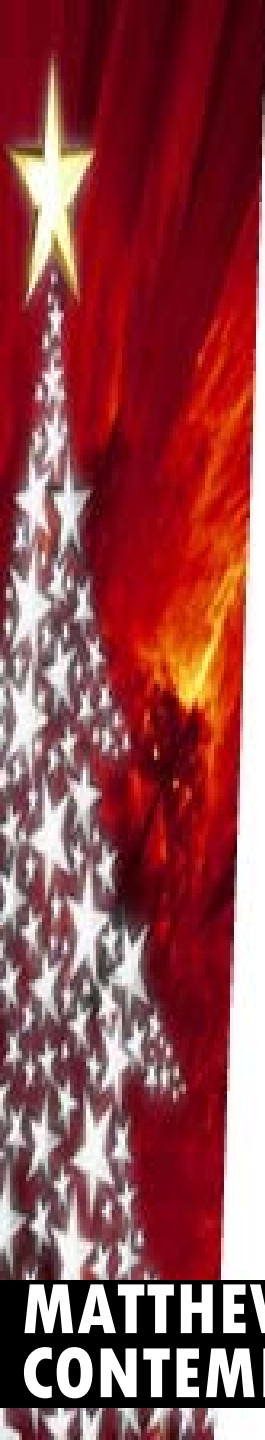


It's Beginning to Look a Lot Like Christmas

Star: Image of God's Guidance



The Wise Men

1 When Jesus was born in the village of Bethlehem in Judea, Herod was king. During this time some wise men from the east came to Jerusalem **2** and said, "Where is the child born to be king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him."



Learning from God's Will

01: Instead of Being _____...

Following God can be _____.

02: Instead of Being _____...

Following God is often _____.

03: Instead of Being _____...

Following God is often _____.

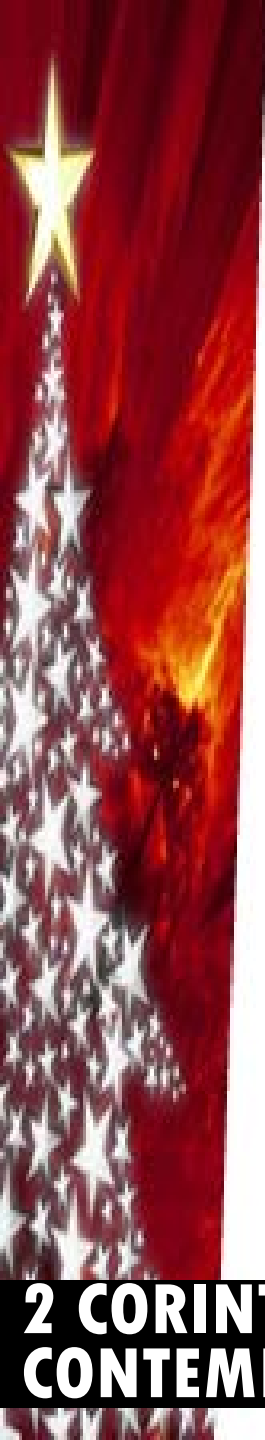


Learning from God's Will

01: Instead of Being safe...
Following God can be dangerous.

02: Instead of Being _____...
Following God is often _____.

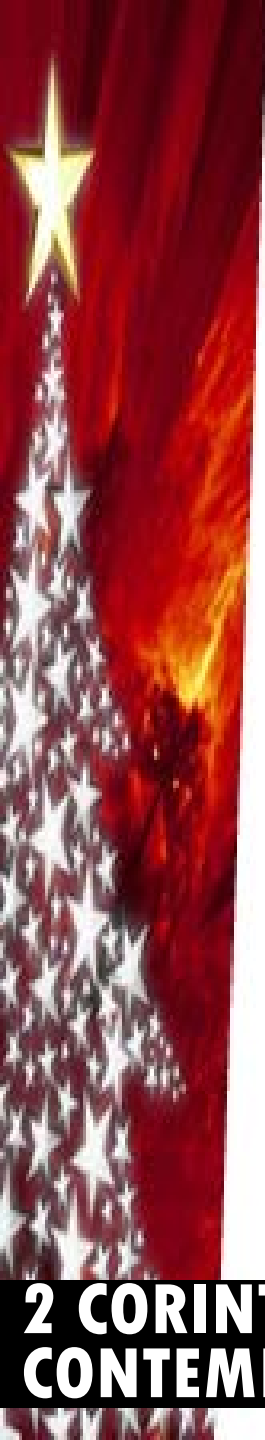
03: Instead of Being _____...
Following God is often _____.



