



THE LORD'S FLOCK GROWTH DIGEST

PASTORAL GROWTH SERIES

How to Know the Will of God (Part 4)

DETOUR DECISIONS

Sis. Techie Rodriguez, Elder-Founder

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Our lives are constantly interrupted by detours which bring us to unexpected endings or destinations. Unfortunately, the Covid 19 pandemic caused many disruptions in our plans this year: our conferences and events have been cancelled; and vacations have been rescheduled. Clearly, detours make us uneasy, unsettled, and less confident. However, God allows us to experience detours because for every detour, God has a great story for us.

Let's take the life of Abraham as an example. God created many detours in his life:

- He was comfortably living with his family when God asked him to leave Haran (Gen. 12). It was not easy, but he obeyed.
- God blessed Abraham and Sarah with a son Isaac when they were advanced in age; this was a fulfillment of God's promise to him (Gen 17:1-2).
- God tested Abraham and asked him to offer Isaac. "Take your son, Isaac, your only son, whom you love, and go to the region of Moriah. Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering on a mountain I will show you"(Gen. 22:1-2). Abraham obeyed God's instruction even in this extremely difficult situation. He loved and trusted, so he obeyed. "God himself will provide the lamb for the burnt offering" (Gen. 22: 4-8).

Are we like Abraham when we are faced with detours? Problems arise when we direct our steps towards our plan. When confronted with a detour, let us pray and ask God to fix it. Let us submit our plans to the Lord first and let Him direct our steps. "In their hearts, humans plan their course, but the

Lord establishes their steps" (Prov. 16: 9). When God has a better plan for us, some of our plans need to be disrupted to make way for God's greater plan. Will we follow when we are asked to give up something valuable?

How will we recognize the will of God when making detour decisions? If we want to know, then we should:

1. **Commit.** Commit to God regardless of the cost (Luke 14: 22-33). We will never be directed by God unless we commit to Him.
2. **Yield to God.** To fulfill God's will, we must yield all areas of your life: relationships, ministry, work, business, and we will be rewarded. "I have kept the faith. From now on, the crown of righteousness awaits me" (2Tim 4:5-8).
3. **Trust the Lord.** Trust is essential if we are to be led by God. "Then we will win favor and good esteem before God and man" (Prov. 3: 4-5)
4. **Persevere to do His will.** We should press on even when others are giving up. We should carry on the godly character of God and stand firm in faith. "You need to persevere so that when you have done the will of God, you will receive what he has promised" (Heb 10:36).

Hence, detours are inevitable in our life. We must observe the four (4) principles to know God's will. We should yield to God, for faith is determined during detours.

Reflection:

- Are you being drawn to a detour that you do not understand?
- Will the detour in your life bring you to a higher level of faith, or is it bringing you outside your comfort zone?

Transcriber/Writer: Sis. Gina Duran

Edited by: Sis Jo Advincula

Approved by: Sis Vera Tuplano

Printing Sponsor: Sis Jo Advincula