I. Introduction.

A. The matter of the will of God is often nebulous.
B. It is important not only to do and know the will of God, but to understand it for God's glory.
C. We understand God's will through the Bible, prayer, circumstances, and God's peace in the heart.
D. The will of God can become a mechanical thing, however. The will of God can be sought for selfish gain.
E. The will of God is a living thing.
F. Text: Ephesians 3:15.
G. There are essentials for knowing the reasons behind the will of God.

II. Faith in the Lord Jesus.

A. This is essential for salvation and surrender.
B. The unsaved person is befuddled about the will of God. (Ephesians 4:17)
C. Every Christian should trust God for things beyond salvation as well. (Matthew 11)
D. God plans his will for our lives that we might grow in faith. Sometimes this means we will have difficult experiences.

III. Love for all of the saints.

A. God has joined faith in Christ and love for God's people.
B. If we are going to be guided in the will of God, we must love all of God's people.
C. Christian love is an act of the will.

IV. A deepening knowledge of God.

A. The most important thing in life is to get to know God better.
B. If we are growing in our knowledge of God, it will be much easier to know his will better.
C. We know God with regard to...
   1. What he is going to do tomorrow.
   2. Your value as a saint.
   3. His power that is available today.

V. Conclusion: the will of God is a byproduct of spending time in the Word of God.

Application questions:
1. Why cannot Christians know the will of God?

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2. How can you love those who are difficult to love better?

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3. Which area of knowing God would you like to grow in the most? How can you go about this practically?

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