

### **QUESTION THREE: WHY CAN'T I SEE GOD'S WILL FOR MY LIFE?**

**We Christians long to know God's plan but we often struggle figuring out what it is. Tonight, we get another of life's tough questions:**

**Did God have perfect plan for my life before I were born? Is his will pre-determined, is everything that will happen already scripted and am I just a player on God's stage?**

**DOING OUR PART...If God had pre-written plan, we'd just be pawns on chessboard, being moved, bearing no responsibility? Instead of a pre-written script, what if God's will is more like...**

**A canvas and set of paints. The canvas is our life. The paints are God's gifts to us. What colors will we choose, how will we paint, The specific shapes we draw, becomes the picture of our lives.**

**Or, we can switch metaphors: instead of a FINISHED MANUSCRIPT, what if God's plan is the OUTLINE OF A STORY that he hopes we will follow? What if God, in giving us life, invites us TO COLLABORATE in writing our life story with him instead of without him? What if he takes joy in watching us make choices rather than making them for us?**

**YOUR LIFE ISN'T YOUR PROJECT...your life isn't about YOU; it's about GOD. His main plan for you: to glorify him, honorably represent Jesus. We belong to God. We are fully known/unconditionally loved. Time to embrace who you are. Your life is God's project, not yours**

**A MOVING TARGET...for many people, whatever God's plan is, feels like a moving target. No, his will isn't a moving target. The bible doesn't deal with all issues, but God is clear when he needs to be. His bottom line: to love him/neighbors. God has shown us what is good: to walk humbly with him, do what is just, to practice kindness. God removed the last hint of confusion by sending his Son. Jesus made clear what it was that God expected: to SEEK FIRST HIS KINGDOM.**

**JESUS GIVES US A MISSION...Jesus gives us something better than a plan: he gives us a mission worthy of us. He interrupted his Disciples' plans; they left old lives behind to join him. They had "trust issues" but they soon discovered that with Jesus it was best to EXPECT THE UNEXPECTED. What does God want from us? The answer stares us in the face: that we are available to him, to use us without needing our approval. Why is there is so much suffering in the world: God's people sit on our hands. We cry to God "Do something" Heaven replies "I am waiting on you". When God wants to get something done, he calls people to do it.**