

## WHY IS IT SO DIFFICULT TO FIND GOD AND HIS WILL?

Opening Questions:

- If God exists and He has a will for people's lives, why would He hide it?
- If the Creator cares about His creation (humankind) and wanted to communicate his will to people and had some ability to do so, would he use a more explicit form of communication that all people could have access to, or would he use an un-clearer form of communication that only a few people would have access to?
- If God has communicated His will and you can't find it, what does that say about you?

It is both fantastic and tragic how much time and effort is given to answering the question of this chapter title. The short answer to the chapter title question is because people are not listening to God. There are millions of Christian writings trying to address that question, from books to sermons to articles to films to everything in between. Most Christians spend their lives in a vain pursuit of “knowing God's will for my life”—they latch onto one thing after another, often things that have nothing at all to do with Joshua's teachings and everything to do with making money or perceived material security in the world. Or more clever Christians spend time in minimalist part-time or hobbyist “ministry”. They are so certain that God would not ask them to actually love Him with all that is in them and thus give up their lives in this world and live for Him, so instead they start speculating about what God “really wants for my life.”

They never stop to consider why a loving Father would hide or make it difficult to know His will for his children. If God knows best and has plans for people's lives, then surely he would communicate those plans. Imagine a wise and older dad who has a great plan for his children's lives - or at least for the beginning portion of their lives – yet he refuses to communicate those plans to his children! It is one thing for the children to be able to consider whether they want to accept the dad's plan...it is another thing altogether for the dad to not communicate the plan. And yet, this is one of the many delusions Christians engage in instead of DOING what God's Messenger teaches!

Let's address this topic. Finding God's will for *how* we are to live our lives is not found through some personal mystical or mysterious “spiritual” process

or prayer. Rather, it was given to humankind about 2,000 years ago by God's only pure Messenger, Joshua of Nazareth and is freely available to all who are willing to listen to Joshua. Sadly, few people are listening.

In short, *God's will for HOW we are to live our lives is to be caring for each other (this is what loving each other means) on a daily basis and not working for money or other material securities as our primary pursuit.*

For people who have faith in Joshua and the Creator/Father he reveals, the *how* we are to live our lives is given in his teachings—there is **no** need to “find God's will” for **how** we are to live our lives. He leaves the *where* to live our lives up to us; and He leaves the lesser work (which work is how we provide food, shelter, and clothing for ourselves and others, or our artistic or creative expressions, etc.) we do in our lives up to us. The “how we live our lives” choice, along with whether we engage in the higher work (bringing people to our Father), are the most basic of faith choices – God's will revealed - and those faith choices will set our eternal destiny.

## Does God Hide His Will from People?

Trying to find God's will for their life is of primary importance to many hundreds of millions of people. Perhaps billions of people think it is essential to know God's will for their lives. All those people have many different ways to try and achieve this, but there are some commonalities across religions.

Most religions have their "holy scripture" or sacred writings of people who claim God communicated with them, or they knew God, or had experiences with God, and wrote those communications, thoughts or experiences down. Those writings were passed down from generation to generation in written form and are now many people's "holy scripture" or "sacred writings." So for hundreds of millions of people, reading their holy scripture is their primary way of hearing from, and knowing about God.

Another favorite way people use to try and know God or to hear from God is from other living people. Thus, each religion or sect has its leaders - men or women who supposedly know God well (or have figured him/her out better than others) and tell or teach other people about God. Many religions have their holy men, priests, religious gurus, enlightened one(s), anointed leader(s), prophet(s), popes, patriarchs, or most popular Bible teacher, preacher, pastor, elder, etc. These people are looked up to as a person who is closer to God than the person looking to them as their spiritual leader and thus they are sought to understand God and His will for their life. This method appeals to those people who are not reading oriented and who prefer to listen to other people tell them how to know God or God's will for their lives. Of course, many religious leaders point to the scripture and use the scripture and say the scripture is the best way to know God, but they usually also teach that you need them to understand the scripture.

Perhaps the third most popular way for people to seek to know God or his/her will for their lives is by personal experiential "revelations." This method

can take many forms. From three or four experiences (or "coincidences") taking place in a short period of time, and trying to piece together the "message" of those experiences; to having a dream; to seeing a vision; to seeking how a piece of toast took the form of "the Virgin Mary" and what that sign means to them. Many people use various methods to receive "revelations" from God. These methods include prayer, meditation, drug use, food and water fasting, hypnotic chanting or other means.

Finally, some believe a combination of the above methods will yield the best results for knowing God or His will for one's life.

The primary focus of the following three chapters will be the third method mentioned above, to see what Joshua teaches about "revelations, visions, and dreams" - in other words, does Joshua of Nazareth state that one way he or his Father will use to communicate to people is through visions, dreams or revelations. There are *many* Christian and religious people who say, "the Spirit revealed this to me"; or, "the Holy Spirit came upon me and showed me"; or, "I went through the refining fire with the Spirit, and he showed me"; or, "God showed me in these dreams"; or, "God whispers this in my ear", etc. However sincere these statements might be, or however real those experiences are for an individual, the question must still be asked, are those communications from God? Can a person know for sure if they are or are not?

