

March 5, 2017 – 6:00 pm

Principles of Christian Growth

Section Three: The Results of Christian Growth – How does it bless us?

Lesson Six: Decision-making in the will of God is a blessing of growth.

Bible Reading: Ps. 37:1-11; Prov. 3:1-26, Matt. 26:36-46; John 8:21-30; Jam. 1:2-8, 4:13-5:11.

Jesus prayed about God's will for His life in the garden of Gethsemane this way, "Not my will, but thine be done" (Matt. 26:36-46). He did that not for his own benefit, but for His Father's and ours. Having prayed that way, He acted faithfully on a decision He had made in the will of God to die as the atoning sacrifice for our sins. The disciples operated under a different principle that evening in the garden—"Not thy will, but mine be done." They wanted to sleep and not pray, and so that is what they did. They were not very much like their Lord that night. That contrast defines well for us the difference between Christ-like decision-making in the will of God and decision-making in the will of our flesh.

Discussion questions:

1. God has given us a human will that we are to use to make decisions. We do the will of God when those decisions match what God desires for our lives. Ps. 37:4 describes that kind of decision-making, the kind in which God gives us the desires of our heart. What other commands does that kind of decision-maker obey (vv. 1-11)?
2. Solomon counsels that we can live blessed lives of peace (Prov. 3:2), favor (v. 4), clear direction (v. 6), better health (v. 8), and abundant provision (v. 10) if we have wisdom (vv. 13-26). What tests can we use from verses 1-12 to measure whether we have this wisdom?
3. Arrogance can be a big problem when it comes to making the right decision. What are the warning signs of this problem (Jam. 4:13-17)?