual circumstances there for you to move forward with the decision you feel you're supposed to make? These are things like money, people, invitations, situations, etc. Sometimes these need to be contended for in faith and with patience before this harbor light lines up. You can move forward when they manifest.

#### IV. Resting and Rooted in His Will

- A. In my opinion, there is far too much anxiety and insecurity in the people of God concerning this reality of resting in God's leadership. This insecurity increases even more when there seems to be adversity or a delay in the thing we feel led to do. Let me be very clear: if you are following the Lord's leadership in your life, you will face both prolonged manifestations of things hoped for and adversity. These are not signs or indications that you are not in the Lord's will but rather the opposite.

- B. If your heart and will is lined up with the general ways the Lord leads us, and you have the three harbor lights lined up, you need to cast down the arguments that say you're out of God's will and instead, rest in His care.