

Series on the First Thessalonians | Part 13

The Will of God for You

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Mt. 7:21 “Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but **the one who does the will of my Father** who is in heaven.”

1 Jn. 2:17 “And the world is passing away along with its desires, but **whoever does the will of God** abides forever.”

“Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel? He said to them, ‘It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority’.” (**Ac 1:6–7**).

Dan. 4:34-35 “I blessed the Most High, and praised and honored him who lives forever, for his dominion is an everlasting dominion, and his kingdom endures from generation to generation; all the inhabitants of the earth are accounted as nothing, and **he does according to his will** among the host of heaven and among the inhabitants of the earth; and none can stay his hand or say to him, “What have you done?”

- The will of God is the maturity and service of all believers (Rom. 12:1–2)
- The will of God when believers experience and live the Spirit-filled life (Eph. 5:17)
- The will of God when believers are filled with the knowledge of God (Col. 1:9)
- The will of God when believers are sanctified (1 Thess. 4:3)
- The will of God when believers are suffering (1 Pet. 3:17; 4:19)

“In reality, the will of God is not an option; it is an obligation. We cannot ‘take it or leave it.’ Because He is the Creator and we are the creatures, we must obey Him. Because He is the Savior and Lord, and we are His children and servants, we must obey Him. To treat the will of God lightly is to invite the chastening of God in our lives.” (Warren W. Wiersbe)

I. Practice Supernatural Joy

“We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; as unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and behold, we live; as punished, and yet not killed; **as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing.**” (**2 Cor. 6:8-10**).

“A Christian’s joy is not a natural joy that ebbs and flows according to the circumstances that surround us, but a supernatural joy that comes from God and is rooted in our relationship with him. It is a joy that fills our hearts even in the midst of persecution. Joy was one of the marks of primitive Christianity, which amazed the heathen world and attracted men to Christ.” (Tim Shenton, *Opening up 1 Thessalonians*)

“In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory.” (**1 Pet 1:6–8**).

Reasons for believers to rejoice:

1. God's character.
2. Christ's redemptive work.
3. Ministry of the Holy Spirit on our behalf.
4. Spiritual blessings.
5. God's providence.
6. The promise of future glory.
7. Answered prayer.
8. The gift of God's Word.
9. The privilege of genuine fellowship.
10. Saving proclamation of the gospel.

"Truly joyful Christians will always have a deep-seated confidence in God's sovereign love and mighty power on behalf of His own, and in His providential working of all things according to His perfect plan. Therefore, no event or circumstance in the Christian's life, apart from sin, can or should diminish his true joy." (John F. MacArthur Jr., *1 & 2 Thessalonians*)

II. Recognize Your Dependence on God

"Prayer is a lifting up of our hearts to God in humble submission and dependence, trusting him as our loving Father and acknowledging him as our almighty Lord." (Tim Shenton, *Opening up 1 Thessalonians*)

"Without ceasing means "constant" and defines prayer not as some perpetual activity of kneeling and interceding but as a way of life marked by a continual attitude of prayer." (John F. MacArthur Jr., *1 & 2 Thessalonians*)

"We pray most earnestly night and day that they may see them face to face" (**1 Thess. 3:10**)

1. The desire to glorify the Lord.
2. The desire for fellowship with God.

3. Prayer for God to meet our needs.
4. Prayer for God's wisdom.
5. The desire for deliverance from trouble.
6. The desire to be free from fear and worry.
7. Gratitude for God's blessings and His work.
8. Prayer to be freed from the guilt of sin.
9. Prayer for the salvation of the lost.
10. The desire for spiritual growth.

III. Give Thanks for Everything

"Being unthankful is the very essence of the unregenerate heart." (John F. MacArthur Jr., *1 & 2 Thessalonians*)

Romans 8:28 "And we know that for those who love God **all things work together for good**, for those who are called according to his purpose."

Phil 4:11-12 "**I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content** (*lit. happy*). I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need."

"My God, I have never thanked you for my 'thorn'. I have thanked you a thousand times for my roses, but never once for my 'thorn'. I have been looking forward to a world where I shall get compensation for my cross as itself a present glory. Teach me the glory of my cross; teach me the value of my 'thorn'." (George Matheson)

"Take My Life, and Let It Be" by Frances Havergal:

*Take my life, and let it be Consecrated, Lord, to thee.
 Take my moments and my days; Let them flow in ceaseless praise.
 Take my hands, and let them move At the impulse of thy love.
 Take my feet, and let them be Swift and beautiful for thee.
 Take my voice, and let me sing, Always, only, for my King.
 Take my lips, and let them be Filled with messages from thee.*