

# Truly The Community



2023 Lenten Journey – Week 3

Based on Marva J. Dawn

Romans 12 – How to Be the Church

## DISCOVERING THE WILL OF GOD

**Romans 12: 2c-d** “Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is; his good, pleasing and perfect will”

The patterns of the world seem easy and enticing and yet God’s patterns are demanding and challenging. They require a great deal of commitment, so we reflected last week. I have often discovered though that life tends to emerge best from places of discomfort, struggle, and pain. As challenging as it is to be committed to God’s ways it is equally fulfilling once we have embraced God’s will. But how best can we discover this will?

I guess the starting point is discernment. There are many definitions to this word. The best I can do at this stage to bring it closer to our journey is to invite you to a journey of refining how we come to a decision. This means this is a process rather than just an action. There are questions that we must be open to ponder if we are to find clarity of thought and refine our conclusions about life. These questions are at times personal questions and yet others are corporate questions asked by others.

- How well do you pause to look at the decisions you are about to implement in your life situations?
- How do you feel about others asking you questions about your life’s choices and the way you see the world around you?
- What value have you discovered in being guided by others?

These questions might just give you the renewal of the mind so that you are able to discern by testing and approve God’s will.

John Wesley offered a process that helps us to discover God’s good, pleasing, and perfect will. This would later be known as the Quadrilateral. Mr. Wesley would encourage Methodists to test their will against the four areas:

### Scripture - Reason - Experience - Tradition

The more we ask ourselves questions about God’s Word we discover that we are better led by the Holy Spirit. When we reason we can balance probabilities. When we use our experiences in life as well as other people’s experiences, we discover that we can be more sensitive. When we think of traditions that others have embraced and developed, we are able to contextualize our decisions for them to work in the present context. Discernment is a process.

- How well do you consider issues of justice when making decisions?
- Why do you think instinct is more acceptable in the world than rationale?
- Who is God calling you to be in relation to others for God’s good, pleasant, and perfect will to be realized?

### Prayer:

Give me a discerning mind God, so that my life can be a means of grace bringing your good, pleasing, and perfect will in the world.

Amen



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