Grounders:

When it comes to experiencing God's will in your life, are you a thermometer or a thermostat? Often we find ourselves wondering if the temperature in our life is from us or from God. We ask ourselves, "Is this desire merely from me or is it from God? How can I know if this is God's will?" The answer comes from whether we are a thermometer or a thermostat.

A thermometer reflects the temperature. A thermostat sets the temperature. Paul urges us not to be thermometers, "Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world" (Rom. 12:2). Do not merely reflect the temperature of your environment. Instead, set the temperature. Jesus prayed that His disciples would be *in* the world, but not *of* the world, that they would be thermostats, not thermometers (Jn. 17:15-16).

A thermostat sets the temperature because it has been touched by the programmer's hand. Paul compels us not to be thermometers, but to be thermostats programmed by the hand of God in Christ. Paul compels us, "But, be transformed by the renewing of your mind" (Rom. 12:2). This renewing of the mind is not only a quiet time with God, but a 24/7 renewing of our thoughts by the Spirit of Christ (2 Cor. 10:5).

David says that when we delight in the Lord, He will give us the desires of our hearts (Ps. 37:4). *Delight* means "to make pliable." *Give* means "to orchestrate." When we make our hearts pliable to God, He orchestrates the desires of our hearts to be the same as His.

When the world's temperature is fired at you with lies, bitterness, deceit, malice, pride, hypocrisy, coarse language, licentiousness, or laziness, don't reflect it. Rather, renew your mind with the touch of the Programmer's hand, and set the temperature with Christ.

A thermostat tests and approves the temperature in its environment. Paul writes, "Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is" (Rom. 12:2). How do you know whether a thought is God's will? First test the temperature and then only approve it if it is consistent with the heart of Christ, the Bible, and the peace of the Holy Spirit within you. If not, set the temperature by responding to the touch of the Programmer's hand.

May your temperature for Christ increase,
Mitch