

Abiding in God's Will

by Erlo Stegen

The sermon emphasizes the importance of seeking and doing the will of God, as stated in Jesus' teachings and the Bible, to avoid the consequences of not doing His will.

Duration: 1:12:11

Scripture: Genesis 24:1-9

Topics: "Will Of God"

Description

In this sermon, the preacher discusses how technology, specifically cell phones, has made mankind foolish and distracted from God. He criticizes the use of cell phones for accessing inappropriate content and the lack of concern from schools and parents. The preacher also mentions Albert Einstein's prediction about technology overtaking the understanding of man. He emphasizes the importance of knowing and understanding the will of God, comparing it to knowing the programming and trajectory of a rocket. The sermon concludes with a reminder to listen to God's voice, follow His direction, and teach the same to future generations.

Transcript

Today I'd like to speak about the will of God. Jesus said, not everyone who says, Lord, Lord, will enter into the kingdom of heaven, only those who do the will of the Father. Those standing before the Lord will say, but Lord, we prophesied, we did miracles, we cast out demons in your name.

The Lord will say, get away from me, I do not know you, only those who do the will of the Father in heaven. Those standing before the Lord will say, but Lord, we prophesied, we did miracles, we cast out demons in your name. Understand that clearly, it doesn't matter whether you go to church here, or whatever your denomination is, only those who do the will of the Father will enter into heaven.

Let's read from Genesis 24, verse 1 to 9. Now Abraham was old, well advanced in years, and the Lord had blessed Abraham in all things. Abraham said to his servant, the oldest of his household, who had charge of all that he had, put your hand under my thigh, that I might make you swear by the Lord, the God of heaven and the God of earth, that you will not take a wife for my son from the daughters of Canaanites among whom I dwell. The Lord said to his servant, the oldest of his household, who had charge of all that he had, put your hand under my thigh, that I might make you swear by the Lord, the God of heaven and the God of earth, that you will not take a wife for my son from the daughters of Canaanites among whom I dwell.

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The Lord, the God of heaven, who took me from my father's house and from the land of my kindred, and who spoke to me and swore to me, To your offspring I will give this land. He will send his angel before you, and you shall take a wife for my son from there. But if the woman is not willing to follow you, then you will be free from this oath of mine, only you must not take my son back there.

So the servant put his hand under the thigh of Abraham, his master, and swore to him concerning this matter. Now it is an engagement service, and I will ask those getting engaged to please come to the front. I am thankful.

Thank you for living righteously, pure, until today. That you have not lived a life that is defiled like a dog, and to you as well, that you have kept yourself pure. I believe God rejoices about people like you, that you have behaved well and been pure, not standing here already defiled.

With things that are accursed, the abomination of this world from hell, that people do who are on the way to hell. So to you, future bride, here is the ring that he gives to you, and by that he makes you vow to be pure righteously, until the day of your wedding when God brings you together. Do you hear that? Very few who behave a mismaner.

You find even little school children getting involved in the most filthy defiled things and abomination to God. A certain person said to me that they thought about God condemning a person eternally to hell. In times past, I said though, I understand it well and I affirm it, I rejoice in that truth.

Because that is the place for those who have deserted God's commandment to be pure. And if you don't repent, may hell be yours forever and ever. You hear what I say? You behaved well? So to the day of your wedding, if God brings you together, you too, the young lady, shall we pray? We thank you Lord, we rejoice to see young people who have kept themselves pure.

Lord, it saddens us to see women who do not behave as real women, men who do not behave as real men. But thank you Lord for this couple who are a good example to people. Amen.

I would have loved to have thanked on the parents behalf, but they are no longer with us, they are in heaven. I remember when they got married at Mbalana, I could show you the exact spot that they are with the Lord now and I am sure that they rejoice too. Portion which I have read, is written directly for you and me.

God teaching us the way of His will. Everybody needs to understand what the will of God is. How can you do God's will if you don't know it? Now the Lord has directed this for us through Abraham so that we would understand about Abraham who is the father of believers, how God's will is sought.

