

## In a Pit with a Lion on a Snowy Day Pt. 3 2 Samuel 23:20-23

Last week we talked about sins of commission (things done) and sins of omission (things not done). We began to look at God-ordained opportunities. I believe God is calling us to see and seize the lion-sized, God-ordained opportunities He is presenting to us. We have a choice of walking in fear or walking in faith.

Given this understanding, the question arises, “just how do I know if this is God-ordained?” “Is this God’s will for my life?”

1. Too many Christians are paralyzed while waiting for God to reveal His will.
  - a. If you are praying, reading and applying scripture to your life, following in obedience to the best of your understanding and ability – YOU ARE in God’s will
  - b. There are times when God tells someone to go to Africa – more often He tells us to go next door.
  - c. We are often called to be the best teacher, laborer, housewife, caretaker, businessman... that you can be and do it for the glory of God
  - d. Not everyone is called to greatness and fame...  
“Brighten the corner where you are...”
2. How do we discern God-ordained opportunities (God’s will)
  - a. Through the Bible – God-ordained opportunities never contradict God’s word.
    - i. God has made His will abundantly clear regarding lust, money, stealing, murder...etc.
    - ii. God has made His will abundantly clear regarding salvation, sanctification, holiness...
    - iii. God brings scripture to mind in the midst of the lion’s pit
  - b. Through Prayer

- i. Always follow this principal – when in doubt – ask
    1. Prayer makes us open to the ‘still small voice’ that gives us direction and discernment
    2. Prayer puts us in communication with the ONLY One who knows for sure.
    3. Prayer is less about changing our circumstances and more about changing our perspective.
  - c. Through affirmation of others
    - i. The Christian life is a team effort
    - ii. Seek wise counsel from the experience of others.
    - iii. Be careful of the insincerity of humankind, but note the earnest honesty of your brothers and sisters in the church.
  - d. Through a divine ‘drive’ that won’t let you go
    - i. Acts 4:20 *“We cannot help but speak of the things we have seen and heard.”*
    - ii. Jeremiah 20:9 *“I will not make mention of Him, nor speak anymore in His name. But His world was in my heart like a burning fire shut up in my bones; I was weary of holding it back, and I could not.”*
3. We will not regret the mistakes we make along the way as much as we will regret the God-ordained opportunities missed.
    - a. Goodness is not the absence of badness (remember; you can do nothing wrong and still do nothing right)
    - b. Our calling is not to simply run away from lions – to only avoid wrong
    - c. Come, let’s chase the lions together!
    - d. We are called to be lion chasers – to look for opportunities in our problems and obstacles.