



"Every time the Lord faced an important decision, He prayed. When He was being tempted to do things by the world's methods instead of the Father's, He prayed (Matthew 4). When it was time to choose His disciples, He prayed the entire night (Luke 6:12). If the Son of God required a night of prayer in order to determine the Father's mind, how long might it take us in prayer to clearly determine our Father's will?" It is so important that you let prayer set the agenda of your life. Many of us often worry about our lives. What should we do next year? Where should we live? What school should we go to? These are all good questions that need careful thought but if most of us were honest, we would admit that we worry needlessly. It is right to seek advice from others and weigh up the options. However when concern turns into unnecessary anxiety, we are not trusting God, who knows exactly how to handle every situation we face. Life becomes simpler when we learn to seek God for every aspect of our plans. Our times spent in prayer will help us to know His agenda for us. We can be confident that in the final analysis, it is God who knows what is best for us and what will give Him the greatest glory. Prioritizing prayer and letting God set your agenda brings great peace. It is only by you going to Him in prayer that you will discover God's agenda. It's like this, as we pray, we are able to focus in on God's agenda and find the center of His will. In

this place, we experience His peace. When we try to get out of His will, we find destruction and chaos. Through prayer and renewing our mind in God's will, we discover God's perfect and pleasing will (Romans 12:2). We must learn to pray about everything and trust in God's wisdom, which far surpasses ours. At times we may sense His direction and feel the peace that comes from the Holy Spirit even though nothing may look logical according to our human perspective.

I remember the time when Jennifer and I began to pray about moving to Hutchinson and working here at First

Presbyterian. It was a shock to us that God wanted us to pack up and leave home. He had never done that before. He always gave us the security of home as I moved my ministry to a different church. Now he was saying it's time to move and to another country. What on earth are you thinking God? We had to trust His leading. We had to trust His plan. We had to be willing to go. That hadn't been our plan but so often God's viewpoint is a lot different from ours. He sees things far in advance and from His perspective, which of course far surpasses ours. He knew the plans He had for us and we had to trust that. You see, what I have learnt over the years is, that God always comes through for me but not in the way I thought He would. God never makes mistakes or makes a wrong move. He has it all under control. So why do we not seek Him more, so that we to are on the same page or agenda as He is? I think it's that pride or ego thing that says we know what's best for us, when clearly we don't. So I encourage you to bathe your life in prayer. Pray about all the decisions in your life daily. Ask Him for direction so that you may fulfill His will for your life for that day. Continually bring major decisions to Him in prayer. Pray, listen, and wait with expectancy. Believe that God does speak to you - Accept the promise in John 10:27, "*My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me.*" Find time to be alone with God - Take time to pray and listen. Most of life is very busy, but time with Him is of utmost importance so we can hear from Him. Often the Lord responds with a thought planted by His Spirit into your mind or heart.