23 Are they servants of Christ?


I am a fool to talk this way, but I serve him better than they do. I have worked harder and have been put in jail more times. I have been beaten with whips more and have been in danger of death more often.

24 Five times the Jews gave me thirty-nine lashes with a whip.



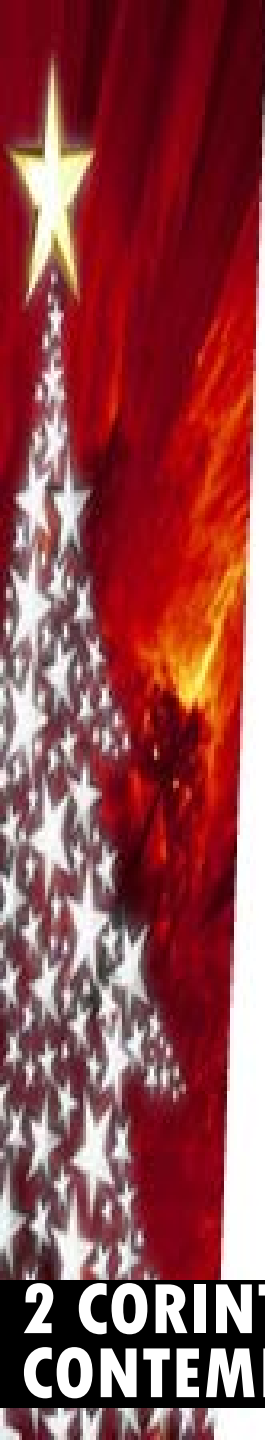
25 Three times the Romans beat me with a big stick, and once my enemies stoned me. I have been shipwrecked three times, and I even had to spend a night and a day in the sea. **26** During my many travels, I have been in danger from rivers, robbers, my own people, and foreigners.

2 CORINTHIANS 11:23-28
CONTEMPORARY ENGLISH VERSION



My life has been in danger in cities, in deserts, at sea, and with people who only pretended to be the Lord's followers. **27** I have worked and struggled and spent many sleepless nights. I have gone hungry and thirsty and often had nothing to eat. I have been cold from not having enough clothes to keep me warm.

2 CORINTHIANS 11:23-28
CONTEMPORARY ENGLISH VERSION



28 Besides everything else,
each day I am burdened down,
worrying about all the churches.

2 CORINTHIANS 11:23-28
CONTEMPORARY ENGLISH VERSION

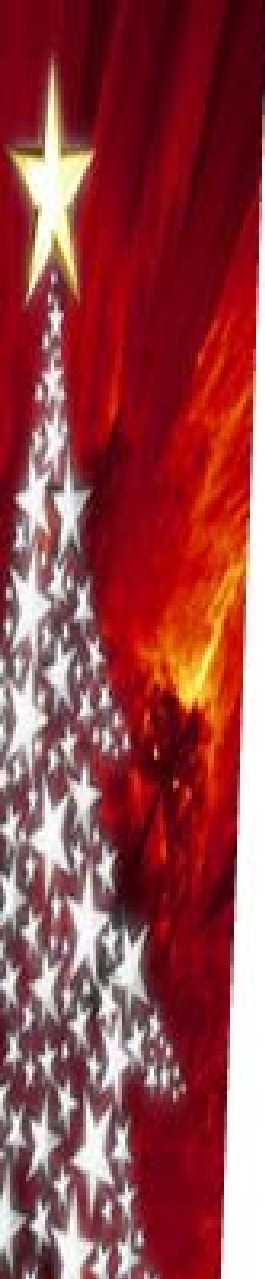


Learning from God's Will

01: Instead of Being safe...
Following God can be dangerous.

02: Instead of Being clear...
Following God is often mysterious.

03: Instead of Being _____...
Following God is often _____.



23 If you do what the LORD wants, he will make certain each step you take is sure. **24** The LORD will hold your hand, and if you stumble, you still won't fall.

PSALM 37:23-24
CONTEMPORARY ENGLISH VERSION

When God's Will isn't as clear as we had hoped – We often do 3 things...

(01) Look for a _____ - Bible tells us that living by feeling can be very _____.

(02) Look for a _____ - We want God to fit into our Box – Following God is an _____.

(03) Look for a _____ - When things do not go according to our Plan - We _____.

