

FULFILLING GOD'S WILL FOR YOUR LIFE

By: Phillip Hayes

"For Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world, and is departed unto Thessalonica; Crescens to Galatia, Titus unto Dalmatia" [2 Timothy 4:10].

You may think this scripture is a bad choice or even strange considering the title of this article.

I chose this scripture because it reveals a person that did not fulfill God's will for his life. Hopefully it will help us to avoid some of the pitfalls that caused this man to fail and make us aware of other pitfalls, snares and such that awaits each of us when we attempt to excel in the vocation in which the Lord has called us.

Success and failure both await each of us. We are faced with choices almost daily that will determine our course in life. Unfortunately, we have all made wrong choices.

In order to avoid the pitfalls of wrong choices that led to failure, we must be aware at all times how the enemy works. We should not be ignorant of his devices: *"Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices" [2 Corinthians 2:11].*

When confronted with serious decisions, we all feel as if we are being pulled apart. "Should I do this,

or that?" "Should I go here, or there?" "Lord, is this your will, or that?" "What should I do?"

Questions! Decisions! Choices! How can one know the direction in which the Lord would want us to go? I am sure that each of you desire the perfect will of God for your life! But, how can one know His will?

It should be obvious to every believer that there is an adversary. There are always two voices! One will be God, the other Satan! Each voice will be very persuasive. And the choice will always be clear.

We find in Apostle Paul's letter to the Galatians Church an example of just how persuasive the wrong voice can be: "*Ye did run well; who did hinder you that ye should not obey the truth? This persuasion cometh not of him that calleth you*" [Galatians 5:7-8].

Satan's persuasion voice was so strong that it led the entire Galatians Church away from Christ. "*I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel*" [Galatians 1:6].

In our opening scripture, we find a man by the name of Demas that had forsaken the Apostle Paul. You might ask, "What is so special about him, many left Paul?" Well, you are right, many did leave Paul.

The difference with Demas is we know for a reasonable certainty that Demas was not only a follower of Paul, but he was also a co-laborer with him. "*Marcus, Aristarchus, Demas, Lucas, my fellowlabourers*" [Philemon 1:24]. Also, we find Apostle Paul mentioning Demas along with Luke (*the author of Acts and the Gospel of Luke*) as being with him when he wrote his epistle to the Colossians: "*Luke, the*

beloved physician, and Demas, greet you" [Colossians 4:14].

Demas had potential to become a great Apostle, Prophet, Evangelist, Teacher or Pastor.

Great men of God surrounded like Paul and Luke about him. The greatest counselors a man could desire were his friends and fellow laborers. No doubt, he had witnessed miracle after miracle! Perhaps, he himself had seen the blinded eyes opened and the sick healed as he laid his hands on them in Jesus Name. He could not have asked for greater mentors!

The sad thing about Demas is he failed to fulfill God's will for his life. No doubt it was with tears that Paul wrote these words: *"Demas has forsaken me!"*

What happened to him? He listened to the wrong voice! The voice of the world was more convincing to him than the voice of God! Satan had seduced him with the oldest seduction known to man, the pleasures of the world! *"For Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world, and is departed" [2 Timothy 4:10].*

Just imagine for a moment, you are there with some of the greatest men of God that ever lived. The power of God was being manifested everywhere they went. The world was being turned upside down by these men. Yet, there was still a choice. The voices never subsided. One said, "This is the way", the other said, "No, the world and its resources is the way." Believe me, that alternate persuasive voice never stops no matter how fulfilled your life might become.

You might say, "I would have never gone the way of the world had I been there with these great men of

God." Really? Are you sure? Have you always obeyed the right voice in your walk with God? Probably not.

Sometimes the voice you hear might be suggesting something that doesn't appear to be evil or even wrong. Sometimes it may seem to be the logical thing to do! But, you can't be swayed away the course God has given you. Let me put it this way: Everyone is not called to the foreign mission field. But, everyone is called to support missions. You may be called to play an instrument, or to be a song leader. These are great gifts and a blessing to the people. However, I have known several gifted musicians and singers that thought they were called to preach. If they were not given the opportunity to preach, they would get angry. I remember one such brother said to me, "All the Pastors want me to do is sing, they won't let me preach". To be honest, the man was no preacher. He was a good singer and musician. If he would have stayed in his calling, he would have fulfilled God's plan for his life and reached his full potential. Instead he heeded a voice that told him he was a Pastor and an Evangelist; and he never excelled in the gift God gave him. Everyone is not called to be in the five-fold ministry, but everyone is called to be a witness. Simply put, we cannot all be a hand or a foot! If it doesn't work for you, God hasn't called you for that particular work. Do what God has gifted you to do!

Let me be clear here, I am not saying that you cannot have more than one gift. God can add to the gift He has given you. I have known several men and women of God that had multiple gifts. They were singers, musicians and anointed preachers. I do

believe they had the wisdom to allow God to give them what He desired for them to have. I believe you can have all nine gifts of the Spirit. As a matter of fact, we are told to desire spiritual gifts!

Some are called to business. I have known some Christian businessmen that I believe were fulfilling their call in life and reaching their full potential. They were called to manage and support the work of God! These men were blessed naturally as well as spiritually. They were tithe payers and givers, not takers, and God blessed them. If they had heeded a voice that told them they were to Pastor or Evangelize, they would never reach their full potential. Nothing wrong with being a Pastor of a church or evangelizing, but if it is not your calling, it's not God's will, and you will fail miserably.

