



Dear Friend of *Abiding Above*,

August 2015

There is hardly a day that goes by that I do not meet or have a conversation with someone who is searching to gain a better understanding of God's will is for his life.

Now, if the person is not a child of God, he must have a personal relationship with Him before he can be guided by His Word and His Spirit in life's decisions. Once that is established, I offer these words most of the time.

1. There must be the practice of self-denial.

Romans 6:11 – *“Likewise you also, reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord.”*

This means I am to see myself the way God sees me, crucified with Christ and raised with Him, therefore I can rightly think and say, *“I'm dead to the things in my life that are not of God. I'm dead to sin. I do not have to act on selfish impulses.”* Why? Because now and forever the Holy Spirit empowers me in the inner man not to act contrary to the will of God. Yes, we must obey. This means to rest in God and submissively do what He says.

2. There must be the practice of building a life's message.

Your life is a letter for others to read. Your life may be the only sermon someone will ever see and hear. Your life may be the only Bible someone will ever read.

The Apostle Paul, speaking to the Church at Corinth says this in **2 Corinthians 3:2** – *“You are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read by all men ...”*

An epistle is a letter, and what Paul is saying here is that our lives are an epistle...our lives are a letter. Not only that, they are known and read by all men in the sense that their conversion was a well-known fact in the whole area. People realized that a change had come over these people and that they had turned to God from idols, and they were now living separated lives. They were the evidence of Paul's divine ministry. My friend, people need to see the beauty of Jesus in you.



We must remember what Jesus said in **John 15:16** – *“You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you.”*

When we choose to practice self-denial and build a life's message, we will find that we are in the center of God's will for our lives. Our problem is that many times we want to look ahead and know God's will so we can decide if we like it or not. That should not be our focus. Our focus should be to live lives of surrender, knowing God's eternal will for our lives in every area will simply ***"emerge"*** if we will only surrender moment-by-moment.

My friend, when you are seeking to know the will of God about something, ask yourself, *"Do I have first things first?"* Am I walking in the Spirit? Am I willing to say yes to God even if I do not understand it? From this position, I know from personal experience God will not only show you His will, but He will make it happen, His way.

I want to thank you for your prayers and financial gifts to this ministry. We are continuing to get the salvation message ***Christ Died for You*** and ***You Died with Christ*** out to thousands of people through the radio airwaves. We also continue using the internet to get these messages out to places all over the world. These things would not happen apart from your support.

We are in great need now in these summer months when giving normally drops off as with other ministries. Please make your most generous gift as we catch up on the cost for our radio time.

May God continue to bless you spirit, soul, and body as you give back what He has given you. As an old country preacher said one time, *"You shovel out and God will shovel back in to you. God has the bigger shovel."* That is so true; trust Him and watch it happen.

We love you and thank God for you!

Abiding above,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Chris S. Hager".

President
Abiding Above Ministries
Colossians 3:1-3