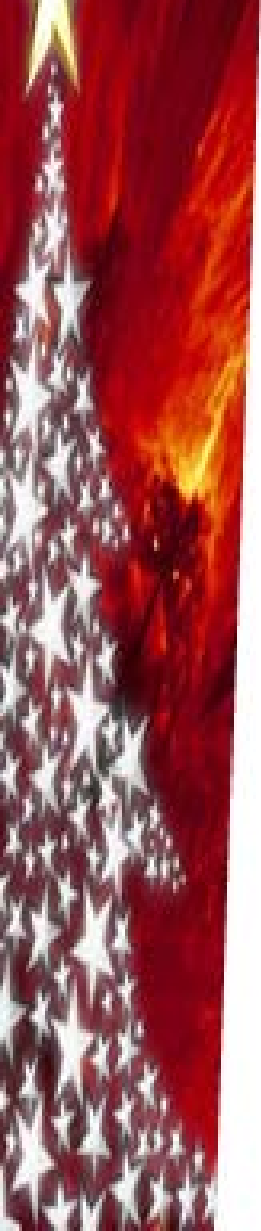


When God's Will isn't as clear as we had hoped – We often do 3 things...

(01) Look for a **feeling** - Bible tells us that living by feeling can be very **deceptive**.

(02) Look for a _____ - We want God to fit into our Box – Following God is an _____.

(03) Look for a _____ - When things do not go according to our Plan - We _____.



When God's Will isn't as clear as we had hoped – We often do 3 things...

(01) Look for a feeling - Bible tells us that living by feeling can be very deceptive.

(02) Look for a formula - We want God to fit into our Box – Following God is an adventure.

(03) Look for a _____ -
When things do not go according to our Plan - We _____.



When God's Will isn't as clear as we had hoped – We often do 3 things...

(01) Look for a feeling - Bible tells us that living by feeling can be very deceptive.

(02) Look for a formula - We want God to fit into our Box – Following God is an adventure.

(03) Look for a freezer - When things do not go according to our Plan - We freeze.



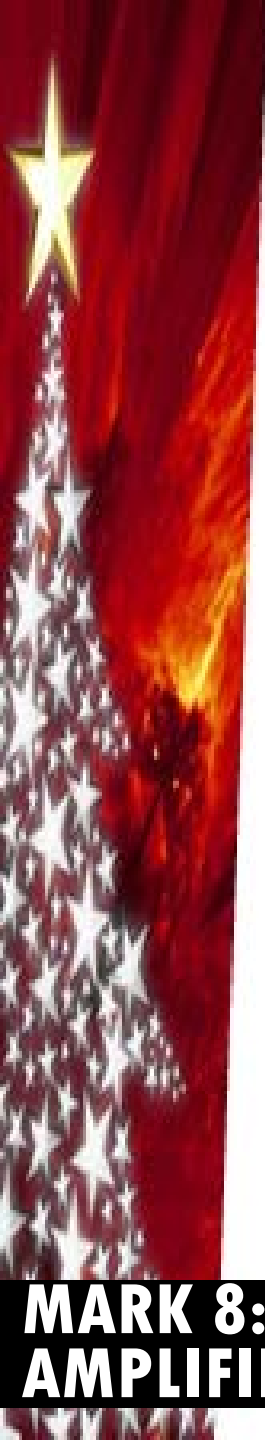


Learning from God's Will

01: Instead of Being safe...
Following God can be dangerous.

02: Instead of Being clear...
Following God is often mysterious.

03: Instead of Being easy...
Following God is often demanding.



34 And Jesus called [to Him] the throng with His disciples and said to them, If anyone intends to come after Me, let him deny himself [forget, ignore, disown, and lose sight of himself and his own interests] and take up his cross, and [joining Me as a disciple and siding with My party] follow with Me [continually, cleaving steadfastly to Me].

Not ALL the time – But it can be a
Challenge – A Challenge to your...

(01) _____

(02) _____

(03) _____





Not ALL the time – But it can be a
Challenge – A Challenge to your...

(01) **Time**

(02) _____

(03) _____



Not ALL the time – But it can be a
Challenge – A Challenge to your...

(01) Time

(02) Talents

(03) _____



Not ALL the time – But it can be a
Challenge – A Challenge to your...

(01) Time

(02) Talents

(03) Treasures

That's What God's Will does for us -
When you are in **God's Will** – You...

(01) _____

(02) _____

(03) _____



That's What God's Will does for us -
When you are in **God's Will** – You...

