

- 7) Reduce personal stress!
 - 8) Travel to a special destination/recreation & leisure!
 - 9) Volunteer to help others!
 - 10) Be a better spouse/parent/family member!
- B) Vision is an essential element of the Christian life (Proverbs 29:18). We engage God's vision through faith in His Son, Jesus Christ (Ephesians 2:8). Without faith in God, without His vision for us, we are hopeless (Hebrews 11:6).
- C) Faith is made up of three elements in the Bible.
- i. First, we must have faith in Jesus Christ through the teaching of God's Word, the Bible (Romans 10:17). This is the "content" of our faith.
 - ii. Second, we must "believe" that Jesus is Savior and that salvation is through Him alone (Hebrews 11:6). This is what we "believe" in faith.
 - iii. Third, we must be "faithful" and live righteous lives (Romans 1:17, 2 Timothy 2:11-13). This is how we "live" in faith.
- D) In other words, vision and discipline combine together to produce "faith." They are inseparable in practice. If one "has faith," one will "do righteousness" (James 2:14-26).
- E) Any "resolutions" we have (visionary disciplines) need to be submitted to "God's will" (James 4:13-17). The Bible calls on us to constantly improve our character and actions, but to do so "without arrogance, in the Lord."

2) How Can I Know God's Will For My Life?

- A) If our resolutions need to be submitted to "God's will," how do we discover God's will for our lives? Can we know God's will? Is it possible to have resolutions which are in line with the will of God? **YES!!**
- B) Despite popular opinion, God's will is not hidden from His people. God has made His will abundantly clear in Scripture (Romans 12:1-2).
- C) Historically, the writers and people of God did not "walk around in the dark," confused as to the will of God:
- 1) Paul was an apostle by the will of God (Ephesians 1:1).
 - 2) We find security in the will of God (Colossians 4:12).
 - 3) The will of God is common knowledge and practice for all Christians (1st Thessalonians 4:3)
 - 4) The will of God is so clear in Scripture, it is viewed as the polar opposite of mankind's unstable and unpredictable ways (1st Peter 2:15, 4:1-6).

3) The One Great Source For Knowing God's Will

- A) God has made His will clearly known through the written Word of God, the Bible, the Scriptures (2nd Timothy 3:16-17). We are called to know God's Word (2nd Timothy 2:15) and be sanctified by God's Word (John 17:17).
- B) As we contemplate resolutions for the New Year, will you make it your top priority to read God's Word in order to discover God's Will? Remember, faith has biblical content, biblical faith, and biblical actions. "Whatever is not from faith is sin!" (Romans 14:23). Dig into God's Word this year!