Joshua does address all three of the ways listed above which people use to try and hear from God or to know God's will for their life. In this chapter, we will look at the "Holy Scripture" way to try and know God's will.

### The Scripture or Sacred Writings:

There are many millions of people who look to their scripture to know God or to hear from God. The Muslims have the Quran and a few other books. The Jews have the Tanakh. The Christians have the Bible. The Buddhists have the Sutras (Sanskrit) or Sutras (Pali). Just those groups alone account for several billion people, and there are dozens more religions each with their "sacred scripture." Each religion has their leaders whose job often includes studying the scripture to pass what they learn onto people less concerned about reading the scriptures themselves. The basis for believing (or trusting) the scripture in each religion is essentially the same. That basis is the belief that people who lived in the past, often long ago, were somehow fundamentally different than contemporary people - usually more morally pure or "holy" and thus closer to God. Or, that God somehow worked differently in the past than today concerning how he communicates with people.

Thus, many believe the people who lived long ago received communications from God or thought they heard from God or had experiences with God, which they wrote down. There is no objective basis for concluding that "scripture" contains authentic communications from God (except perhaps fulfilled prophesy, and then only prophetic scripture). It is merely people choosing to believe or trust what their scripture says for various

reasons, usually because their religious leaders tell them they ought to, or because they find some truth in the scripture that is meaningful to them and then wrongly assume all scripture is truthful.

While Joshua's words are found in what many people call "the scripture" or "the Christian scripture" or the Bible or the New Testament - his words are only a small part of that "scripture." This author would estimate that out of the entire protestant Bible, Joshua's words probably make up less than five percent of that scripture. For the disciples of Joshua, we are only interested in the words of Joshua for he is our Master and the only one we listen to and follow. We don't revere "the scripture" or believe that "the scripture" can lead us to God or God's will. Rather, we have our Leader - please listen to him:

**If you continue in my word (not "the Bible" or Moses" or Paul's, etc.), then you are truly disciples of mine; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free. (John 8:31-32)**

Please note he says, "my word," not "the scripture" or any other source of spiritual truth. Here is a saying to help you understand this important distinction. All of Joshua's Words are found in what Bible believing people call "the scripture," but not all of the scripture is Joshua's Word. Joshua's Words are preserved in the first four books of what people label the New Testament - those four books are often called "the gospels." Now, the Biblicians will claim that the entire Bible is "God's Word," and thus, they deduce that the entire Bible is Joshua's word. This is a widespread claim and belief these days, but it is false.

For the disciple of Joshua, "the scripture" is only the place where Joshua's words are found *since it is NOT the book or the classification of content ("scripture") we care about, but rather the Person who spoke what was recorded!*

Joshua mentions "the scripture" a few dozen times in his teachings, but the context is almost always to get the Jews to listen to their scripture (see John 8:17 and 10:34 for his references to "your law") in order to know that he is/was the promised Messiah of Israel. In other words, Joshua used the Jewish scripture to assist in his trying to get the people living in Israel to see that he is/was their Messiah and thus they should listen to *him!*

Please understand another critical distinction in this regard. Joshua did *not* teach that his followers ought to study/read the scripture to hear from or know God. Instead, he explained that those people who were hearing *him* ought to believe what HE said about *himself*, his Father (the true and living God) and God's purpose for their lives.

Yes, Joshua did say that the scripture contained some important truths from God, and thus some sayings in the old testament to the descendants of Jacob were the Word of God. Yes, Joshua did fulfill a few of the Jewish scripture's Messianic prophesies. However, he also taught that the most critical truth from God is that *a person listens to God's Son, who is himself*. It is vital that the reader understand that while Joshua's words are found in what people call "the

scripture” or “the Bible,” he does not say that reading people's words in that scripture, other than his own, will help them hear from God or know God. In fact, Joshua says regarding the scripture:

You search the scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; it is these that testify about me; and yet you are unwilling to come to me so that you may have life. (John 5:39-40)

All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father; nor does anyone know the Father except the Son, and anyone to whom the Son wills to reveal Him. (Matthew 11:27)

This is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Messiah Joshua whom You have sent. (John 17:3)

These three sayings lay out one of the most important truth's that Joshua teaches regarding knowing, and hearing from, God. First, he says that people would “search the scriptures” because they think they will find eternal life through knowledge of the scriptures. He says this practice would be error in as much as they would not turn in faith to the Person of Joshua as their new Truth above the scriptures. He says the scriptures “testify about me,” NOT, “they are to be used to know God.” Furthermore, he says the scriptures (old covenant) testifying of his being God's Anointed One should cause a person to “come to ME” (*not “remain in the scripture”*) to have “life.”

