

What Do You Want, God?

Step 11 - Sought through prayer and meditation to improve our conscious contact with God, praying only for knowledge of His will for us and the power to carry that out.

There is a sense in which the purpose of prayer and meditation in the program is almost entirely to help us learn how to hear God and to act according to His will. For example, as we daily read and meditate on God's word as recorded in the Bible, we get in touch with God who is already at work changing our lives. We then stay in touch with Him and let Him teach us how to live by acting on the guidance the Bible gives. When we watch and listen to God in this way, God will respond and reveal His will to us. This makes us much more attentive to our surroundings and to the people in our lives. We learn to recognize God's voice and God's ways in dealing with us and with our relationships as we respond to what God has told us. What am I doing to meditate and get familiar with God's will and guidance that's recorded in the Bible? What am I doing with direction and guidance God has already spoken into my life through the Bible?

"For I know the plans I have for you", says the Lord. "They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope. "In those days when you pray, I will listen. If you look for me in earnest, you will find me when you seek me. I will be found by you", says the Lord. "I will end your captivity and restore your fortunes". (Jeremiah 29)

- What does it mean for me to look earnestly for God?
- How do I seek God day by day to know His plans and to hear His heart?

Jesus says, "Look! Here I stand at the door and knock. If you hear me calling and open the door, I will come in, and we will share a meal as friends." (Revelation 3)

- How am I sharing my life with God as a friend?

Then Jesus said to the disciples, "If any of you wants to be my follower, you must put aside you selfish ambition, shoulder your cross, and follow me. If you try to keep your life for yourself, you

will lose it. But if you give up your life for me, you will find true life. And how do you benefit if you gain the whole world but lose your own soul in the process? Is anything worth more than your soul? (Matthew 16)

- What does it mean for me to put aside my own ambition and give up my own life for God?

So don't get tired of doing what is good. Don't get discouraged and give up, for we will reap a harvest of blessing at the appropriate time. Whenever we have the opportunity, we should do good to everyone, especially to our Christian brothers and sisters. (Galatians 5,6)

- What do I do when I am challenged in my attitudes and actions and no longer "feel like doing good?"
- What does God ask me to do when I've "done good" and no visible results have shown up?

Then Jesus said, "Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you. Let me teach you, because I am humble and gentle, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke fits perfectly, and the burden I give you is light." (Matthew 11)

- What kind of response does God ask of me when I am feeling troubled and burdened?
- What do I do when I am feeling burdened down by troubles and worries?

Jesus came and told his disciples, "I have been given complete authority in heaven and on earth. Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age." (Matthew 28)

- What does it mean for me to follow God's command for me to go and make disciples?
- What am I doing, these days, to go and make disciples?

All quotations are taken from: Holy Bible, New Living Translation, (Wheaton, IL: Tyndale House Publishers, Inc) 1996.