

# 7 Words That Will Change Your Life:

Yes

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Key Scripture:

**Hebrews 11:1-6** Faith shows the reality of what we hope for; it is the evidence of things we cannot see. 2 Through their faith, the people in days of old earned a good reputation. 3 By faith we understand that the entire universe was formed at God's command, that what we now see did not come from anything that can be seen. 4 It was by faith that Abel brought a more acceptable offering to God than Cain did. Abel's offering gave evidence that he was a righteous man, and God showed his approval of his gifts. Although Abel is long dead, he still speaks to us by his example of faith. 5 It was by faith that Enoch was taken up to heaven without dying—"he disappeared, because God took him. For before he was taken up, he was known as a person who pleased God. 6 And it is impossible to please God without faith. Anyone who wants to come to him must believe that God exists and that he rewards those who sincerely seek him.

**Romans 12:1-2** And so, dear brothers and sisters, [a] I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship him. 2 Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.

**1 Kings 19:19-21** So Elijah went and found Elisha son of Shaphat plowing a field. There were twelve teams of oxen in the field, and Elisha was plowing with the twelfth team. Elijah went over to him and threw his cloak across his shoulders and then walked away. 20 Elisha left the oxen standing there, ran after Elijah, and said to him, "First let me go and kiss my father and mother good-bye, and then I will go with you!" Elijah replied, "Go on back, but think about what I have done to you." 21 So Elisha returned to his oxen and slaughtered them. He used the wood from the plow to build a fire to roast their flesh. He passed around the meat to the townspeople, and they all ate. Then he went with Elijah as his assistant.

## TALK IT OVER

Start **talking**. Find a conversation starter for your group.

- There are 5 types of adopters for products: innovators, early adopters, the early majority, the late majority, and laggards. Based on the phone in your pocket, the car you drive, and the way you pay your bills, in which category would you place yourself?

Start **thinking**. Ask a question to get your group thinking.

- 'No' rewards us with safety and 'yes' rewards us with adventure. Are you more likely to choose safety or adventure? Why?
- **Read Hebrews 11:1-6**. Why does faith please God?
- Troy said there is a strong parallel between 'yes' and faith. Have you ever regretted saying 'yes' to God? Have you ever regretted saying 'no'? Explain.
- When you are trying to make a big decision in life, how do you determine the will of God?
- **Read Romans 12:1-2**. According to these verses, how do we determine the will of God for our lives? How have you experienced this process of transformation in your life?
- Read Elisha's calling in **1 Kings 19:19-21**. How did Elisha respond with a strong 'yes'? Are there some plows that need to be burned and oxen that need to be sacrificed in order for you to say yes to God?

Start **sharing**. Choose a question to create openness.

- Read a few of God's promises mentioned in the sermon. How does meditating on God's promises free us to say 'yes' to God?
  - We are loved by God, **John 3:16**
  - Nothing will separate us from that love, **Romans 8:38**
  - We are chosen by God, **John 15:16**
  - You are his adopted child, **Ephesians 1:5**
  - We are free from condemnation, **Romans 8:1**
  - We are forgiven of our sins, **Colossians 1:14**
  - We are a new creation in Christ, **2 Corinthians 5:17**
- What part does faith play in believing God's promises? Do you ever have problems fully embracing the truth of one or more of His promises? Explain. How can a lack of total faith in a promise affect your willingness to say 'yes'? Ask God to grow your faith in Him, the unchanging Author of those promises.

Start **doing**. Commit to a step and live it out this week.

- Commit some time this week to seek God for His will for your life and say 'yes' to Him.

Start **praying**. Be bold and pray with power.

- God, thank you for your love for us and that you have a purpose for each of our lives. Help us to seek You, for what your will is for us, and that we would be willing to say yes to You. In Jesus Name - Amen.

Start **digging**. For further study.

- Read the 2nd page and discuss it.

## **Question: "How can I know God's will for my life? What does the Bible say about knowing God's will?"**

**Answer:** It is important to know God's will. Jesus said that His true relations are those who know and do the Father's will: "Whoever does God's will is my brother and sister and mother" (Mark 3:35). In the parable of the two sons, Jesus rebukes the chief priests and elders for failing to do the will of the Father; specifically, they "did not repent and believe" (Matthew 21:32). At its most basic, the will of God is to repent of our sin and trust in Christ. If we have not taken that first step, then we have not yet accepted God's will.

Once we receive Christ by faith, we are made God's children (John 1:12), and He desires to lead us in His way (Psalm 143:10). God is not trying to hide His will from us; He wants to reveal it. In fact, He has already given us many, many directions in His Word. We are to "give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you" (1 Thessalonians 5:18). We are to do good works (1 Peter 2:15). And "it is God's will that you should be sanctified: that you should avoid sexual immorality" (1 Thessalonians 4:3).

God's will is knowable and provable. Romans 12:2 says, "Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—His good, pleasing and perfect will." This passage gives us an important sequence: the child of God refuses to be conformed to the world and instead allows himself to be transformed by the Spirit. As his mind is renewed according to the things of God, then he can know God's perfect will.

As we seek God's will, we should make sure what we are considering is not something the Bible forbids. For example, the Bible forbids stealing; since God has clearly spoken on the issue, we know it is not His will for us to be bank robbers—we don't even need to pray about it. Also, we should make sure what we are considering will glorify God and help us and others grow spiritually.

Knowing God's will is sometimes difficult because it requires patience. It's natural to want to know all of God's will at once, but that's not how He usually works. He reveals to us a step at a time—each move a step of faith—and allows us to continue to trust Him. The important thing is that, as we wait for further direction, we are busy doing the good that we know to do (James 4:17).

Often, we want God to give us specifics—where to work, where to live, whom to marry, what car to buy, etc. God allows us to make choices, and, if we are yielded to Him, He has ways of preventing wrong choices (see Acts 16:6–7).

The better we get to know a person, the more acquainted we become with his or her desires. For example, a child may look across a busy street at the ball that bounced away, but he doesn't run after it, because he knows "my dad wouldn't want me to do that." He doesn't have to ask his father for advice on every particular situation; he knows what his father would say because he knows his father. The same is true in our relationship to God. As we walk with the Lord, obeying His Word and relying on His Spirit, we find that we are given the mind of Christ (1 Corinthians 2:16). We know Him, and that helps us to know His will. We find God's guidance readily available. "The righteousness of the blameless makes their paths straight, / but the wicked are brought down by their own wickedness" (Proverbs 11:5).

If we are walking closely with the Lord and truly desiring His will for our lives, God will place His desires in our hearts. The key is wanting God's will, not our own. "Delight yourself in the LORD and He will give you the desires of your heart" (Psalm 37:4).