



CELEBRATING  
*Advent*

## HEBREWS 12:2

keeping our eyes on Jesus, the source and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that lay before Him endured a cross and despised the shame and has sat down at the right hand of God's throne.

## MATTHEW 13:44

“The kingdom of heaven is like treasure, buried in a field, that a man found and reburied. Then in his joy he goes and sells everything he has and buys that field.

## MATTHEW 6:19-21

<sup>19</sup> “Don’t collect for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal. <sup>20</sup> But collect for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves don’t break in and steal. <sup>21</sup> For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

*Let's be reminded to pay attention  
to our heart's longings.*

*Remember the question?*

## MATTHEW 16:23

But He turned and told Peter, "Get behind Me, Satan! You are an offense to Me because you're not thinking about God's concerns, but man's."

**JOHN 4:32**

**“I have food to eat that you don’t know about.”**

JOHN 4:34

***“My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me***



Joy is the internal fulfillment of satisfaction, rest and accomplishment that **ONLY** comes from following His will.

# WHAT IS THE WILL OF GOD?

***There are two answers to that question.***

1. A ***specific*** and defined will can be found often times in the Scripture
  - a. Love God first, love neighbor as self
  - b. Go into all the world, proclaiming gospel to all creation
  - c. If at all possible live at peace with all men
  - d. Slow to anger, slow to speak, quick to listenAlthough these are specific, determining how they play out in individuals' lives is a function of the Holy Spirit. As individuals, He deals with us in the sanctification process like wise.

*Do you love His Word? Do you daily dine on it? Have you set it as a Lamp before you to light your path, then in abundant joy, know that you are already in His will and that the Holy Spirit will guide you constantly as you endeavor to fulfill His will in the unknown areas of your life.*

2. An understanding of God's *general* will is something that can be developed as we mature, grow in the natural gifting God has given us, and exercise discernment when specifics are not to be found.

## I CORINTHIANS 12:4-7

<sup>4</sup> Now there are different gifts, but the same Spirit. <sup>5</sup> There are different ministries, but the same Lord. <sup>6</sup> And there are different activities, but the same God activates each gift in each person. <sup>7</sup> ***A demonstration of the Spirit is given to each person to produce what is beneficial***

## I CORINTHIANS 12:12

For as the body is one and has ***many*** parts

## DETERMINE YOUR GIFTING:

1. Live in the known-specific will of God, found in His Word
2. Tests, they are not unspiritual, just a tool.
3. Others' input, get various perspectives
4. Natural bents, where and when you have seen God use you, and where you feel value
5. Seek God about their display
6. Exercise whenever possible
7. Be patient as muscles develop
8. Be careful to applaud all gifts, recognizing their need to complete the whole
9. Use your brain

## APPLICATION QUESTIONS

- Do you know His will for you?
- Will you choose to ask and listen so that the joy Jesus experienced will be yours?



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