



## SERMON NOTES

### The Wow of a Vow

The Book of Acts

Pastor Carl Toti

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*Acts 18:18 (NLT)*

*18 Paul stayed in Corinth for some time after that, then said good-bye to the brothers and sisters and went to nearby Cenchrea. There he shaved his head according to Jewish custom, marking the end of a vow. Then he set sail for Syria, taking Priscilla and Aquila with him.*

#### **What is a vow?**

A vow is a personal promise to do a certain thing for the Lord, while an oath is a promise not to do a certain thing before God.

#### **JESUS AND VOWS**

*Matthew 5:37 (TLB)*

*37 Say just a simple 'Yes, I will' or 'No, I won't.' Your word is enough. To strengthen your promise with a vow shows that something is wrong.*

#### **Three Famous Vows**

1. Jacob's vow to pay tithes (Genesis 28:20-22).
2. Hannah's vow (1 Samuel 1:11,27-28).
3. Job's vow with his eyes (Job 31:1-2).

*Job 31:1-2 (TLB)*

*1 "I made a covenant with my eyes not to look with lust upon a girl. 2 I know full well that Almighty God above sends calamity on those who do.*

#### **Are Vows Biblical?**

Under the New Covenant, they are acceptable but not advisable.

#### **THE POWER OF GOD'S WILL**

*Acts 18:19-21 (NLT)*

*19 They stopped first at the port of Ephesus, where Paul left the others behind. While he was there, he went to the synagogue to reason with the Jews. 20 They asked him to stay longer, but he declined. 21 As he left, however, he said, "I will come back later, God willing." Then he set sail from Ephesus.*

*1 Corinthians 4:19 (NKJV)*

*19 But I will come to you shortly, if the Lord wills, and I will know, not the word of those who are puffed up, but the power.*

*James 4:15 (NKJV)*

*15 Instead you ought to say, "If the Lord wills, we shall live and do this or that."*

There is the revealed will of God, and the secret will of God.

*Deuteronomy 29:29 (TLB)*

29 "There are secrets the Lord your God has not revealed to us, but these words that he has revealed are for us and our children to obey forever.

## **REVEALED WILL OF GOD—**

*John 6:29 (TLB)*

29 Jesus told them, "This is the will of God, that you believe in the one he has sent."

*1 Thessalonians 4:3 (NKJV)*

3 For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you should abstain from sexual immorality;

*1 Thessalonians 5:18 (NAB)*

18 In all circumstances give thanks, for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus.

*Ephesians 5:17 (NKJV)*

17 Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is.

## **SECRET WILL OF GOD—**

*Romans 11:33 (Phillips NT)*

33 Frankly, I stand amazed at the unfathomable complexity of God's wisdom and God's knowledge. How could man ever understand his reasons for action, or explain his methods of working?

*Matthew 24:36 (NJB)*

36 But as for that day and hour, nobody knows it, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, no one but the Father alone.

## **PAUL'S THIRD MISSIONARY JOURNEY—**

*Acts 18:22-23 (NKJV)*

22 And when he had landed at Caesarea, and gone up and greeted the church, he went down to Antioch. 23 After he had spent some time there, he departed and went over the region of Galatia and Phrygia in order, strengthening all the disciples.

## **EVERYTHING WE DO HERE AT TRINITY IS FOR THREE REASONS:**

1. \_\_\_\_\_ **GOD**
2. \_\_\_\_\_ **SOULS**
3. \_\_\_\_\_ **ALL BELIEVERS**

ANSWERS:

1. GLORIFY
2. WIN
3. STRENGTHEN