

HOW TO KNOW GOD'S WILL FOR MY HEALING 1 JOHN 5:4

Good morning! This is the last part of our series I'm calling "Truth and Consequence". I've been sharing with you some fundamental truths about our lives that the Bible tells us and what happens when we recognize these truths and apply them in our lives. Today, in this last message, I'd like to talk about "How to Know God's Will for My Healing."

For sure, many of us, if not all of us, need healing. We are suffering from something. It can be physical, it can be emotional, it can be mental, it can even be spiritual. We are human beings and we are imperfect and others are imperfect, too, and the world is imperfect and, therefore, bad things happen to anyone. Why do bad things happen? I don't know. Only God knows. Actually, the Bible has an answer to that. But that will be the subject of another sermon in the future. Today, I'd like us to look at discovering God's will for your healing.

Some of you today, your marriage is on the rocks and you just wonder, "Can God save this marriage?" Some of you have gotten some bad news from the doctor and the doctor said, "It doesn't look good." And you said, "I wonder if there's hope in Jesus." Some maybe struggling with drug addiction or porn addiction. Some of us are overwhelmed with anxiety and depression. The question is, what is God's will for your healing?

You see, I believe that the world is no longer interested in Jesus as Savior, but I believe that they will listen to Jesus as healer. Now, some of you've never noticed this in your Bibles, Jesus did 37 miracles. Did you know that 28 of them are healing miracles - giving sight to the blind, raising people from the dead, allowing deaf people to hear? Jesus is our healer and I believe today Jesus is still in the business of healing.

In 1 John 5:14, it says, let us read together: *"This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us."*

Now, the \$64 million dollar question though is, How do I know God's will? How do I know his will for my marriage? How do I know his will for my finances? For my health? His will for my depression? His will for my anxiety? All of us face incredibly scary things in our life, but here's the good news. We can all come to Jesus, no matter where we are, or what we've done, or what's wrong with us. Jesus allows all of us to approach him with confidence.

In the book of **Luke 5:12-14** (NLT), we see a man approaching Jesus with confidence. Let's look at the story.

So, this man has a disease called leprosy. It was a disease that cursed humanity for thousands of years. They didn't know what caused it. They didn't know how to cure it. And so when you got leprosy, listen, if you were married, you were instantly divorced. You no longer were allowed to live together because they knew it was contagious. They just didn't know how it spread.

So, imagine, wives, you have to say goodbye to your husband and live forever in a colony of lepers. Don't say Amen. They did this all the way up to just about a hundred years ago. Even in America, when you got leprosy, you had to go live somewhere else with someone else. It didn't matter how rich you were, how poor you were. It didn't matter what color your skin was. It's amazing how when we're sick, we come together.

But this man, he suffered from a disease that was scary. It was terrifying. He was separated from everyone that he loved and everyone that he knew. And so here was the law 2,000 years ago, when Jesus was on earth. If you had leprosy and someone came in contact with you, you had to cry out, "Unclean, unclean," and that they would kind of shuffle and move away and get out of your way because they didn't want to get your disease. They didn't want to get your sickness.

We've been through the covid pandemic but it's still around and we all know what it feels like to be unclean. Anybody got COVID in the past? Raise your hands. At present? Go home. You know, I was one of the lucky ones, I got it twice. Anybody got it twice like me? If you got it three times, man, you're blessed. You're still alive. Anyone who never got it? I'm sorry you missed something in your life.

So here we have this guy, ok? He's not COVID positive, but he is a leprous man. At least COVID can kill you quick. Leprosy kills you over the years. You just simply rot. In one of these villages, Jesus met a man, listen to this, with an advanced case of leprosy. This is stage four cancer. This is a terminal illness. There is no hope. And when the man saw Jesus, remember what he's supposed to cry out? "Unclean!" But he doesn't cry out, "Unclean." He bowed his face to the ground and he begged the Lord for healing. He said, "If you are willing, you can heal me and make me clean." I just wonder if God is willing to do a miracle in your life today and you'll never know because you never ask. But this man asked. He cries out, "If you are willing, you can heal me and you can make me clean."

And here's what Jesus does. You see, this man is untouchable, unapproachable, right. But Jesus approaches him and touches him. And he says, "I am willing. Be clean." And instantly the leprosy disappears and Jesus instructs him not to tell anyone what happened. Not even on X, formerly known as Twitter. I don't know why when X is mentioned it inevitably comes with that phrase, "formerly known as Twitter". It's been a year and by now many should know already that Twitter is now known as X, formerly known as Twitter. Ok, let's move on.

