***Hello Valley Height’s Ladies!*** Reviewing our Mar. 11th Bible Study!

“Attitudes of a Transformed Heart”

Chapter 7--- “Practical Application of Doctrine: *Guidance*”

Ladies, let’s get ready to go on a hike together! Are you excited and up for the challenge? Or are you tired and exhausted of just the idea of a hike because you’ve heard it’s going to be a challenging one? Perhaps you’re physically fit and you have the mental resolve to do what it takes to plan and personally prepare for this exciting trek but you know the weather is going to be bad. Or perhaps you know that you have some physical limitations, time constraints, other responsibilities and perhaps just mental fatigue that simply says, *“There is no way I can even think of doing this hike.”*

Ladies, every day when we open our eyes in the morning we know that when our feet hit the floor, whether we like it or not, an *“adventurous hike”* is about to begin! We have no options! We may be anticipatory about our “hike” for the day and very aware of our need of perseverance. Or, we may be extremely exasperated because we know the “terrain” is going to be just too tough to endure. Either way, we need help! We need guidance!

With each new day, we will face new challenges. As a hiker needs to know the “FOR SURE” essentials to make the hike even possible, we need to know the “FOR SURE” essentials in finding the will of God. Walking in the will of God is an imperative for all true believers, making the daily walk (hike) possible.

How does God **GUIDE** us? How does God **LEAD** us? How does God **SHOW** us the way we should go?

How can I **KNOW** God’s will? How can I **WALK** in God’s will? How can I **REMAIN** in God’s will?

Ladies, you know as well as I do that it is absolutely impossible for us to answer these questions apart from the grace of God and Spirit of God first producing the fruit of saving faith in us! As Lisa Hughes beautifully states, “Longing to do our Father’s will is a common attribute of *ALL* true believers. For that desire *is born* in us at the time of our conversion *and grows* throughout our lives here on earth.” This alone brings great hope in knowing that God will grow us in our “navigational skills” for each new day!

And what grows ladies is not just finding academic answers to the questions above, but desires birthed in our relationship with Christ grow and turn these questions about our “hike” into prayerful petitions:

**GUIDE** me Lord! “…**GUIDE** me in the paths of righteousness For Your name’s sake” Psalm 23:3

**LEAD** me Lord! “*Teach me* to do Your will…Let Your good Spirit **LEAD** me on level ground” Psalm 143:10

**SHOW** me Lord! “**SHOW** me Your ways O Lord, *Teach me* Your paths, Guide me in Your truth…”Ps.25:4..

Help me to **KNOW** Your will! Help me to “…**understand (KNOW)** what the will of the Lord is” Eph.5:18

Help me to **WALK** in Your will! “…*Teach me* the way in which I should **WALK**…” Psalm 143:8

Help me to **REMAIN** in Your will! Remaining in God’s will means remembering to pray ***LIKE JESUS HIMSELF***, “yet not as I will, but as You will”… “…Your will be done.” John 26:39,42

This is the hiker that realizes that she *cannot* navigate her day by planning her own route according to her own plans and in her own strength. She must relinquish control to the “compass” of Christ to be able to guide and direct her through the tiring terrain of the day in order to stay on the ‘faithful path.’

Martha in this chapter says that, “the issue of guidance directly relates to knowing the will of God. And the will of God is affirmed in our lives as good and acceptable and perfect to the degree that we have been **“transformed by the renewing of (our) mind(s)…”**

All hikers know there is a need not only for physical preparation but for mental preparation. And therefore, if we want to be on the ‘good and acceptable and perfect’ path for our lives and be able to navigate through the daily “terrain” it’s critical that we start with the saving grace of God! (1 Tim.2:3, 4)

***Jesus Christ*** is our trustworthy “compass!” We are committed to ***HIM***! We want to pay very close attention to the direction that ***HE*** points us in!

***He*** is our companion and our guide and *will* readily give us the clear **GUIDANCE** that we need to discern His will and to help others too, if we are willing to:

**G** o to His Word: to see His providential CARE, His Sovereign CHARACTER and learn His COMMANDS!

**U** nderstand His Word in CONTEXT! We don’t want to be guiding people’s lives in an unbiblical way!
 **I** ntentionally glorify God with our bodies and filter our minds with holy and pure things! 1Thess.4:3

**D** etermine to GIVE HIM THANKS for everything and in everything! 1Thess.5:18, Eph. 5:20, Heb.13:15

**A** llow the Spirit of God to control our lives as we saturate our minds with truth! Eph.5:17,18, Col.3:16

**N** ot allow our consciences, feelings, impressions, own interpretations, and experiences be our guide!

**C** onclude, “There is a way which seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death.” Prov. 16:25

**E** mbrace a biblical view of guidance and trust HIS ways are perfect as we submit to them! 1 Pet.2:13-15

Jesus Christ himself knew all the “FOR SURE” essentials to be walking in the will of God! He is our supreme example of being Spirit-filled, sanctified (HOLY), submissive, suffering and thankful!

Oh ladies, we need to learn from Jesus himself! He knows all the pitfalls and dangers that can make the daily trek very difficult and seem impossible. He is a far more “experienced hiker” than we will ever be. He walked the “treacherous trail” of this earth perfectly. He commands us to follow in His steps because this is His will for us! (1 Peter 2:21)

So now when someone asks you, “Let’s get ready to go on a hike together, the weather may be bad,” don’t get discouraged; have an **“ATTITUDE OF WILLINGNESS”** to pray *Psalm 143:10, “Teach me to do* ***YOUR WILL***, *For You are my God; Let Your good Spirit lead me on level ground”* and know that Jesus Christ will make your “hike” with Him absolutely possible because He will never leave you and is there to guide you each step of the way as long as you follow in Him!

Let’s together through the Word of God and the power of the Holy Spirit continue to **KNOW** God’s will, **WALK** in God’s will of obedience and faithfulness and **REMAIN** in God’s will until He returns or takes us home!

Joyfully pursuing the ‘faithful path’ together,

Christyn