

AN ENCOURAGING WORD FOR TROUBLING TIMES #103 (by Rev. Dr. Alice Wolfe, 8/3/20)

“How can we know what the will of God is?”

in the midst of this world in which we live, especially in this crazy time, we sometimes struggle to know God’s will. How can we know? The following is an excerpt from Evelyn Underhill’s book, *The Spiritual Life*.

“How are we to know, or find out, what the Will of God is? I do not think that any general answer can be given to this. In clear moral or political issues, we must surely judge and act by the great truths and demands of Christianity; and if we have the pluck to do this, then as we act, more and more we shall perceive the direction of the Will. That choice, cause, or action, which is least tainted by self-interest, which makes for the increase of happiness—health—beauty—peace—cleanses and harmonizes life, must always be in accordance with the Will of the Spirit which is drawing life towards perfection. The difficulty comes when there is a conflict of loyalties, or a choice between two apparent gods. And such points many people feel unaware of any guidance, unable to discern or understand the signals of God; not because the signals are not given, but because the mind is too troubled, clouded, and hurried to receive them. ‘He who is in a hurry,’ said St. Vincent de Paul, ‘delays the things of God.’ But when those who are at least attempting to live the life of the Spirit, and have consequently become more or less sensitive to its movements to have no clear light, they will often become aware, if they will wait in quietness, of a subtle yet insistent pressure in favor of the path which they should take. The early Friends were accustomed to trust implicitly in indications of this kind, and were usually justified. When there is not such pressure, then our conduct should be decided by charity and common sense; qualities which are given to us by God in order that they may be used.”

PRAYER:

All knowing God, in the midst of the troubles and chaos of our world and lives, help me to stop..., to be still..., and to quiet my heart and mind..., that I might truly know you and your will. Help me to seek you and you alone... Forgive me for any idols or gods that I have put before you... [Confess them to God.] Help me to let go of all my desires and seek only you. Loving Father, may your will be done in my life today. Amen.

LIVE IT!

Take time each day to slow down, pray, and be with God. Continue to lay down and turn from idols or other gods in your life so you may clearly discern God’s will.