

# Grow in Goodness

We want to be in God's will, to do God's will, but how do we really know what God's will for us is? Let's sort out biblical truth from worldly assumptions. Believe it or not, the answer isn't as mysterious as you may think.



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## INTRODUCTION

Pastor Paul took us to 1 Peter 2:9-25 to show us God's will for our lives and the plans He has for us. While Peter tells us that God's will is for us to do good, he doesn't really tell us what good things to do. Peter tells us **who we are, how we live, and who we follow.**

## STARTER QUESTION

What general thoughts come to mind as Pastor Paul opens with the idea that we are "to do good?"

## INTO THE WORD

Because of Jesus' sacrifice on the cross for our sins, we have a new identity in Him. Ephesians 1 includes the many peculiar (different from the world) attributes of Believers. Which description means the most to you and why?

The word submission is found a lot throughout the Bible. Try to find some other passages that contain the word submission. Do you find that people in the stories may not always want to submit, but do anyway? Or, if you find others that don't submit, what happens? What struggles did they face and how can you relate to them?

## APPLICATION

Peter doesn't list specific good deeds for us to do but instead expands on who we are, how we live and who we follow as Believers. Can you think of some ways you might describe what it means to be a follower of Jesus (1 Peter 2:9-10)? What does it mean to be God's people?

Peter teaches us that we are to submit to:

1. Our government, regardless of political affiliation
2. Authorities, regardless of their virtue
3. Each other

By doing so, we are submitting to God. We know that this is not always easy to do. In what areas of submission do you need to improve on in your life? What are the stumbling blocks that get in the way and how can you overcome them?

The will of God is for our conduct to reflect our identity in Jesus (1 Peter 2:13-20). One way we can do this is to live as exiles in a foreign land. What does it mean to view this world as not being our permanent home? Can you list a few practical ways we might keep our eyes on Jesus, rather than on this temporary world and its pleasures?

## PRAYER

Dear Heavenly Father, we praise you for selecting us as your chosen people. We are thankful that this world is not our permanent home and ask that You be our compass in doing good and being open to Your will for our lives. Also, we ask that You help us to reflect on Your most precious son, Jesus, and point others to Him. Amen