So why does Jesus tell him not to tell anybody? Because here's the thing. He had to go to the doctors of their time and get a certificate saying he was clean. His own family is not going to let him come home until he has a certificate that says, "I

am no longer sick.” So, Jesus instructs him not to tell anyone, but he says go to the priest and let him examine you. Take along the offering required in the law of Moses for those who have been healed of leprosy. He says, "This will be a public testimony that you have been cleansed."

Paul says this to the church in Ephesus. He says, *"Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is."* (Eph. 5:17)

Some of you today, you are hurting because you made a decision and you never asked God. Some of you are planning to bail out of your marriage because you never asked God what to do with your marriage. Some of you are losing your job because you never asked God if you should take the job in the first place. You see, you can experience a lot less pain in life, if you invite the wisdom of God in your life. What is the will of God for my life? The Bible says it is foolish, to not ask, to not want to know God's will.

So *how can I know God's will for my healing?* What is God's will for me today? Here's how I discover God's will. Number one,

1. *I ask humbly for a miracle.* Now I know and you know that there are some Christians who subscribe to the idea that if you just name it and claim it then you get it. I understand they want to express their faith but the problem is the object of their faith. Their object is themselves and not God. It's similar to the positive thinking saying like, "What the mind can conceive, it can achieve." The emphasis is on oneself. Where is God mentioned? You have to humbly ask the Lord. "Lord, if you are willing, you can make me clean." "I don't know what you're going to do, but I know what you can do." You leave it to the Lord.

Now, when's the last time you asked God for a miracle? When the man saw Jesus, he bowed his face to the ground. When's the last time you ever bowed your head without being asked to? When's the last time you ever humbled yourself before God? When's the last time you asked God for a miracle? When the man saw

Jesus, he bowed his face to the ground and he begged to be healed. He said, "If you are willing, you can heal me and make me clean."

Did you know that even Jesus prayed for a miracle? In Luke 22:42, it says, *"Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done."* He humbled himself before his father and asked for a miracle. But he was prepared to accept whatever God's will is.

Remember, Jesus prayed for one hour. He wanted a miracle but he struggled. He knew his father might not answer it the way he wanted it to. But he kept on praying. He persevered in prayer.

So many of us, we give up on praying. We don't pray anymore. "I stopped praying because God doesn't answer my prayers." Can I just tell you this? Every prayer you've ever asked has been answered. Because every prayer is answered with one of three things. Yes, no, or wait. Yes, no, or wait. You say, "Well, God didn't answer my prayer." No, you got the answer, but it wasn't the one you wanted.

Let's look at these three answers.

First, God answers by saying "No". Why can God say no? God can say no because God is God. He is Sovereign. Some of you are asking for a miracle in your life and I believe that some of you are going to receive a miracle but some of you are going to get a no. But here's the amazing thing about God. When God says no to a miraculous healing, he always sends miraculous strength.

When Jesus prayed and he asked God to take away the pain, God said no and in the very next verse, God sent angels to minister to Jesus. He said no to a miraculous healing. What did he do instead? He sent miraculous messengers and they began to strengthen him. I hope you get you miracle but if you don't, God will send angels to strengthen you. Whenever God says no to a miracle, he sends his messengers.

You see, when God doesn't heal, he wants to reveal. There's something about him he wants to teach you. There's something about him that he wants you to know but here's the good news. God can say yes. God can say yes. So God can say no because he is God. And God can say yes because he is good. But mind you, God never answers prayers that aren't asked. That's what we got to know. God never forces himself on us. You want a miracle? Ask. God can say yes because he is good if you ask for it.

Now, the next verse is one of the saddest verses in the Bible. Jesus is speaking to his disciples. They knew him personally and they walked with him daily. Then, he said (John 16:24) "Until now you have not asked for anything in my name." How sad is that, if on Judgment Day, when you stand before God, he says, "You never ask me for anything." He said until now you've never asked me for anything in my name. Then, he continues, "Ask and you will receive, and your joy will be complete."

How many of you are depressed and sad and overwhelmed because you haven't asked God for a miracle? You've tried everything. You've been to counseling. You're using medicine. You're doing all kinds. You ask God. I don't know what he's going to do, but I know what he can do.