Now Abraham called his chief servant to go and to seek a wife for his son who was about 14. And then he said, but what if the girl refuses, should I take your son there? He said, no, never. Jesus taught us in Matthew 6 verse 11 that we should pray that the will of God would be done on earth as it is done in heaven.

It should be that everyone here today and everyone on earth should understand what the will of God is and then keep it. Obeying it completely just as the angels in heaven perform the will of the Father. Jesus said it's not everybody who prays and who does miracles that will enter into heaven, only those who do the will of the Father.

Listen very carefully. The one who does the will of the Father in heaven is a brother, is my sister, is my mother. The one who does the will of the Father in heaven is a brother, is my sister, is my mother.

The one who does the will of the Father in heaven is a brother, is my sister, is my mother. And that text which Jesus said should drive us ecstatic with joy to know that the Lord can say this about those who do the will of the Father and also that we agree with him that the one who does not do his will deserves hell indeed. I never see in the letter of James that he refers to Jesus as our brother even though he indeed was himself.

And other disciples, Jesus said... The one who does the will of the Father in heaven is a brother, is my sister, is my mother. The one who does the will of the Father in heaven is a brother, is my sister, is my mother. Other disciples too don't mention it but if you can understand and comprehend the greatness of this promise that the one who does the will of the Father is the brother of Jesus, no wonder that we should agree with the Lord that the one who despises that promise is one who deserves hell indeed.

And we should rejoice because of you who are going to hell. If Jesus says, I'll call you my brother and you turn your back on that and you tread it underfoot. We should rejoice in the fact that hell is for those who despise this great promise.

If we don't take it and value it, well we are headed for hell. Children of God, be constantly persevering day and night to do the will of the Father. Every moment should be spent.

Every hour, 24 hours a day, striving to do the will of God, not to fulfill our lusts. That's something that is hellish. The goal of the Church of Jesus Christ, the great goal and purpose of the Church of Jesus must be to be busy with the will of God in heaven.

You in school, you at work, or you already on pension. Every hour, every moment, you should be striving, persevering to do the will of the Father in heaven. Now in this portion that we've read, in the life of Abraham, it shows to us that he sought, he looked for the will of God and found it and recorded it.

The Lord recorded it so that we who come after him should learn from him, that we would understand the will of God and do it. How then do we find the will of God? In Abraham's life, there was the time that God spoke one on one and Abraham heard him. Many times he didn't hear God, but he was busy with doing the will of God.

How did he learn the will of God? He received it from the word of the Lord. That which God had already spoken in the past and the way, the manner in which God was leading him. They shoot missiles, big bombs, rockets.

They fire these rockets and missiles, so these are shot between each other, between Israel and Hamas and it destroys large places, homes, houses. These rockets, these missiles far bigger than me, it can fly for a long distance to destroy a farm. If you look at this missile and you see how it is made and put together, where you examine it and you know its heaviness, exact weight, it is known as to the exact speed at which it flies.

And Israel shoots missiles directly into a certain city or town to an exact spot, an exact location to destroy. Even while it is still with them, because they know exactly what it is made of, they program it so that it would be accurate and be a pinpoint delivery. Hamas too has thousands of rockets and missiles.

They have been given many by the nation of Iran. And Iran has rebuked them, rebuked Hamas and said, why is it that you are missing so many targets? And they rebuked them that they are not accurate. They answered and said, well, the God of Israel, when it is up there flying towards the Israeli target, He diverts it towards another target place.

Amazingly, the enemies of Israel, though they might program it to go to a certain target in Israel, the God of Israel is able to divert it to another target. But why I say that is because a person who knows this missile, they know it in detail and they program it exactly where it will go and when it will explode. What the distance will be.

It is programmable that even if it is to go down a certain chimney, it will be a pinpoint delivery inside it. Even before it has got there, even though they do not travel with it, but they are able to pre-program it and set it to go there. In a similar fashion, in the life of a child of God.

Just as a weapon might be known and understood, the speed, the place, the programming, where it will explode, where it will go. That is how you can learn to know the will of God. Even if that rocket has not left, you know that this thing, if we do this or that, it will land there and explode there.

Abraham learned of God. He learned from God that if a situation is like this, this is what ought to be done. If it is like that, that is what needs to be done.

