

Teach Me

“Teach me to do Your will, for You are my God; Your Spirit is good. Lead me in the land of uprightness.” (Psalm 143:10)

One of the most common questions heard from the saints is “how do I know the will of God?” That is not the request before us, nor is it our greatest need. Knowledge of the will of God is not the thing most lacking in our lives, for God has given us a Book that not only contains his Law (which is nothing less than His preceptive will for us and our behaviour) but He has heard and responded to the request verbalized in verse 8: “Cause me to hear..., Cause me to know the way in which I should walk”.

Romans 12:2 also exhorts us to *prove* the will of God, indicating that His will is already known; it simply need proving on our part. The difficulty in that proof is the *doing* of it. And we shall never prove the will of God without doing it. Our reluctance to do it is born of our unbelief in the goodness and wisdom of God, the abject poverty of our knowledge of God. Little faith becomes great faith only by doing the will of God and learning the magnitude of His wisdom, and the goodness of His way.

The psalmist makes a bold request, perhaps with fear and trembling: he asks to be *taught* to do God’s will. It is more than information he expects: he knows quite well that child training always incorporates the chastening rod along with other gracious nudges of our loving Parent. However there is no other way for us to grow in grace and in the knowledge of God than this route. Is He not our God? Of course He is. Does He not have a will for us? Unquestionable! Is not His Spirit good? Without a doubt!

Our country is “the land of uprightness”. This does not mean that we have found a spot on earth which has good laws and good people so that everything that is done is lawful and right. No, the fact of the matter is that we live in a world said to be under the prince of darkness. Evil and unrighteousness is the rule, not the preceptive will of God. Unregenerate men are more occupied with defying God’s will than doing it. But that is not the realm wherein we live. We have been delivered from the realm of darkness and translated into the kingdom of God’s dear Son. We have too long followed the course of the prince of the power of the air (Eph.2:2-3). We have had enough of that (I Pet. 4:2-3). We need to be *led* by the Spirit of God in this new land of uprightness. This is a most wonderful, and effective prayer. It shall be heard. Sons of God are led by the Spirit of God (Rom. 8:14).

- C. M.