

Knowing & Choosing to Do God's Will

(Is To Learn of His Will From His Word)

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Psalm 40:8, *"I desire to do your will, O my God; your law is within my heart."* Also, Jesus said to His Father (Hebr.10:7) *"I have come to do your will, O God."*

How could a person do the will of God unless they knew what His will was concerning important issues facing a Christian today? God's will is often quite plain and clearly spelled out in the Bible. The Ten Commandments would be a good starting point. It would be God's will not to seek medical help if physically oppressed, because he says (Exod.15:26) *"I am the Lord that healeth thee."*

It would be God's will, not to own real estate or our home, for He says clearly (Matt.6:19) *"Lay not up for yourselves treasure upon earth."* There are other concerns in life where God's will is clearly spelled out (and somewhere His will is not clearly explained), but with the Holy Spirit's enlightenment, 'God's will' can be known.

There are many Old and New Testament references referring directly or indirectly to the will of God. A believer must realize that Satan will use every possible means (or any person) that he can, to keep them out of God's will. That is the devil's primary goal, to keep a person out of the Will of God in some area of life.

Although some things may seem to be minor, the Bible tells us (in James 2), that we sin if we just show favoritism (which places us in a position of being out of the will of God). (Vs.10) *"For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it."*

All too many professed Christians do not really know what being in the 'Will of God' actually is. If they were to give a definition of what being

in the will of God would mean, it would (no doubt) be far from what the Bible says about God's divine and expressed will.

The main goal of every true Christian is to be in the "center" of God's will (which would mean obeying God's Word in every part of life).

The Apostle Paul tells us how to know God's will (Rom.12:2) *"Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is."*

If our thoughts, decisions, attitudes, and our ways are opposite to the world's ways, then our mind has been renewed by the Holy Spirit. We look at things differently and reason things differently. We will want to know God's will, and we will automatically test things to be sure that it is according to the Scriptures.

If we really want to know God's will. He will show us and enable us (through the Holy Spirit's empowerment) to carry through with it. That is the place of a complete surrender and total commitment to God's will as expressed in the Bible.

In the same verse of Romans 12 the Apostle tells us *"Therefore, I urge you, brothers in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God."*

That means an absolute and unlimited surrender of our entire life to God, for His will to be accomplished regarding every detail. It is to be a total commitment—That *"you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—His good, pleasing and perfect will."* We are to prove from practical experience what God wants us to do concerning a certain thing or decision.

In the Garden of Eden, God's will was done by Adam and Eve. God's will was the only plan they had. By following that divine plan (God's will), it resulted in perfect happiness, contentment, and peace. There was no trouble nor difficulties of any kind.

That result is always the result when a person is in the center of God's will (when a person is not knowingly doing anything that is contrary to God's divine will. Perfect happiness and peace are enjoyed in Heaven because God's will is done there.

Jesus taught His disciples the words to offer in their prayers (Matt.6:10) *"Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven."* It is God's will to be at peace, to be

happy, contented, and to enjoy protection from the devil's power and influence.

The Bible gives two different meanings concerning 'the will of God'. There is the determined will of God, and the desired will of God. Scripture teaches us that God has a pre-determined plan for every life, and He wants everyone to follow that plan.

(Eph.1:11) *"In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will."*

God works in every person's life who will allow Him to work. The verb 'works' is in the present tense, indicating that God is in charge (of world affairs) at all times. He is actively and consistently involved in the world and our lives.

God's attitude toward what He does can be seen in verse 5, *"He predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with His pleasure and will."* He does things in a certain way because it pleases Him.

(Verse 9 says) *"He made known to us the mystery of His Will according to His good pleasure,"* We are allowed to understand it because He wants us to follow it and stay in the center of it.

The purpose of God's doing things the way He wants to do them, is to bring glory to himself. (Vs.12) *"In order that we who were the first to hope in Christ, might be for the praise of his glory."*

Many times, we cannot understand, and sometimes it is difficult for us to accept the things that happen, but we can rest assured that everything ultimately brings glory to God. (John 17:4) Jesus said, *"I have brought you glory on earth by completing the work you gave me to do."* And (1 Pet.4:11) *"If anyone serves he should do it with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory and the power for ever and ever."*

The determined will of God is shown (Eph.1:1) *"Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God."* Being an apostle was something that God had determined would happen in Paul's life.

No one can change God's will. (In Romans 9:19) The question is asked: *"For who resists his*

will?" The implied answer is "No one." (Heb.6:17) reveals God's purpose as unchangeable and that this is confirmed by His own divine oath; *"Because God wanted to make the unchanging nature of his purpose very clear to the heirs of what was promised, he confirmed it with an oath."*

The determined Will of God is the eternal plan that God decided to put into operation in the world in general (and, in our individual life in particular.)

However, within the context of the divine plan, sin occurs. The Bible says God's eternal plan included the sacrifice of Christ on the cross to pay for the sins that would be committed. (1 Peter 1:18-19) *"For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your forefathers, but with the precious blood of Christ."* (you were redeemed).

Every human being on earth can exercise their free will choice, and for that reason is held responsible for any sin committed. (Rom.3:9-12 says), that *"Jews and Gentiles alike are all under sin. As it is written: There is no one righteous, not even one; there is no one who understands, no one who seeks God. All have turned away, they have together become worthless; there is no one who does good, not even one."* (Rom.3:9-12).

Because sin exists and because humans choose to exercise their power of choice in the wrong way, God offered a plan of redemption (through His Son the Redeemer), to save those who will realize their sin, repent of acting outside God's will, and who desire to be obedient to the will of God in all things.

God's expressed Will is also clearly stated (John 5:24) *"I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life."* God's Will is simply to hear (or read God's Word), believe in Christ, and to follow Him in submissive obedience. [A simple basic plan for us to follow.]