A certain very intelligent person, a certain white man said, Woe to us if the time comes where technology overtakes the mind of man and the intelligence. Then they will become fools. Albert Einstein said, Woe to us if the time comes where technology overtakes the mind of man and the intelligence.

I will be sad if the time comes where mankind is overtaken by weapons, by technology, for then mankind has become a fool. And mankind will be idiots. Just look at a cell phone.

You do not understand. You do not understand. But through it you can see naked, pornographic things.

Even at school they do not care. Even while they are in school they are busy in the activities of their cell phones. Even while they are driving they become foolish because this thing has captured them.

And the parents who buy these things for their children, these cell phones have become idiots. That worldly man, Albert Einstein, He said, Woe to us if the time comes where technology overtakes the mind of man and the intelligence. They do not listen to what God is saying.

Even in the service they are busy and send you love messages over their cell phones to their lovers. They are only fools. They do not care that God has said that we and our eyes should be holy.

No, they only care about their cell phones. Abraham was not led by a cell phone. But he was in contact with God.

It is not through our own wisdom that we find that Abraham sent the servant to go and seek a wife for his son. We do not even read that. We do not find the place in the Bible where God instructed Abraham that at the age of 40 a wife should be sought for him.

Neither do we, through our own knowledge, find how God then sent him to find what type of wife. There were plenty of girls in the Canaanite nations who would have been only too keen to marry Isaac. Because they would have found a rich husband.

Famous, well known. They would have found a rich husband. Neither do we find where God said to Abraham, now do this, send to that distant nation from your kindred to fetch a wife.

God of Abraham took his rocket and he prepared it. With his knowledge that God had taken him out of his land from his brother and brought him to this place. He remembered God saying, I will bless you and that your offspring will increase.

God said, look at the stars, they will be as many as the stars in the heavens. The day when Abraham was about to stab Isaac, sacrifice him, giving him as a sacrifice to the Lord. When he lifted the dagger to slaughter him, he heard a call from heaven, a voice from heaven.

The angel of the Lord called. When in the Old Testament it refers to the angel of the Lord, it's speaking about the Lord Jesus. So the Lord Jesus in heaven called out and said, don't do it Abraham.

When Abraham looked around him, he saw a ram bound in a thorn bush. Abraham took it and slaughtered it and he removed Isaac from the altar. The ram was sacrificed in his place and he survived.

Abraham called his chief servant, faithful, who had been loyal to him day and night. He said, come, for I want you to go to my distant country, to my kindred, where I want you to seek a wife for my son Isaac. Now as far as we know, we do not find anything in the Bible that God had forbidden Abraham to take a wife for his son from the local tribes.

Moses spoke and said, do not marry these people. God didn't say, as far as we know, Abraham, he's reached the age of 40, now send your chief servant there to that country. He was probably around about 100, Abraham.

So he said, I will then ask my most faithful servant, the one who has been with me for such a long time, and I will send him to seek a wife for my son. He had hundreds of servants. But he chose his eldest one, who was in charge of everything, someone he could trust.

Someone who had proved himself to be right and in right standing with God. He said, that's the person I'll entrust with this. We don't read that God explicitly said he should send that servant, no.

But Abraham, he knew, I've got to send a man of God to get a woman for my son. And that it was time to do it. He called him, and said, now I make you to vow today.

I want you to go to that distant country, to my kindred, to seek a girl, a wife for my son. It would have been much easier just to take anyone amongst the people where he lived. But Abraham knew that God had told him, you leave this place, you go to that country that I'm going to give you, and I'll bless you.

God told Abraham, And when the voice of Jesus came down from heaven, don't kill him. In him, all the nations of the world will be blessed. Look at the stars.

Will you be able to count the number? And your offspring will be as many as those stars are. Abraham had lived for a long time being childless. Sarah had been childless till the age of about 80 to 90 years of age.

God said, your offspring will come from you and Sarah. Abraham one day made a grave mistake. For Sarah had her servant, Tess.

Sarah said one day to Abraham, why don't you take my servant, sleep with her, let the child come via her. That's what Abraham did. That's the only mistake I see in Abraham is that he listened to his wife in this case.

