

## **The Family Likeness**

**Mark 3:20-21** <sup>20</sup> And He \*came home, and the crowd \*gathered again, to such an extent that they could not even eat a meal. <sup>21</sup> When His own people heard of *this*, they went out to take custody of Him; for they were saying, “He has lost His senses.”

**John 7:5** <sup>5</sup> For not even His brothers were believing in Him.

**Matthew 12:46-50** <sup>46</sup> While He was still speaking to the crowds, behold, His mother and brothers were standing outside, seeking to speak to Him. <sup>47</sup> Someone said to Him, “Behold, Your mother and Your brothers are standing outside seeking to speak to You.” <sup>48</sup> But Jesus answered the one who was telling Him and said, “Who is My mother and who are My brothers?” <sup>49</sup> And stretching out His hand toward His disciples, He said, “Behold My mother and My brothers! <sup>50</sup> For whoever does the will of My Father who is in heaven, he is My brother and sister and mother.”

**Colossians 4:12** <sup>12</sup> Epaphras, who is one of your number, a bonds slave of Jesus Christ, sends you his greetings, always laboring earnestly for you in his prayers, that you may stand perfect and fully assured in all the will of God.

**If we pray anything according to His will...**

Can we know His will? If so, how can we know His will?

We can only DO the will of God if we get to know God. We do this by observing His Word, His Works, and His Ways.

**Begin with the Word...**

What has God SAID He loves, delights in, hates/considers an abomination? What has he SAID to is His will for us?

**Proverbs 11:1** A false balance is an abomination to the Lord, But a just weight is His delight.

**Prov. 11:20** <sup>20</sup> The perverse in heart are an abomination to the Lord, But the blameless in *their* walk are His delight.

**Proverbs 12:22** <sup>22</sup> Lying lips are an abomination to the Lord, But those who deal faithfully are His delight.

**Prov. 15:8** <sup>8</sup> The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination to the Lord, But the prayer of the upright is His delight.

**1 Thess. 4:3** <sup>3</sup> For this is the will of God, your sanctification; *that is*, that you abstain from sexual immorality

**1 Timothy 2:3-4** <sup>3</sup> This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, <sup>4</sup> who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

What if the will of God is revealed to DIRECT OUR ACTIONS more than to PREDICT OUTCOMES?

God's will works the DNA of Jesus into our thoughts, desires, and the things we choose to do.

**Hebrews 3:8-10** <sup>8</sup> Do not harden your hearts as when they provoked Me, As in the day of trial in the wilderness, <sup>9</sup> Where your fathers tried Me by testing Me, And saw My works for forty years. <sup>10</sup> “Therefore I was angry with this generation, And said, ‘They always go astray in their heart, And they did not know My ways’

God's ways are His established patterns. They reflect His character, just as our habits and routines reflect ours.

**Jeremiah 9:24** <sup>24</sup> but let him who boasts boast of this, that he understands and knows Me, that I am the Lord who exercises lovingkindness, justice and righteousness on earth; for I delight in these things,” declares the Lord.

God's Works are similar to His Ways, but are mainly supernatural deeds done among us to reveal His heart to us.

The recounting of His Works we call Testimonies. Whenever a testimony is given, it gives us a zoomed-in view of some part of God's character.

**Psalm 119:119** <sup>119</sup>You have removed all the wicked of the earth *like* dross; Therefore I love Your testimonies.

**Exodus 15:1-3** Then Moses and the sons of Israel sang this song to the Lord, and said, "I will sing to the Lord, for He is highly exalted; The horse and its rider He has hurled into the sea. <sup>2</sup>"The Lord is my strength and song, And He has become my salvation; This is my God, and I will praise Him; My father's God, and I will extol Him. <sup>3</sup>"The Lord is a warrior; The Lord is His name.

We have to know the Word of God to know the will of God. We have to let it wash our minds and hearts until it forms our thoughts and desires.

Jesus is closest to those who know God and do what pleases God!