



UNRAVELING CHRISTIAN MYTHS

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Myth No 1

"If I were truly in God's will, life would be going much better."

Many believers fear that one mistaken decision can permanently derail God's purposes for their lives. This anxiety often produces hesitation, second-guessing, and spiritual paralysis. Instead of walking in confidence, Christians live in quiet dread that they may already be outside the will of God.

Case Study



Mark had spent nearly a year sensing a persistent nudge from God that would not go away.

During his daily commute, in moments of quiet prayer, and even in casual conversations with friends, the idea kept resurfacing: *help plant a small church in a neighboring town*. It wasn't flashy. It wasn't a promotion. In fact, it looked risky.

The town was smaller. The demographics were uncertain. Several churches there had recently struggled or closed. But the burden in Mark's heart deepened. After months of prayer, fasting, long talks with his wife, and counsel from trusted elders, he became convinced he needed to take action and plant a new church.

He and his wife sold their house, they pulled their kids out of familiar schools, and they said goodbye to close friendships including a stable ministry where Mark was appreciated and effective.

He soon gathered a large group of interested people who seemed warm, and talked enthusiastically about starting a church in this small town.

But by month three, the air had changed. Attendance began to slide. Some early supporters quietly drifted away. Giving dropped below projections. Equipment needs exceeded the budget. Volunteers who had promised help discovered they were "too busy." A few influential

people began offering constant critiques about Mark's preaching style, leadership decisions, even his personality. It wasn't looking good.

At night Mark began lying awake staring at the ceiling, doing math in his head. How long until we can't pay rent? What will I tell my family? Did I drag them here on a mistake? He replayed every earlier moment of decision. Was that really God calling...or just my excitement? Did I confuse compassion for the town with divine direction? Did I listen carefully enough? Sunday mornings, he smiled publicly but privately felt like a man slowly losing oxygen. He found himself saying, "If I were truly in God's will, this situation would have gone much better."

Yet something puzzled him. Whenever he prayed, "Lord, should I leave?" He expected relief at the idea of escape. Instead, he sensed a strange, quiet invitation to stay and trust God more deeply. He didn't sense comfort, instead he sensed dependence. Eventually, the situation changed and people began attending Tom's church in increasing numbers, as the church flourished.

Discussion Questions

1. What misconception did Tom have about God's leading when he started this new church?

2. When things got worse, rather than better, what emotions did Tom experience?

3. Could Tom have actually been in God's will even though he was experiencing so much doubt when circumstances got worse? (See Exodus 3:11; 4:1, 10; Acts 6:23-24; Hebrews 11:11).

Unraveling the Myth

- Principle No. 1: God's will may not always produce _____.
- Principle No. 2: God's will may _____.
- Principle No. 3: God's will may require you to _____.