Children of God, there is a way we can know God's Voice! Yes there is! Some things are sure. God will never tell you to do something you are not capable of doing. Also God will never speak anything to you that is contrary to His Word.

First of all, there is an unction, a "know ye" that God places in your spirit man. That "know ye" will never lead you astray! For instance, if you are uncomfortable in your present situation or calling, and your labor is producing zero fruit, you are probably out of the will of God and have heeded the wrong voice.

Look back for a moment! What were you doing, or where were you when you felt the most satisfaction of accomplishment? When were you the most blessed? What were you doing when you had the most peace in your life?

Get back! Get back to where you know that God was blessing you, and you were accomplishing something in your life.

From time to time, I believe we all stray from the course God has given us. There are many reasons for this. But really there is but one voice that will lead you astray and that voice is always contrary to the Word of God and to the perfect course that God has chosen for you.

Let me share with you a few things that will hinder anyone that is striving to reach their full potential in God's plan for them.

- **Failure to realize that after you become a Christian you have new and greater potential:** *"I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture. The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly."* (St. John 10:9-10)
Through Christ, an abundant life is now available to you. The level of your potential has been raised. Your new beginning of an abundant life starts the moment you give your life to Christ. Keep this in the center of your heart. You are destined for an abundant wonderful life! As your soul prospers in the things of the Lord, you will have good health and the Lord will prosper you. That is God's Word! Don't let Satan lie to you!
"Beloved, I wish above all things that thou

mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth" [3 John 1:2].

- **Failure to live in the present as a New Creature:** *"Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new" [2 Corinthians 5:17].* You must realize that old things have passed away, all things have become new. Don't live in the past. Live in the present. Don't allow past friends, family or associates to condemn you with your past. There is nothing you can do about your past, but you can change your future by what you do TODAY! Your past is gone!
- **Failure to fully submit (dedicate) yourself to Christ:** *"Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty" [2 Corinthians 6:17-18].* Light has no fellowship with darkness! You cannot associate with ungodly men and women. The Bible is clear, *"if you are a friend of the world, you are an enemy of God"* (James 4:4). When the Lord called you, He called you to holiness. There is no substitution for godly living. Failure to live a holy life will keep you from obtaining your full potential. *"Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all*

filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God" [2 Corinthians 7:1].

- **Failure to separate yourself from darkness:**
"Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?" [2 Corinthians 6:14]. Always remember, you were a child of darkness ruled by the prince of darkness. But, when you became a Christian you were translated out of the kingdom of darkness into the kingdom of the Son of God which is the "kingdom of light". You have no fellowship with unbelievers! Failure to separate yourself from the children of darkness will prevent you from obtaining your full potential. No matter if they are friends or family; they are under the influence of Satan and they will either hinder or stop you from fulfilling God's will for you. Don't be deceived by carnal love!
- **Failure to separate yourself from weights:**
"Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us" [Hebrews 12:1]. I don't know if you have considered just what these weights could be. Let me give you an example of one weight that may surprise you. Someone asked my wife if smoking was a weight

or a sin. She replied, "It doesn't really matter, the Bible said to lay both aside." Of course the person asking the question wanted my wife to give her some justification for smoking. Using tobacco could obviously be a weight and in some peoples mind, a sin.

There is a weight we have encountered that people rarely consider and that is the weight some people bring into your life. Yes, a person can be a weight. A very serious weight. They will weigh you down with their continuous complaining, sarcasm, unbelief, and negative attitude. With some folks, it is always gloom, doom, despair and agony. They never have anything good to say about anyone, or anything. With them, it is always bad news! You hate to answer the phone when they call. Most times you avoid them and thank God that you have Caller ID on your phone. They make you feel horrible. The sad thing is a lot of times they are church members! They are a weight! Get away from them! Stay away from them! Don't hang out with losers! Losers have no vision and they will drag you down with them. Associate yourself with people of faith. You will never achieve your full potential around negative people. If they are Christians, no doubt they have forgotten they are new creatures in Christ. They have heeded the wrong voice!

- **Failure to be determined that nothing will stop you from fulfilling God's will for you:**

"I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me" [Philippians 4:13]. This is one of my favorite scriptures. *"I can do all things through Christ!"* I believe this must be your focus because you are going to hear both voices every day. My friends, you must believe in yourself! You must believe what the scriptures says about YOU!

Settle this in your mind: YOU are an heir of God and a joint (equal) heir with Jesus Christ. YOU are chosen, predestinated, ordained, elected anointed child of the King. YOU have an abundant life! YOU have eternal life! YOU belong to God and as long as YOU trust in Him YOU will never fail; for God is YOUR strength, YOUR protector and YOUR savior.

John said, *"Now are we the sons of God . . ."* YOU have a God given right and authority to fulfill YOUR potential and YOU WILL determine right now that YOU can do all things through Christ Who is YOUR strength! Make up YOUR mind to not come behind in any gift. Make up YOUR mind that nothing will stop YOU from achieving YOUR full potential in this life!

My friends, the only one that can prevent you from achieving your full potential is YOU. Do not let YOU continue to be the problem for YOU! The next time you look at yourself in the mirror prophesy good things for yourself. Don't worry, your prophesy will come to pass, for it is God's Good Pleasure to give you good things!