

CrossRoads Baptist Church  
April 2, 2008 6:30 p.m.  
Will of God Series #8

### **The Will of God When It Is Not Clear**

We have tried to look with integrity to the passages in God's will that clearly teaches us what the will of God is in particular situations. These are without dispute and are clearly marked.

However, there are a myriad of other decisions that a believer has to make that we need to be in God's will concerning. What about the issues of vocation, marriage partner, employment, business decisions, moral decisions where there is no clear Biblical revelation?

Tonight we finish this series of messages on the will of God and conclude last week's message with part II of "When the Will of God is not clear."

George Muller, Bristol, England gave these guidelines:

How I Ascertain the Will of God:

1. Surrender your own will.

I seek at the beginning to get my heart into such a state that it has no will of its own in regard to the given matter. Nine-tenths of the trouble with people is just here. Nine-tenths of the difficulties are overcome when our hearts are ready to do the Lord's will, whatever it may be. When one is truly in this state, it is usually but a little way to the knowledge of what his will is.

2. Do not depend on feelings.

If I do, I make myself liable to great delusions.

3. Seek the Spirit's will through God's Word.

4. Note providential circumstances.

5. Pray

6. Wait

Thus, through prayer to God, the study of the Word, and reflection, I come to a deliberate judgment according to the best of my ability and knowledge, and if my mind is thus at peace, and continues so after two or three more petitions, I proceed accordingly.

What about fleeces?

"If the sun is shining in the morning, I'll do it." "If he's there when I open the door, I'll know he's the one." "If I pass the class on world missions, I'll be a missionary. If not, I'll be a local pastor."

We all know better than this, but it happens all the time. We call it "laying a fleece" before the Lord or "seeking a sign."

The term "fleece" comes from the account of Gideon in Judges 6. Gideon questions whether God is with them against the Midianites and he doubts his own ability (verse 15). So he asks God for a sign. God gives him one, then tells him to tear down the altar of Baal. Gideon is afraid to do it during the day, so he goes at night.

Then he questions again whether God will deliver Israel. This time he puts a lamb's fleece on the ground. If God will deliver Israel, then the lamb's fleece will be wet in the morning and the ground around it will be dry. The next morning it is so. That ought to be enough but it's not. Wanting to make sure, and hoping that God won't get mad, Gideon asks Him to do it again, but this time with the opposite results. Not exactly the stuff heroes are made of. But God answers the request.

The fleece wasn't a means of demonstrating faith; it was just the opposite. And it certainly wasn't used to determine God's will. God had already told Gideon what to do. Gideon was questioning the integrity of God, just as we do if we ask for a fleece when God has already shown His will.