

2. When we do a right action does it matter that the heart is right as well? If we just happen to fit in with God's will is it also important that we are going to follow God's will in the future—because we love Him and worship Him?

“But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.”

Matthew 6:33,34

1. We are to seek first God's righteousness when we have need
2. God will give 'all these things' as well as righteousness
3. What do you think this means?

“His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature and escape the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.”

2 Peter 1:3,4

1. God gives us everything we need for life and godliness
2. This is given as a result of God's promises
3. The result is that we may participate in the divine nature
4. How about decisions relating to the fundamental issues of our faith? Will God help us in decisions relating to our faith?

DISCOVERING THE BIBLE

LESSON 48

DECIDING TO DO GOD'S WILL

“Therefore, holy brothers, who share in the heavenly calling, fix your thoughts on Jesus, the apostle and high priest whom we confess. He was faithful to the one who appointed him, just as Moses was faithful in all God's house.”

Hebrews 3:1,2

1. We, as Christians, are described as holy brothers.
2. The calling we receive is from heaven—to share in the heavenly 'calling'
3. Does this suggest our earthly behaviour is to reflect how we will behave in heaven?
4. We are reminded to fix our thoughts on Jesus.
5. Jesus was appointed, by God, and was faithful to God.
6. Do you think that it is worthwhile being faithful to God?

“He replied, “Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and obey it.”

Luke 11:28

1. Jesus tells us that his people are blessed if we hear God's word—and if we obey that word
2. One of the greatest things is a life of obedience in everyday, routine things

3. The text that follows is God's word. It is an example of where and how we can and should obey

"Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors"

Matthew 6:12

1. The word used for 'debt' actually means 'sin'. If we have such debts (sins)—they need forgiving by God
2. There are times when people sin against us
3. We are to forgive those who sin against us
4. Is it easy to obey this word from God?
5. What are the benefits if we obey God like this?

"When you fast, do not look somber as the hypocrites do, for they disfigure their faces to show men they are fasting. I tell you the truth, they have received their reward in full. But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that it will not be obvious to men that you are fasting, but only to your Father, who is unseen; and your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you."

Matthew 6:16-18

1. There are times to fast—but Jesus reminds us there is a particular way to fast
2. There are rewards for fasting - but the rewards are not from the fasting
3. God notices even the times when we fast—and do not show it

4. Do you find it good that God notices what we are doing?

".. If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?'"

Matthew 6:30,31

1. God not only sees us—but also clothes us
2. There are times when we are anxious about the basic things of life
3. Jesus recognises that we get worried
4. Do you have particular worries?
5. Could you fast about this—and will God care for your future?
6. If you had to make a decision about some difficult choice what would you base your decisions on?

"You have heard that it was said, 'Do not commit adultery.' But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart."

Matthew 5:27,28

1. Adultery is not about any physical action—but about our thoughts