Experiencing God

Knowing and Doing the Will of God

BBC Student Ministries
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Introduction

Have you ever found yourself in any of these situations?

- Frustrated with your Christian experience
  - You know that there should be more to your life than what you currently have
  - You know that there should be a deeper relationship between you and God
  - Your Christian walk has become dry and monotonous

- Begging God to show you what he wants you to do, but not getting any answers
  - You want that deeper walk and you put a ton of energy into asking God for it but you are still stuck in the same ruts
  - Feels like God is not listening, not there, not caring

- Desiring a deeper and more intimate walk with God, but not sure what to do
  - You know you need to be more in tune with God, to be more obedient to him
  - You have tried some things (i.e. reading your Bible, praying, etc.) but nothing seems to be working

Goals

- To be able to hear when God is speaking to us
- To be able to clearly identify his activity in your life
- To be able to believe him to be and do everything he has promised
- To be able to adjust our beliefs, character and behavior to God and his ways
- To be able to recognize a direction He is taking in our lives and identify what he wants to do through our lives
- To be able to clearly know what we need to do in response to his activity in your life
- To be able to experience God doing through us what only he can do
NOTE: Just going through this study is not going to achieve these goals. These are things that only God can do through us. You must be willing to take the things we discuss and actually implement them into your life in order for things to change!

Seven Realities
1. God is always at work around you.
2. God pursues a continuing love relationship with you that is real and personal.
3. God invites you to become involved with him in his work.
4. God speaks by the Holy Spirit through the Bible, prayer, circumstances and the church to reveal himself, his purposes and his ways.
5. God’s invitation for you to work with him always leads you to a crisis of belief that requires faith and action.
6. You must make major adjustments in your life to join God in what he is doing.
7. You come to know God by experience as you obey him and he accomplishes his work through you.

Keeping a Spiritual Journal
One of the goals for this study is to gain the ability to hear God when he is speaking to us. Part of learning to hear God involves learning to focus our heart and our mind on God. One way to gain this type of focus is through spiritual journaling.

For the purpose of this study, it will be good to have a notebook that can be divided up into five categories.

The first category is Testimonies. In this section, you will be able to write down how God is working around you and through you.
The second category is *Daily Review*. Use this section to record summaries of what God is saying to you through your time alone with him. You can also include areas in your life that you believe God is leading you to change or adjust to match with his will and other steps of obedience that you know God is calling for.

The third category is for *Weekly Review*. After going through each week’s group teaching you can use the following questions to review God’s activity in your life. Some weeks you may not need to answer each question.

- What has God revealed to you about himself? (His name, character, nature)
- What has God revealed to you about his purpose? (His will, plans, desires, activity around you, assignment for you, goals objectives)
- What has God revealed to you about his ways? (How he acts, what he does, how he responds in certain circumstances, the kind of people he uses, the ways he involves people in his work, the way he accomplishes his purposes)
- What Scriptures has God used to speak to you about himself, his purposes or his ways?
- What particular person or concern has God given you a burden to pray for? What has he guided you to pray for this person or concern?
- What has God done through circumstances that have given you a sense of his timing or direction about any aspect of his will?
- What adjustment is God leading you to make in your life?
- What acts of obedience have you taken this week?
- What acts of obedience do you know God wants you to take?

The fourth category is *Spiritual Markers*. These are the times that God has clearly spoken to you. You need to write these events down so that
you can go back to this journal and be reminded of how God has been faithful to do what he has promised to do.

The fifth category is *Prayer Requests*. Use this section to track prayer requests for yourself and for others. When God answers a request you have in your journal, be sure to go to that request and write down the date God provided the answer and a brief note how it was answered. These answered requests will become another type of spiritual marker in your life!