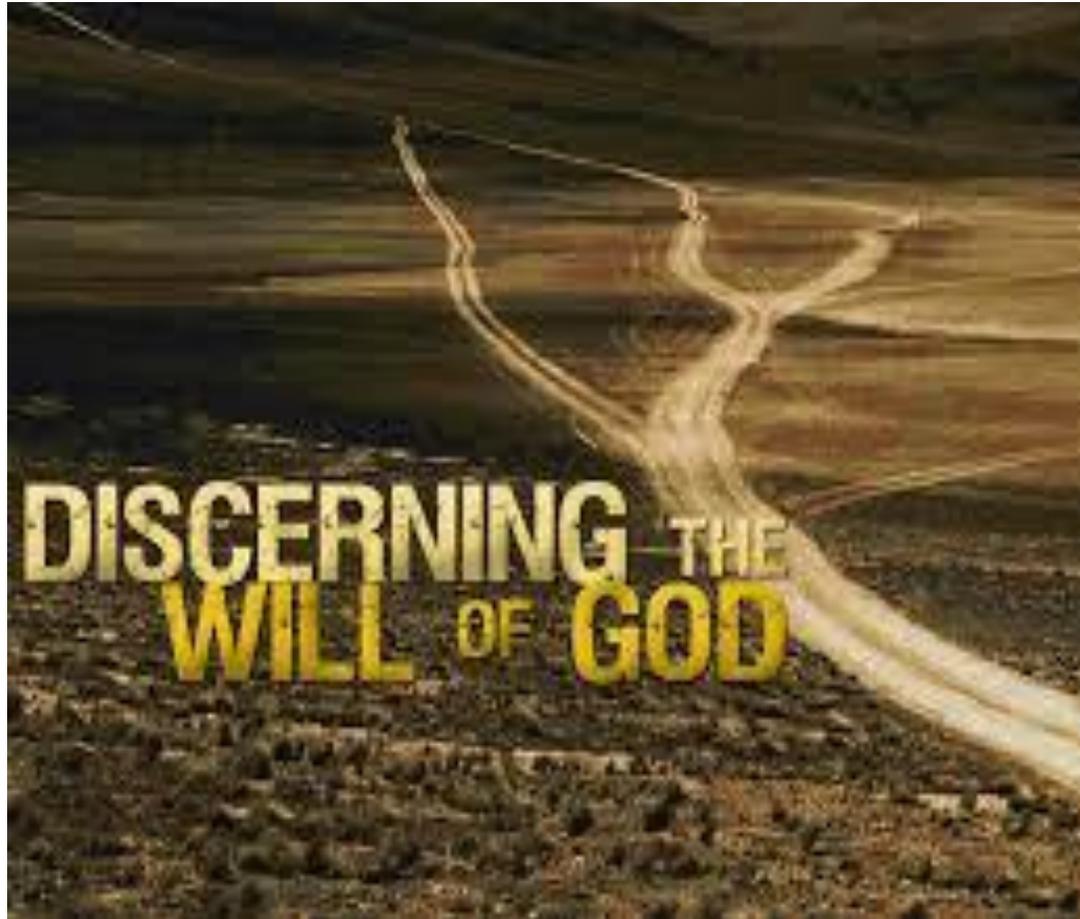


What every Christian Ought To Know.

#7 Discerning the Will of God!



6 Myths Concerning the *WILL OF GOD.*

- When it comes to the **“WILL OF GOD,”** there are **three** must in the believer's life. Otherwise, your life will be pointless, aimless, and fruitless.
 - I. YOUR **DESIRE**: TO **KNOW** THE WILL OF GOD.
 - II. YOUR **DELIGHT**: TO **OBEY** THE WILL OF GOD.
 - III. YOUR GREAT **DANGER**: TO **REFUSE** THE WILL OF GOD.
 1. **THE “MAP” MYTH**: This is the idea that God is going to give you a road map for His will for you. “God is not a Garmin.” The will of God is a journey through a relationship, not a road map.
- **HOW DID GOD LEAD THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL INTO THE WILDERNESS?**
A pillar of cloud by day; a pillar of fire by night. All they had to do was **“SEE”** that cloud, or pillar of fire to know that God’s presence was indeed with them.
(Ex. 13:21)

- **PAUL ASKED TWO QUESTIONS**: Questions we all should be asking.

1. **WHO** ARE YOU, LORD?

2. **WHAT** DO YOU WANT ME TO DO?