And Hagar then bore him Ishmael. Abraham loved Ishmael. And assumed that he would be the heir.

But God said, Abraham, no. Yes, I will bless Ishmael. And I will increase his offspring.

The people of Hamas and them, they are the offspring of Ishmael. But he said, however, the blessing will come to the nations via Sarah, via Isaac, not through Ishmael. I don't know whether I'm racing.

Am I going too fast? Are you still able to be attentive? Abraham knew his chief servant and he knew him well enough that he was a man who could pray and receive answers from God and walk in the ways of God. And he said, my servant, now go to that distant country, my kindred, and seek a wife for my son Isaac. He replied, He replied, What if she refuses and says, I can't leave my family to go to such a distant land to be the wife of Isaac? No, I'm going to stay here.

And what if she refuses to come? Can I take Isaac and take him to her? Abraham said, never. For God took me out of there. He removed me from there.

How can I take my son and return him to the place from which God has removed me? You see what Abraham did? He took his own life. Looking at how God had led him. How God had removed him.

And through that and his many experiences with God, he instinctively knew, though it is not said directly, that I cannot return my sin to that place from which I was taken. That's a lesson Abraham learnt out of his past experiences, the way God led him. Anything I've got to live my, lead my child the same way, the same direction.

There may be a time when God has spoken to you that you literally heard him with your ears. But that happens very, very, very seldom that you hear his voice audibly. But many times you'll have to know the will of God.

Not because a voice came from heaven, but because this is God's way. This is how he taught me. This is how he has led me.

And that's the way I've got to teach my children. My son has got to go in the direction I am going. He can't go back to where I come from.

That's how he learnt to know God's will. So when the servants had said, if she refuses to come, what will I do? He said, don't doubt. God will send an angel and lead you to bring a wife for my son.

In 2 Corinthians 2 verse 14, Paul says, God leads me always in his way of triumph. Abraham knew. Paul knew.

Paul knew that God always led him in the way of triumph. Is that your experience or are you just a cheap imitation? Abraham didn't doubt. He said, God will send his angel to lead you to the right wife.

Let me repeat this so that it is emphasized in your heart. He didn't speak in an audible voice to Abraham. Isaac must have a wife now.

He didn't say with an audible voice. His wife must not be one of the Canaanites. But he knew in his heart.

This is God's way for me and my offspring. This is my way and my offspring. God leads me in this way.

And my son will go in this way. And so he found the will of God. He instinctively knew which wife or that his son needed a wife.

He didn't send his servant to say, just look for a wife anyway. He sought the will of God. And you too, if you do not seek God's will, it doesn't matter what you do, even if you stand on your head, but you are headed for hell if you do not do the will of the Father.

God had made it clear to him though, and it was instinctively known inside him, this is what I need to do, this is the servant I need to choose, this is what he needs to do. And the servant also prayed. He also sought God's will.

Because he didn't know which girl would be the right one in that foreign land. Instead, he prayed that they find a suitable wife. prayed and asked that the one who is the right one would be the one who offers water for him and his camels.

And before he had finished praying, there she was. God had promised Abraham, your offspring will be a great nation, many generations of people. And Abraham knew it needed to come then via Isaac being married.

He also knew that it would not come via Ishmael, what my wife had said, but rather it needs to come through us directly, through Sarah. For God had covenanted with Abraham that through you all nations would be blessed. It was through the line of Abraham and Sarah that the Lord Jesus came.

Abraham was the one who had taken Ishmael. Ishmael was a man of God, a man of God. He was a man of God, and he was a man of God.

If he had taken Ishmael, he would be another God's worshipping idols, but it was to be through Isaac. Abraham was the one who had taken Ishmael, and he was the one who had taken Ishmael. Abraham knew, I can't get one of the local girls from these idol-worshipping nations.

She needs to come from my own land. And so too, Abraham learned God's will, His way. God had also revealed that through him, the generations of Abraham, that they would be enslaved in Egypt for 400 years, but then I will redeem them.