(John 10:27-28) tells of the assurance we have of salvation as we are willing to obey God's Word in every aspect of our life, *"My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of my hand."*

The Bible reveals events that will take place in the future, such as the coming of Christ, the various judgments, the great tribulation, the rise of the Antichrist, the new heavens, and the new earth, etc. These will take place because God has told us that they will. Many other things will happen (that have not been mentioned in the Bible), but these have been determined by God. (Who forewarned us from His Word!!)

Wars will be fought, governments will be overthrown earthquakes and famines will occur; only God knows for certain when, where and why.

The Christian's attitude toward the determined will of God, would be to recognize it as a reality, as always being right, and as part of His divine plan. We should be assured that *"in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose."* (Romans 8:28).

Beyond that, we shouldn't worry about it because God's ways (at times), are unfathomable; (Rom.11:33) *"How unsearchable his judgments, and his paths beyond tracing out!"*

The desired will of God is different from His determined will. The determined will is that which will happen; the desired will is that which God wants to happen (in every person's life). The desired will of God may or may not happen, because it is based on our decisions. It is our free-will choice to do the desired will of God (as is known from reading the Bible), or to deliberately not do the will of God.

God's desired will is something we can know, and with the Holy Spirit's help, we can do it. (Acts 20:27) *"For I have not hesitated to proclaim to you the whole counsel (will) of God."*

Whether the translation we read, says, counsel, will, or truth, any of those words would mean the intentions of God. The Apostle had told them what God had intended for them to do.

The desired will of God can surely be known and be communicated (or told) to another person. The Apostle Paul's prayer for the Colossian believers, was, *"that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so that you may walk in a manner worthy of the Lord"* (Col.1:9-10).

The will of God was something that they could know and understand and put into practice. True believers are instructed to be transformed

by changing their point of view about everything, so that they can work out the will of God in their life.

(Rom.12:2) *"Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is."*

To prove something, means to use the process of testing and analyzing. The will of God is something we discover, and something we learn by the Holy Spirit's help. Our thinking, reasoning, deciding, and responding, is changed by our knowing the Word of God, and desiring to do His Will in every particular circumstance.

True Christians are urged and encouraged to learn, and to know, what the Lord would want them to do. (Eph.5:17) *"Therefore do not be foolish but understand what the Lord's will is."*

The word understand means to put together. For us to discover what the will of God is, means a putting together of information from His Word, and applying it to our life. The Lord will empower us to do that according to (Heb.13:21), God will *"equip you with everything good for doing His will."* Knowing God's will and being able to do God's Will is not mysterious, nor is it known by only certain people. Any believer can know it and do it. It is simply what God desires to happen in our life.

In summation: The determined will of God is that which will happen, and the desired will of God is that which God wants to happen in our life. We do not always know what will happen (if it is determined by God), but we do know that what He wants to happen is part of our power of choice and is part of His desired will. (Eph.6: 1-3 says), *"Children, Obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. (also says), That it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth."*

That verse of Scripture clearly reveals the desired will of God for a son or daughter. If a parent asks a child to do something (reasonable and proper), or if the child is asked not to follow a certain course of action, that son or daughter should obey the desired will of God (which would be to carry through with the desired will of their parent.)

If a child does not listen to their parent, then they are out of the desired will of God,

because they have failed to do what God wants them to do (as is said in the Bible.)

It is God's desired will for the son or daughter to make right that situation, by admitting their failure to do what was right and proper, by confessing the sin to God, and tell the parent of their change of attitude.

The proper course of action for one to take (which is part of God's desired will) is written for us (1 John 1:9) *"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness."*

It is the son or daughter's responsibility to obediently do the parent's desired will, so if one has been disobedient, that child should face that fact, and to remedy (or act in a way) to bring himself (or herself) back into God's desired will.

(No matter what takes place in the world, we should not be upset, for Jesus told us in (John 16:33), *"I have told you these things, so that in Me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."*

The freedom we have to act as we please (which is our power of choice) is a reality and should always be exercised within the context of God's Holy Word and divine plan.

The verse given for the whole world to believe (John 3:16) *"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life"*, supports the fact that God wants every person to be saved by carrying through with His will. And it is God's will that we believe in His Son. That believing in Jesus (of course) will result in one responding like Jesus in everything.

Everyone can know the desired will of God by reading of it in the Bible, or by being told of it through someone God has sent. (Mark 16:15-16) Jesus said to his disciples *"Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation. Whoever 'believes' and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned."* [and the Lake of Fire is too terrible to comprehend or to even imagine].

Any person who wants to be saved and who exercises his or her conscious and deliberate choice to accept Christ (and the change that He brings to a person's life), will be saved. Anyone who does not want to be saved,

and who exercises his or her conscious and deliberate choice to reject Christ, will be lost.

Nobody will obtain salvation against their own will, and no one will end up in the Lake of Fire apart from their own will. That power of choice is an awesome responsibility for one to have, because how we carry through with that choice determines our destiny, and determines whether we enjoy happiness for ever and ever or endure suffering forever and ever.

God (and His Son Jesus Christ) both desire and want all people, to know and to do our Father-in-Heaven's expressed and divine will. We are told in (1 Timothy 2:4) that God *"wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth."*

Everyone can know God's will, and everyone can do God's will by the empowerment of the Holy Spirit, so there is no excuse for anyone to be forever condemned. By reading the Scriptures, and being enlightened by the Holy Spirit, and being willing to follow God's Word in every detail of life (which would enable a person to be in the center of God's will), we would be assured of God's Eternal Kingdom!

Eternal Life in Heaven with God the Father, and, with Jesus Christ the Son, is the greatest result of all, for one "knowing and doing God's will."

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