Please reread the above paragraph, slowly, and seek to understand it thoroughly, for what it says is critical.

It is essential to understand that Joshua never says that a book would be compiled after he left, that would contain His Father's Words. Instead, he said that he was the Father's perfect Word to men. Please listen to him:

And Joshua cried out and said, “He who believes in me, does not believe in me but in Him who sent me. He who sees me sees the One who sent me. I have come as Light into the world, so that everyone who believes in me will not remain in darkness. If anyone hears my sayings and does not keep them, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge the world, but to save the world. He who rejects me and does not receive my sayings, has one who judges him; the word I spoke is what will judge him at the last day. For I did not speak on my own initiative, but the Father Himself who sent me has given me a commandment as to what to say and what to speak. I know that His commandment is eternal life; therefore the things I speak, I speak just as the Father has told me. (John 12:44-50)

Why, dear reader, would you listen to other people try and tell you about God when the Light says what was just quoted? He says that all who do not “believe in me” are in darkness. That includes people who wholeheartedly

believe the old testament scriptures are the Word of God. Thus, we can conclude that the old testament scriptures cannot take a person out of the darkness—that they offer so little light that a person who looks to them will be in darkness.

So why would a person who knows the Light want to go to the darkness and shadows to understand the Light?

Joshua said much about the future as it pertains to the kingdom of God, and to provide his disciples a framework for understanding future events. Again, he never mentioned anything about a book being compiled, nor did he say that other people after him would reveal his Father more thoroughly than he did, let alone write down his Father's will/thoughts in writings. In fact, Joshua says that he alone is the perfect revelation of the Father and that his Words alone should be fully trusted to know God and His will (see Matt. 11:27 above).

Joshua very clearly warned his disciples that many would come in his name and deceive many.

What more could he say?

And yet, his teachings remain largely ignored by those claiming he is important to them, while those same people spend much time trying to find God's will "in the scripture."

Therefore, while Joshua's Words were preserved and placed in "the Bible" or the "Christian scripture," he says that he alone - not the other people's words or thoughts in the scripture - is the one sure Way to hear from, and know, the Father.

This is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Messiah Joshua whom You have sent. (John 17:3)

## The Main Objection to this Simple Truth

Many people are exposed to, and subsequently believe the falsehood, that the Bible or the scripture (other than Joshua's teachings) is the best way to hear from God and know God. When they hear that Joshua and his teachings only is the best way to know God, they object to the simple truth that the one who calls himself the Truth is to be the only authoritative and sure way to know God and his will for a person's life. The most effective argument against this truth is to claim that Joshua himself teaches that his followers are to look to the scripture to know God and his will for a person's life. Joshua does not teach this. What he does teach is:

- Some sayings and writings in the Jewish scripture (old covenant) contain truth;
- Some sayings and writings in the Jewish scripture contains his Father's thoughts and thus are his Word;

- He implies that many, perhaps most events recorded in the Jewish scripture were accurate historical accounts of events, although he often does not directly address the cause of the event. If you know the Father by the Son, then one would know that the Father did not cause certain events;
- He, in his role as the Messiah of Israel, fulfilled prophecies recorded in the Jewish scripture thus validating his Messiah-ship for those needing that type of validation to believe.

Sadly, so many cannot see the simple truth that while the above four points are valid; they **do not** say that the follower of Joshua needs the Jewish scripture to follow him successfully. Joshua does *not* say, “read the Jewish scripture (or old covenant scripture) to know God and his will for your life,” nor anything to that effect. Rather and in rebuke, he plainly says:

If you continue in *my word* (not Paul's or “the Bible's” or anyone else's), then you are indeed disciples of mine; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free. (John 8:31-32)

The real Joshua wants us to be free:

- Free from the bondage of our nature of fear and self-pride and selfishness and the wrongness (sin) that nature produces;
- Free from the darkness of religion, religion being the things people believe and do which have NO BASIS in the teachings of Joshua of Nazareth;
- Free from the mostly loveless life that fear and self-pride and selfishness produces.

Joshua does say that the "law" recorded in the Jewish scripture was good and binding on the Jewish people, but he also says that the law while good, *is imperfect*, and that to treat others the way you want to be treated "is the law and the prophets."

Next, we will take a look at how people look to other people and to personal experiences to try and find God's will.

Chapter Summary:

- People of all religions and by the billions are searching for God's will for their life;
- God does *not* hide His will; instead, He gave His will for people's lives concerning **how** to live one's life and what is valuable versus what is not valuable to pursue in life;
- Many people erroneously believe that the Creator has hidden His will from we His created beings and they do so because they refuse to look to The Light;
- While all religions have truth in them about human nature and human relationships, there is only One Messenger who most clearly conveys

God's will to humanity and that Messenger's life, a record of his words and deeds are in the four gospel books;

- While The Messenger's teachings are considered part of “Holy Scripture” by the religionists, his words are Life everlasting.