Do you hear the voice of the Lord? Jesus said, my sheep hear my voice, they will know if something is not the will of God. Don't be bluffed by the physical beauty of a girl, you'll end up in sin. That is why Moses said, do not get married to these nations of the Gentiles.

Don't take from the land of Canaan. Abraham, he saw, through God's revealed word, this is the way, this is the path to follow. Abraham, he saw, through God's revealed word, this is the way, this is the path to follow.

He knew from his experience with God, this is the way of God, this is where I come from. My son cannot return to that place. Have you heard the will of God? Have you heard His voice and got to know His voice? As Abraham was going to sacrifice Isaac, God before that said, now look from the mount in every direction.

So that is how many the nations, all of this will be because of your offspring. The promises of God. In the past, I still have meaning to you and to your offspring.

You've got to walk in the same direction and teach your children the same. Otherwise, you'll miss out and lose God's blessing. To fetch a wife from there, from your own kindred, don't take from here.

Don't go back to Mesopotamia. He said, this is the land of Canaan. This is where your offspring will reign.

This will be theirs. Has God spoken to you? Has He revealed Himself to you and shown Himself and what His will is to you? By beholding the words of God to Abraham, he discerns the will of God. He knew God has spoken to me in the past.

This is what He said. I can't deviate from that. I've got to abide by it and my offspring as well.

Abraham had no doubt. He, the father of believers. I wonder if you take after Him.

Is He your father? Are you following in His footsteps? Those who follow ancestral worship are led by their ancestors. Are you led, you Christian, by your ancestor, Abraham? This is the life to live. This is the life that we will live, we and our generations of offspring.

Abraham knew God would glorify Himself through the promises that He had promised to Abraham. Abraham knew God would glorify Himself through the promises that He had promised to Abraham. If you want to be serious about doing the will of God, you will take the Bible.

You will search in the Bible and you will see what God's will is in the revealed word of God. The devil is busy non-stop. He devotes 168 hours a week trying to deceive you, to lead you astray from the right road.

The devil is busy non-stop. He devotes 168 hours a week trying to deceive you, to lead you astray from the right road. If you seriously want to know God's will, you need to go according to God's word, according to the Bible, that you get married according to the Bible, seek a spouse according to the Bible, that your life, like symbolizing your children, is according to the Bible.

If you do what the Bible plainly says, you will not go astray, you won't go off the path, but you will be fulfilling God's will in all the ways that you live, in all the decisions that you make according to the Bible. Abraham said to his servant, Should she not agree to come with while I release you from your oath? Tell me, you who are here, is God's will your way? Your daily life? Is it taught of God? The engaged couple who stood here, I praise them for their pure lives. Tell me, you young people, are you taught of God or are you taught of Satan? Those love letters that you send, the wicked things that you are taught of Satan? Woe to you if you forsake God's will.

And you go into the world to do what pleases you, not according to the Bible. If you go into the world to do what pleases you, not according to the Bible. If you go into the world to do what pleases you, not according to the Bible.

Jesus said, only those who do the will of the Father will go to heaven. It doesn't matter who you have around you, whether you have your family with you, what it is that they say, or whether you have no family and you are an orphan. Still obeying the Father's will, knowing in every decision you make about your engagement, or marriage, or your career, going to university, or whatever it is that you do, only those who do the will of the Father.

You parent, if you have not taught this way of the Lord of the Father to your children, you go to hell with them. Now leave it there. May God's will be understood by everyone.

Not just the ways of your family, or the ways of your culture, but rather the will of the Father in heaven, so much so that Jesus can say, this person is my brother, is my sister, is my mother, my father. I wonder, child of God, whether you understand what it really means if it speaks about the will of the Father. The will of the Father in heaven, or have you never heard the word of the Lord, that His will is revealed to you, that you know, this is God's way for me.

I would be glad if this is understood. But remember, I've repeated, you won't enter into heaven if you have not done the will of the Father. Understand also, parent, your children are not going to heaven if they have not obeyed the will of the Father.

Let us bow our heads and pray. Let's stand to our feet. Lord, I pray that these words would not be in vain, but would work in the heart of each one.

That Abraham would be like Abraham, just as he, without being told, just knew what the will of the Father was, that this is the way, this is God's way. Amen.

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