



The Testimony of George Müller

An *Experiencing God* Devotional Experience

Introduction

These devotional guides were written to help you deepen your walk with God as we go through this season of *Experiencing God* together as a church. As part of your experience, you may want to read the scriptures referenced here in context to get a broader understanding of the concepts introduced. As you complete this experience, you may also want to record the things that God speaks to you in a journal and share them with your small group. There is no “right” or “wrong” way to complete this devotional. Feel free to respond as the Lord leads!

Living by Faith

George Müller was a pastor in England during the nineteenth century. He observed that God’s people were discouraged, that most believers no longer expected God to do anything unusual in their lives or churches. They no longer trusted God to answer their prayers. In short, Christians were not living by faith. God began leading Müller to pray for God to guide him into a ministry that could only be explained as a work of God. George wanted people to learn that God is faithful and that He answers prayer.

Müller began to seek God’s provisions for his work in a way that God would be pleased to provide, and God took him on a journey of faith that became an outstanding testimony to all who hear his story. When Müller felt God leading him to undertake a project, he prayed for the resources needed but told no one of the need. He wanted everyone to know that God had provided for the need in answer to prayer and faith, not in response to fund-raising. During his ministry in Bristol, he started the Scriptural Knowledge Institute for the distribution of Scripture and for religious education. He also established an orphanage.

By the time of his death, George Müller had been used by God to build four orphanages that cared for two thousand children at a time. In all, more than ten thousand children had been provided for through the orphanages he started. In addition, Müller had distributed more than \$8 million that had been given to him in direct answer to prayer. Yet when he died at ninety-three, his personal possessions were valued at only \$800.

How did he know and do the will of God? The following is George Müller’s own explanation:

I never remember... a period... that I ever sincerely and patiently sought to know the will of God by the teaching of the Holy Ghost, through the instrumentality of the Word of God, but I have been always directed rightly. But if honesty of heart and uprightness before God were lacking, or if I did not patiently wait upon God for instruction, or if I preferred the counsel of my fellow men to the declarations of the Word of the living God, I made great mistakes.

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What helped George Mueller know God's will?

- He sincerely sought God's direction
- He waited patiently until he had a word from God in the scriptures
- He looked to the Holy Spirit to teach him through God's Word.

What led him to make mistakes in knowing God's will?

- Lacking honesty of heart
- Lacking uprightness before God
- Impatience about waiting for God
- Preferring the counsel of men over the declarations of Scripture

Here is how Mueller summed up the way to a heart relationship with God:

1. ***I seek at the beginning to get my heart into such a state that it has no will of its own in regard to a given matter. Nine-tenths of the trouble with people is generally just here. Nine-tenths of the difficulties are overcome when our hearts are ready to do the knowledge of what His will is.***
2. ***Having done this, I do not leave the result to feeling or simple impression. If so, I make myself liable to great delusions.***
3. ***I seek the will of the Spirit of God through, or in connection with, the Word of God. The Spirit and the Word must be combined. If I look to the Spirit alone without the Word, I lay myself open to great delusions also. If the Holy Spirit guides us at all, He will do it according to the Scriptures and never contrary to them.***
4. ***Next, I take into account providential circumstances. These often plainly indicate God's will in connection with His Word and Spirit***
5. ***I ask God in prayer to reveal His will to me aright.***
6. ***Thus, through prayer to God, the study of the Word, and reflection, I come to a deliberate judgment according to the best of my ability and knowledge, and if my mind is thus at peace, and continues so after two or three more petitions, I proceed accordingly.***

Like George Mueller, we need to reach a point where we have no will of our own. Then the Holy Spirit will cause us to desire God's will above everything else.

(Experiencing God, 124-126)

Engage

1. Take a few minutes to review George Mueller's approach to knowing and doing God's will. Then pray and ask God to help you come to the place that you have no will of your own. If you have a set of self-made plans for what you want to do for God, surrender it, and let God reveal His plans instead.
2. Do you desire more than anything else to know and do the will of God? If your honest answer is "no," what must happen before you can reach the place where your will is replaced by God's?
3. Do you have some plans that God has not been blessing? If so, why might that be?
4. Have you been experiencing difficult times lately? Have they caused you to grow discouraged in doing what God told you to do? How might God interpret your current circumstances? Are your difficulties indicating that God wants you to quit what you are doing?
5. Have you been faithfully waiting on the Lord? Are you good at waiting for God? Why or why not?
6. Dedicate some time to purposefully interact with God around this topic of God's will vs. my will through a prayer walk, time the word, journaling, or silence. Share your experience with your group.

Further reading on George Mueller

See *Answers to Prayer from George Mueller's Narratives*, compiled by A.E.C. Brooks, Moody Press
George Mueller by Faith, Coke Bailey, Moody Press

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Questions, discussion prompts, and small group challenges
have been influenced and derived from *Experiencing God* (Blackaby, 2021) and related materials.
We encourage your use of all Blackaby resources for deeper study. – Blackaby.org

We're here!

We would love to hear about how things are going in your small group!
Reach out any time with questions, ideas, thoughts, or concerns.
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