Let me share with the story of a missionary chaplain in CA, Pastor Matthew Brown, from his own words.

"A couple years ago, I saw one of the greatest miracles I've ever heard of anyone seeing. I've never heard anyone see what I saw. I've never heard any personally someone experience what I experienced. My wife and I, we went to Vietnam on a medical mission trip. Now, I am not a doctor. I barely passed biology. So, I was not a doctor. I was not a nurse. I was the chaplain.

What does that mean? In charge of nothing. Stick around and smile and we did all kinds of surgeries. We had incredible surgeons from all around the United

States, anesthesiologist, doctors, and we went way out, way out in the middle of nowhere, Vietnam. We found people who'd never been to a doctor, never been to a hospital and many of them are needing life altering procedures.

One of the procedures that our team did was cleft palate surgeries for little kids who are born where their face didn't fully form together. It gives them problems eating and speaking. It's lifelong problems and so we had surgeons that would fix that. And so we found a little toddler with a cleft palate surgery and it's a routine surgery. Nothing should go wrong, yet with this little guy, everything went wrong.

When he came out of surgery and they removed the breathing tube and he came off the machine, his airway swelled, and he coded. The doctors and the anesthesiologists and the nurses, they're trained for this, It's a code blue. They did everything they could to resuscitate him. Everything they could to medically bring them back. They had all the equipment. They had everything they needed and nothing they did worked for hours. The boy lay unresponsive.

Hours later, Tammy and I came back to the compound we were all working and they said, Pastor Matt, this little boy's condition is grave and he may die. They want you to come and pray over him before they pull the plug. Let me tell you something, man. It was the longest drive and the heaviest walk. I had to walk past that little boy's mom and his family in the waiting room. I had to scrub in for the first time in my life, like a doctor to go into the OR room, because he was still in surgery.

I walked into the surgical room and doctors were arguing and there was chaos and there was confusion. I saw the little boy lying lifeless on the surgical table and there was this big old doctor from Texas. He said, "The boy is dead. Just call it." But there was a doctor in the room who said, "Not until we pray."

I laid my hands on that little lifeless boy and I am telling you, I have never been so afraid in my life to say amen. Right? Because when I say amen, we're going to know. And I said, "Lord Jesus, we did this. I need you to fix this. We meant to help him. We hurt him. We came to save him and we've killed him. Please bring this boy and heal him, in Jesus name." And as I say, "Amen," I opened my eyes and the little boy's eyes opened and he looked at me and he peed. It's a true story.

I looked over and the surgeon who was overwhelmed with grief, think about this. This is what he's doing on his vacation. He didn't come to kill this kid. He came to help this kid. He's sitting in the corner with tears in his eyes and here's what the surgeon said to me. He said, "It's just like the Bible says." Amen. It's just like the Bible says."

So, God can say no. He can say yes and God can say, wait, because waiting is good.

Psalms 27:14, *"Wait for the Lord; be strong and take heart and wait for the Lord."* Who likes waiting? Nobody likes to wait. In August, my family is going to California to visit my mom. What does it mean? It means Disneyland! Well, not really. Because Universal Studios is running a promo and you get to visit it twice for one price. So, that's where we're going and what does it mean? It means waiting and much more waiting in lines. So, maybe I'll just walk around while my children wait.

Now, how do I discover God's will for my healing?

2. Search for God's will while I wait.

We don't just sit back. Matthew 7:7 (AMP) says this: *"Ask and keep on asking and it will be given to you; seek and keep on seeking and you will find; knock and keep on knocking and the door will be opened to you."* Don't just ask once. Don't just ask twice. Keep asking. Ask and ask and ask.

You see, here's what God tells us in his Word. He wants to be found. In Proverbs 8:17 he says, *"I love those who love me, and those who seek me find me."* Don't give up. God loves you. Keep asking for your miracle. Next, I got to

3. Listen for the voice of God's spirit.

What is God saying? What should I do? Am I listening for his voice? In the 1994 movie Dumb and Dumber, there's a scene where Lloyd and Harry are driving in the shaggin' wagon and they're deciding whether or not to pick up a hitchhiker, who by the way wants to murder them. And Lloyd says to Harry, "I'm going to go with my gut on this one. Pick him up."

