

MT. SPOKANE CHURCH

A HEART LIKE MINE

Discovering God's Will for Your Life

'Endings and Beginnings' - Message 1 of 8

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Bob Smith

- God has a special purpose for every person. His Holy Spirit is the empowerment needed to know and accomplish His will.

⇒ Please turn in your Bibles to Psalm 139:14-16.

"All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be." Psalm 139:16 (NIV)

- The Hebrew word for ordained is "yatsar" (יָצַר). It means to form like a potter does His creation. It is to fashion, shape, or frame human activity. It is to plan or purpose a situation. It relates to something or someone being predetermined, or formed according to a divine plan and purpose.

⇒ Please turn in your Bibles to Jeremiah 29:11-14.

"You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. I will be found by you," declares the Lord..." Jeremiah 29:13-14 (NIV)

- The Hebrew word for heart is "lebab" (לֵבָב). It means the inner man - the mind, will, heart, soul, and understanding. It means the inclination, resolution, determination of the will and conscience. It is the heart of moral character as the seat of appetites, emotions, passions, and courage.

- Knowing God's will for your life requires an understanding of endings and beginnings. It is a process of learning to let go of what is behind us and to grab hold of what lies before us.
- Discovering God's will is dependent upon our ability to accept change.

3 Biblical Truths about Seasons of Change

Biblical Truth #1: Times of change can find us in a struggle with God.

⇒ Please turn in your Bibles to Genesis 32:24-31.

"The man asked him, "What is your name?" "Jacob," he answered. Then the man said, "Your name will no longer be Jacob, but Israel, because you have struggled with God and with men and have overcome." Genesis 32:27-28 (NIV)

- The Hebrew word for Israel is "Yisra'el" (יִשְׂרָאֵל). It means he who struggles with God, God prevails, or He will rule as God.

- The struggle with God was a pivotal transformation in Jacob's life and his relationship with God. He

realized God's love for him, knowing he should not have lived after seeing God's face. Being given the name Israel attests to the path of future generations of God's people.

- Each time we wrestle with God - He wins. But He lovingly **adds** to our spiritual resources so our future will find us with hearts able to withstand the pressures of this world.

⇒ Please turn in your Bibles to Matthew 26:33-35.

“But Peter declared, “Even if I have to die with you, I will never disown you.” And all the other disciples said the same.” Matthew 26:35 (NIV)

- Change can be planned and preparations made in some cases, but often change can be unexpected and very disruptive.

Biblical Truth #2: Times of change can find us unable to explain the help God is giving us.

- Many of us can testify to the help God gives during times of dramatic change. We know it is real.
- Help from God, while in times of dramatic change, is not something that is primarily meant to be explained, it is something meant to be experienced.
⇒ Please turn in your Bibles to Ecclesiastes 10:10.

“If the ax is dull and its edge unsharpened, more strength is needed but skill will bring success.” Ecclesiastes 10:10 (NIV)

- The Hebrew word for skill is “*chokmah*” (חֵכֶּמָה). It means wisdom or the capacity to understand and so have skill in living, it is shrewdness or the technical ability to do something.
- As Christians, our learned power, our skill is to know God so deeply and so confidently, that in times of change, conflict, and trouble we easily draw near to Him and allow Him to carry out His predetermined or “ordained” plan.
- The learned ability to completely surrender our wills to Him, frees us up to succeed, to pass the test before us with little effort.
- Consistently reading the Word of God, fervently praying, and knowing Him so well that your skill is found in Him has proven to be the Biblical way to receive God's help.

⇒ Please turn in your Bibles to Psalm 121:1-8.

“My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth. He will not let your foot slip— he who watches over you will not slumber.” Psalm 121:2-3 (NIV)

Biblical Truth #3: Times of change can find us left with a broken heart.

⇒ Please turn in your Bibles to Psalm 51:17.

“The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.” Psalm 51:17 (NIV)

- The Hebrew word for heart is “*leb*” (לֵב). It is a form of the Hebrew word לֵבָב ‘*lebab*’. It means the inner man – the mind, will, heart, soul, and understanding. It means the inclination, resolution, determination of the will and conscience. It is the heart of moral character as the seat of appetites, emotions, passions, and courage.
- The Hebrew word for broken is “*shabar*” (שָׁבַר). It means to break in pieces, destroy, crush, wrecked, shattered or broken.

⇒ Please turn in your Bibles to Psalm 34:18.

“The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit.” Psalm 34:18 (NIV)

⇒ Please turn in your Bibles to Isaiah 61:1.

“The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me, because the Lord has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners.” Isaiah 61:1 (NIV)

“Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.” Luke 4:21 (NIV)

- A broken spiritual heart is surrendering the inclinations, resolutions and determinations of our will to God. It is living each moment of each day as if it were “ordained” by God.
- Finding God’s will begins by being totally surrendered to discovering what His predetermined will for our lives is.