



new life fellowship

Sermon Title: Discernment: Delighting in God's Will

Speaker: Richard Villodas, Lead Pastor

Scripture: Psalm 40:1-8

¹ I waited patiently for the LORD;
he turned to me and heard my cry.

² He lifted me out of the slimy pit,
out of the mud and mire;
he set my feet on a rock
and gave me a firm place to stand.

³ He put a new song in my mouth,
a hymn of praise to our God.
Many will see and fear the LORD
and put their trust in him.

⁴ Blessed is the one
who trusts in the LORD,
who does not look to the proud,
to those who turn aside to false gods.^[a]

⁵ Many, LORD my God,
are the wonders you have done,
the things you planned for us.
None can compare with you;
were I to speak and tell of your deeds,
they would be too many to declare.

⁶ Sacrifice and offering you did not desire—
but my ears you have opened^[a]—
burnt offerings and sin offerings^[a] you did not require.

⁷ Then I said, "Here I am, I have come—
it is written about me in the scroll."^[a]

⁸ I desire to do your will, my God;
your law is within my heart."

(NIV)

Sermon Outline:

What does it mean to delight in God's will? Every one of us, no matter what stage of life we are in, will have to make significant decisions in 2023. How we make decisions for our lives is critical to our spiritual formation.

How we make decisions:

1. Always discerning but never deciding.
2. Always deciding but never discerning.
3. Deciding from a place of discernment.

In God's will is our peace.

-Gregory of Nazianzus

Discernment: To distinguish between things. To separate things according to their various natures.

We are faced with a choice – are we going to do our will or God's will? The hope is that there is an alignment between our will and God's will.

Three qualities when it comes to discernment:

- all options before us seem to be good
- it is a choice of some significance
- you are free to choose either option.

Four Truths about Discernment:

1. God is actively engaged in our world. Therefore, our decisions matter.
2. Jesus teaches us to pray, “your will be done” which presupposes that we are discovering God’s will for our lives.
3. We were made for a “communion of wills.”
4. We grow in our life with God through discernment.

We need a heart that desires to do the will of God.

Over and over in Psalm 40, David gives us language of how good and amazing God is, that God is the One who lifts us up and fills us with joy. God doesn’t just want us to be religious and do religious things, he desires something deeper - our heart.

Our image of God needs to be healed. We need Jesus to heal our image of God. Jesus Christ does this by showing us what God is like. God’s love over your life can be trusted. We need new images and narratives. In order to delight in God’s will for our lives, we need to have a healthy views and narratives of who God truly is. Jesus Christ is the full and final revelation of who God is. At the core of healing our images of God, we need to look at Jesus.

Do you know that God loves you with an everlasting love? That God’s love for you is far more profound than you could ever grasp? God’s ultimate good for you is found in his will.

May our hands and hearts be open before God, and may we say, “I desire to do your will.”

Sermon Summary:

This Sunday, Richard Villodas, Lead Pastor, begins a new series titled *Discernment, How to Discover God’s Will*. Today Pastor Rich explores what it means to delight in God’s will for our lives.

Sermon Questions:

1. Do you feel an invitation from Christ in today’s scripture passage? Do any of the words resonate with you? If so, why?
2. Is there a decision that you are looking to make in your life now, one where you need God’s wisdom and will? Instead of making a quick or hasty decision, find time this week to sit with God asking for his direction, guidance, and wisdom on how and when you should move forward with the decision you need to make.
3. Do you have images in your mind about who God is that need to be healed? Can you look to the life of Jesus Christ to see how deep, wide and immense God’s love for your life is? His love over your life can be trusted. Ask God for forgiveness and healing around those incorrect messages or scripts that you have been carrying how who he is.
4. Where in your life have you said that you don’t desire God’s’ will? Where have you closed God off to a decision you need to make in your life? Maybe today the Holy Spirit is telling you to turn to him, trusting that his love and will for you is good?