

## General Topics :: The Faith Principles of Ministry (1824) Muller

**The Faith Principles of Ministry (1824) Muller - posted by hmmhmm (), on: 2007/3/5 5:13**

George Müller (1805-1898) believed he had seen over 50,000 answers to prayer. Refusing to ask anyone but God alone for help, he fed, clothed and housed 10,024 orphans during his lifetime in Bristol, England. Perhaps no one in modern history has demonstrated the life of trust in God more persistently and conspicuously than this man.

1. We consider every believer bound, in one way or other, to help the cause of Christ, and we have scriptural warrant for expecting the Lord's blessing on our work of faith and labor of love; and although, according to Matthew 13:24-43, II Timothy 3:1-13, and many other passages, the world will not be converted before the coming of our Lord Jesus, still, while He tarries, all scriptural means should be employed for the ingathering of the elect of God.
2. The Lord helping us, we do not mean to seek the patronage of the world; i.e., we never intend to ask unconverted persons of rank or wealth to support this institution, because this, we consider, would be dishonorable to the Lord. "In the name of our God we will set up our banners" (Psalm 20:5). He alone shall be our patron, and if He helps us we will prosper; and if He is not on our side, we will not succeed.
3. We do not mean to ask unbelievers for money (II Corinthians 6:14-18); though we do not feel ourselves warranted to refuse their contributions, if they, of their own accord, should offer them. (See Acts 28:2, 10).
4. We reject altogether the help of unbelievers in managing or carrying on the affairs of the institution. (See II Corinthians 6:14-18.)
5. We intend never to enlarge the field of labor by contracting debts (Romans 13:8), and afterward appealing to the Church of God for help, because this we consider to be opposed both to the letter and the spirit of the New Testament; but in secret prayer, God helping us, we shall carry the wants of the institution to the Lord, and act according to the means that God shall give.
6. We do not mean to reckon the success of the institution

by the amount of money given or the number of Bibles distributed, but by the Lord's blessing on the work (Zechariah 4:6); and we expect this, in the proportion in which He shall help us to wait upon Him in prayer.

7. While we would avoid needless separation, we desire to go on simply according to Scripture, without compromising the truth; at the same time thankfully receiving any instruction which experienced believers, after prayer, upon scriptural ground, may have to give us concerning the institution.

**Re: The Faith Principles of Ministry (1824) Muller - posted by hmmhmm (), on: 2007/3/5 5:15**  
more from muller

Many asked Mr. Muller how he sought to know the will of God, in that nothing was undertaken, not even the smallest expenditure, without feeling certain he was in God's will. In the following words he gave his answer:

1. I seek at the beginning to get my heart into such a state that it has not will of its own in regard to a given matter. Nine-tenths of the difficulties are overcome when our hearts are ready to do the Lord's will, whatever it may be. When one is truly in this state, it is usually but a little way to the knowledge of what His will is.

2. Having done this, I do not leave the result to feeling or simple impressions. 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.

4. Next I take into account providential circumstances. These plainly indicate God's will in connection with His Word and Spirit.

Muller on Discerning the Will of God

meditation over it. This I most firmly believe, that no one ought to expect to see much good resulting from his labours if he is not much given to prayer and meditation.

That which I have found most beneficial in the public ministry of the Word, is expounding the Scriptures. This may be done in a twofold way, either by entering minutely into the bearing of every point occurring in the portion, or by giving the general outlines, and thus leading the hearers to see the meaning and connection of the whole. The benefits which I have seen resulting from expounding are these: (1) The hearers are thus, with God's blessing, led to

the Scriptures. This induces them to bring their Bibles, and I have observed that those who at first did not bring them, have afterwards been induced to do so; so that in a short time few were in the habit of coming without them. This is no small matter; for everything which in our day will lead believers to value the Scriptures is of importance. (2) The expounding of the Scriptures is in general more beneficial to the hearers than if, on a single verse, or half a verse, or

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. In trivial matters and in transactions involving most important issues, I have found this method always effective. And did this plan work? one asks. Let Mr. Muller's testimony answer.

“I never remember,” he wrote three years before his death, “in all my Christian course, a period now of sixtynine years and four months, 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.”