

“Teach me to do Your will, For You are my God; Let Your good Spirit lead me on level ground”
Psalm 143:10

The Will of God: Implicit (part two)

While the explicit will of God is directly stated and obvious, His implicit will is inferred by the context of what we read in the Bible, and by what we know of the character and nature of God Himself. Like the explicit will, the implicit will of God can be ignored or disobeyed.

To make an inference, you need data. This comes as evidence and clues. We glean evidence and clues from the context of the Bible. In Revelation 3:20, we have an image of Christ standing outside, knocking on a door, and wanting to come in and eat a meal. However, from the context of the passage we can infer that what Christ desires is a relationship with us, not physical food. Understanding context requires a little work. It means reading more than just one verse and seeing how the surrounding writings relate to each other. It might mean digging into how the original audience would have heard and interpreted those writings. It might even mean studying words in the source languages to see if that affects what we read.

This data also comes from background knowledge. What do we know about God because of what He has told us about Himself and demonstrated in His Word? How has he responded to His creation in the past? What has He promised? Again, this requires putting in the time to read and study. The more time we spend studying the Scriptures and learning about who God is, the easier it will be to identify the truths that can help us to make decisions where the outcome is not commanded.

All of our mining the Scriptures for data must be covered in prayer. Our human minds are finite and fallible. We must pray that the data we gather is Truth.

The Holy Spirit can tell us more about the LORD than any human being. So, close the devotional and open your Bible. Start with the Names of God. What do they mean? What do they tell you about His nature and character? How does that shape your way of making decisions?

To be continued.

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