(01) **Worship**

(02) _____

(03) _____

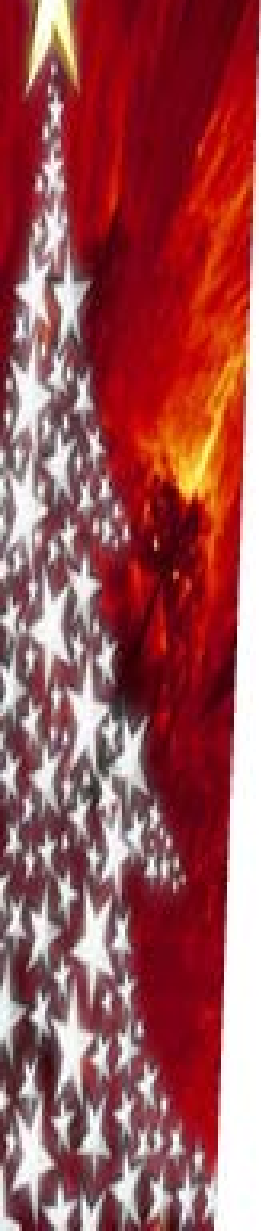


That's What God's Will does for us -
When you are in **God's Will** – You...

(01) Worship

(02) Serve

(03) _____

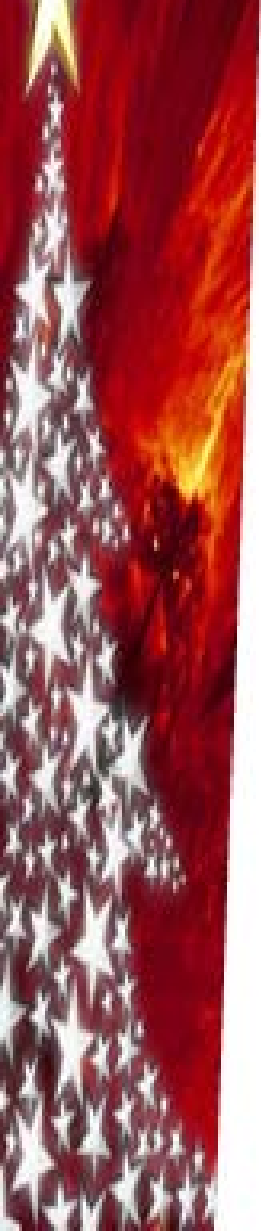


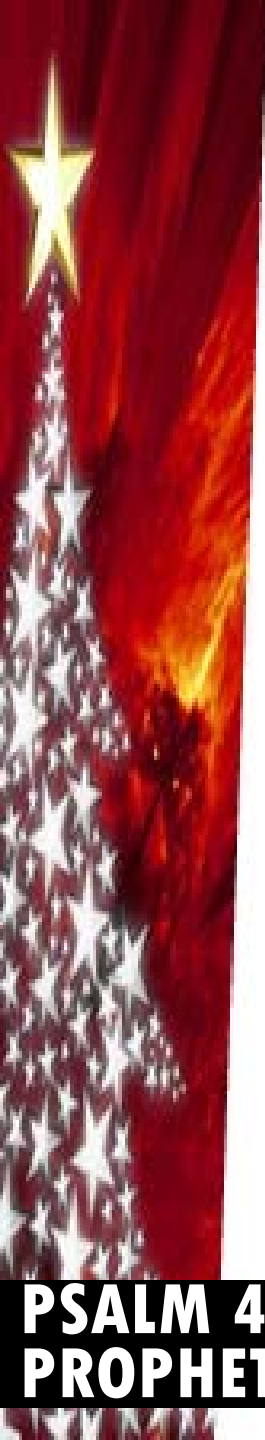
That's What God's Will does for us -
When you are in **God's Will** – You...