I feel like that's how so many of us operate as Christians. Like the girl who says, "I'm going to go with my gut on this one, God. That guy's cute. What could possibly go wrong?" Well, everything went wrong after marriage. Here's what Jesus says *"But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth."* (John 16:13) God wants to show you his will. You just need to listen to his voice. And when you get an impression from God, you have to go to the source of truth which is his Word, the Bible. The measuring stick is the Bible. If what you heard runs counter to God's Word, then that doesn't come from God.

How can I discover God's will for my healing?

4. I've got to spend time with the healer.

John 8:31-32 says, *"To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, 'If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.'"* You don't have to be confused about the future. All you have to do is spend time with God.

You know, I don't always know what Jesus is going to do, but I have a sense. In John 15:7, Jesus says, *"If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you."*

Can I just ask you? Are you frustrated in your life? Are you tired? Why not start living your life like Jesus wants you to live your life? You see, abiding is a contract. That's what it means. To abide with something means I can work with that. I can go with that. Some of you call yourself a Christian, but there's nothing Christian about your life and you wonder why you feel miserable.

You see, I believe as Christians, if we pray for more wisdom from Jesus, we could pray for less miracles from Jesus. You don't need to blow up your life to experience Jesus. You can just ask him for his will for your life. How do I understand his will? I abide in his Word. I abide in his Word. People ask me, "Pastor Rolly, do you read your Bible every day?" Yes. Do you know why? Not because I'm holy, but because I know I'm not and that's why I need to read it every day. Every day. BTW, lately, I'm not reading, but I'm also listening. Since I travel 20 minutes each day to work, I connect my phone to my car's speaker and play Audio Bible from Spotify. And it reads the Bible to me in sequential order.

How can I discover God's will for my healing?

5. I need to enlist others to pray with me.

Don't pray alone. Invite others. But some of us today, we're so ashamed. We're so embarrassed to say, "I need prayer for my marriage." "I need prayer for my health." "I need prayer for my depression." Maybe, the thing that is keeping you from your miracle is your pride.

James 5:16 says: *"Pray for each other so that you may be healed."* When's the last time you invited somebody to pray for you. When's the last time you said, "You know what, God? I'm so serious about this miracle, I don't care who knows. You see, folks, faking it till you're making it won't work. I know what your marriage looks like in Facebook, but God knows what your marriage is really like at home and here's what I've learned. It's almost never the same.

If you need a miracle today, at the end of service, I'm going to ask you to humble yourself, just like the man did and to ask God for a miracle. Some of you as married couples, you need to stand today, together. Lord, we can't do this on our own. Colossians 1:9 (ESV) says this: *"So from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding."* God wants you to know his will. He wants you to know it today but you have to invite him.

Last point. What is God's will for my healing? I'll discover it when I

6. I embrace the mystery of God's will.

Look, we're going to pray in just a second. I have no idea what God's going to do. I know not all of us will get healed. I know all of us will be heard. And I know this. We only experience the miracles we ask for. Ecclesiastes 3:11 says this: *"He does everything just right and on time, but people can never completely understand what he is doing."* I don't know what God's going to do today, but I know what God can do today. And just so you know, that's faith. Faith is not believing what will happen. Faith is believing what can happen.

James 4:13-15 says this: *"Now listen, you who say, 'Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money.' Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes. Instead, you ought to say, 'If it is the Lord's will, we will live and do this or that.'"* The reason you're here today is it was the Lord's will for you to be here today. God has given you another day to get your life right with him. Another moment, another hour, another second and that is a miracle.

I don't know what tomorrow holds, right? But we know who holds tomorrow. The Bible says, *"Many are the plans in a person's heart, but it is the*

Lord's purpose that prevails." (Prov. 19:21) You don't know what tomorrow holds, but you can know who can hold you right now and his name is Jesus.

To end this message, I'd like to share with you another story. Some of you have heard this before. It kind of like summarizes everything you've heard here today. It's the story of Duane Miller, a pastor in Texas, who suddenly, inexplicably lost his voice. Not totally, but when he spoke, he spoke like he was just whispering. There was no medical answer. As a result, he agreed to resign from his church. He became depressed and wondered where God was. Some people even asserted that there must be sin in his life. Then, on the anniversary of the church the next year, he was invited to speak. Not in the main service, but in Sunday school. With children. With some parents and teachers. Fortunately, it was recorded. And what you'll hear next is one of the most awesome things you'll ever hear in your life:

Healing Audio

Folks, it's without a doubt an amazing story of God's miracle. God can do a miracle for you, too, if you ask for it. Then, wait for his answer. It can be yes, no, or wait.