

The Faithful Journey | September 3, 2023

Summary

This week we begin a new series, "Knowing and Doing the Will of God." In this sermon, we learn about how God's choice of us precedes our choice of Him. When we step out in faith and are willing to let go of our plans and desires, we experience true transformation and joy in serving God and others.

Scripture

The LORD had said to Abram, "Leave your native country, your relatives, and your father's family, and go to the land that I will show you. I will make you into a great nation. I will bless you and make you famous, and you will be a blessing to others. I will bless those who bless you and curse those who treat you with contempt. All the families on earth will be blessed through you." So Abram departed as the LORD had instructed, and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he left Haran. -Genesis 12:1-4 (NLT)

"Now I am coming to you. I told them many things while I was with them in this world so they would be filled with my joy." -John 17:13 (NLT)

"Just as you sent me into the world, I am sending them into the world." -John 17:18 (NLT)

All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. -2 Corinthians 5:18-19 (NIV)

Let's Start

Share about a time you had to step out of your comfort zone.

Gratitude and Prayer

How has God worked in your life since the last time we were together?

Let's Talk

- 1. How does the analogy of clay and the potter's hands help us understand the transformational work of God in our lives?
- 2. Pastor Dale said, "When you're aligned with God's will you're the most fulfilled and satisfied."
 - Do you believe you're who and where God wants you to be?
 - Are you doing and experiencing His will for your life?
 - Are you experiencing His presence and power?
- 3. Why is it important to recognize that God chooses us for His purposes? How does this perspective shift our understanding of our relationship with God?
- 4. How can we live out the ministry of reconciliation in our daily lives? How can we practically be blessings to those around us?
- 5. What barriers prevent us from fully embracing the unknown and stepping into God's will? How can we overcome these barriers?
- 6. Pastor Dale said, "I don't know about you, but the biggest joys in my life are when I sense God at work *in* me and *through* me doing something *greater* than me." Has that been your experience? Explain.
- 7. How can we balance our own desires and plans with God's will for our lives? What steps can we take to align ourselves more closely with God's purposes?

Let's Act

How will you be a blessing this week—at home, work and in your neighborhood?