(01) Worship

(02) Serve

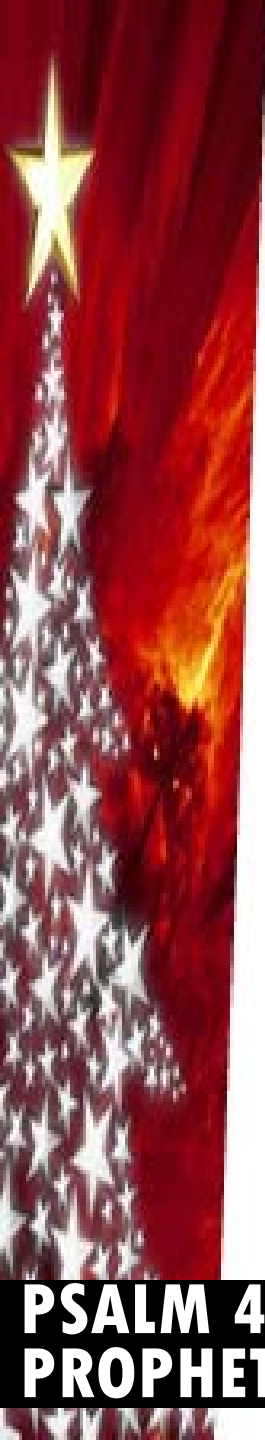
(03) Filled with Joy





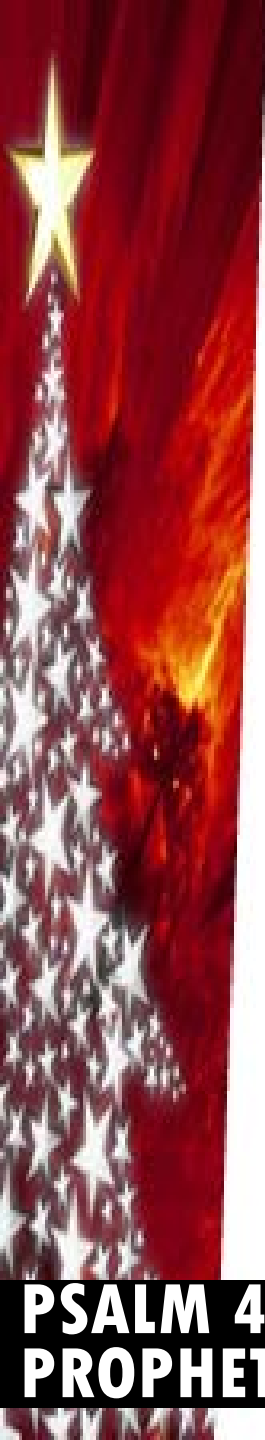
1 Oh God, declare me innocent (***vindicate me***), and defend my cause against the ungodly, rescue me (***deliver me, help me to escape***) from the deceitful liars. 2 I run to You for protection (***You are my Fortress***). Why have You turned away from me? (***you feel neglected by God, prayers not answered as fast you would like***).

PSALM 43:1-5
PROPHETIC WORD



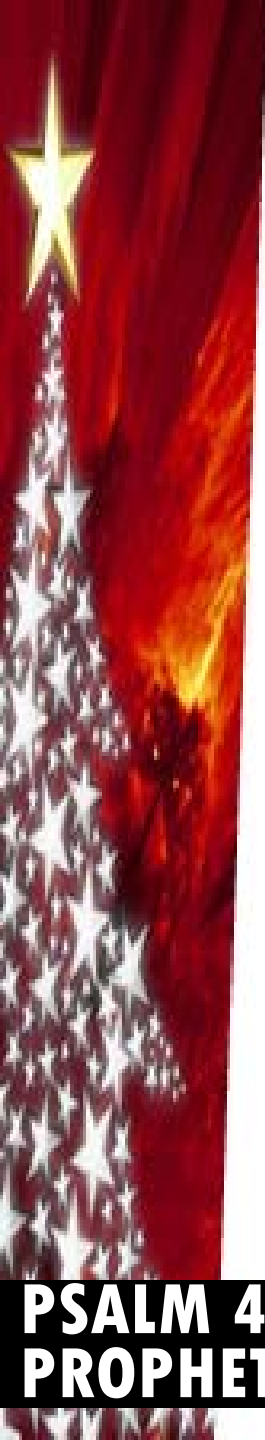
Why must I go on suffering
(feel distressed) from the cruelty
of my enemies? **3** Send Your light
*(happiness which causes you
see things more clearly)* and Your
truth *(stability which makes you
feel your footing is sure and
established)* to guide me. Let them
(God's light, truth, and guidance)

PSALM 43:1-5
PROPHETIC WORD



lead me to Your house on
Your sacred mountain (***into
the presence of God***). 4 Then I
will worship at Your altar because
You make me joyful (***strengthen
my life***). You are my God, and I will
praise You. Yes, I will praise You as I
play my harp (***stringed instrument***).

PSALM 43:1-5
PROPHETIC WORD



5 Why am I discouraged
(*depressed*)? Why am I restless
(*war raging inside of my mind
and heart*)? I trust You (*place
my hope and confidence in
God*)! And I will praise You again
because You help me (*bring
victory and prosperity into my
life*), and You are my God.

PSALM 43:1-5
PROPHETIC WORD