THREE Principles for Knowing God's Will

#1 GOD WILL GUIDE YOU--HE PROMISED

➤ **GOD HAS A PLAN ORDAINED FOR US, BEFORE IT EVER COMES TO PASS.**

Notice: (Acts. 9:6) **“but get up and enter the city, and it will be told you what you must do.”**

- Notice (Psa. 37:23) **“The steps of a man are established by the LORD, And He delights in his way.”** (God is leading you **ONE STEP AT A TIME.**)
- Notice (Psa. 32:8) **“I will instruct you and teach you in the way which you should go; I will counsel you with My eye upon you.”**
- Notice: (Isa. 58:11) **“And the LORD will continually guide you,..”**

- **Notice:** (Prov. 3:6) *“In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He will make your paths straight.”*
- **Remember,** You have a **FATHER** above you **CONTROLLING** all things. You have a **SAVIOR** beside you **DIRECTING** your footsteps. And you have the **HOLY SPIRIT** living inside you who is **ENERGIZING** you by impressing upon your **heart, mind, and will.**
- A. **GOD’S PREVAILING WILL:** For Ex. The kingdom of this world will one day be the kingdom of Christ. That’s going to happen. It’s part of **His Sovereign will.**
Notice: (Prov. 19:21) *“Many plans are in a man’s heart, But the counsel of the LORD will stand.”*
- B. **GOD’S PERMISSIVE WILL:** For Ex. Christians are not to marry unbelievers, but sometimes tragically they do. (2 Cor. 6:14)
Notice: (Prov. 14:12) *“There is a way which seems right to a man, **But its end is the way of death.**”* God allows His children to **voluntarily** obey or disobey. We (believers) truly exercise **“Free will.”**

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- **GOD'S PERSONAL WILL**: For Ex. God led me to Christi, likewise He led me to Mount Carmel. God's word teaches that He has a special plan, a specific plan, and a personal plan for each one of us.

Notice: (Jer. 29:11) *“For I know the plans that I have for you,” declares the LORD, ‘plans for welfare and not for calamity to give you a future and a hope.’*”



UNDERSTANDING GOD'S WILL

WHAT IS IT?

1. GOD'S WILL IS FOR YOU TO BE **SAVED!**

- Notice: (2 Pet. 3:9) ***“The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing (willing KJV.) for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.***
- Notice: (1 Tim. 2:4) ***“who desires (will KJV.) all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.”***
- You need to understand that both of these verses are referring to **“God’s will of **DESIRE, WISHING,**”** It’s His expression, **NOT** His **“SOVEREIGN WILL OF **DECREE.**”** God’s choices are determined by His sovereign, eternal purpose not His desires.
- Not everyone is going to be saved, (Jn. 17:6) but we do know the heart of God **“*desires*”** all men to be saved. You will never know the mind, or the will of God until you first **“BELONG TO GOD”** THROUGH SALVATION.

- **THE WILL OF GOD BEGINS BY SALVATION.** Now Jesus made this very clear **Notice: (Mk. 3:31-35).** *“Then His mother and His brothers arrived, and standing outside they sent word to Him and called Him. 32 A crowd was sitting around Him, and they said to Him, “Behold, Your mother and Your brothers are outside looking for You.” 33 Answering them, He said, “Who are My mother and My brothers?” 34 Looking about at those who were sitting around Him, He said, “Behold My mother and My brothers! 35 “For whoever does the will of God, he is My brother and sister and mother.””*
- What Jesus is saying is this: ***“The will of God is being related to me through FAITH, not through HUMAN RELATION.”*** And you know that Mary and all of His brothers had to be saved, just like you, and I, and in the same manner, ***“by Grace, through Faith.”***
- **JESUS SAYS, THE WILL OF GOD IS A RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD; A SAVING RELATIONSHIP WITH ME.** This is the will of God. And so, **Jesus expresses salvation** in terms of the **will of God.**

- Jesus could have as easily said, for whosoever shall be saved, the same is my brother and my sister and my mother. But he chose to say, who does the **WILL OF GOD** is my brother and sister and mother, equating the statement. So, **TO BE SAVED IS TO DO THE WILL OF GOD**. That is God's will.
- **Notice (1 Jn. 2:17) *“The world is passing away, and also its lusts; but the one who does the will of God lives forever.”***
- **FOREVER LIFE** or **ETERNAL LIFE** then is equated to doing the **WILL OF GOD**. So, in those two passages, **salvation** and **the will of God are equated**.
- God's will is that you be saved, said **Paul to Timothy**. **God's will is that you not perish, said Peter**. So, to begin with then, the will of God is that men be saved. When God sets about to express His will, He goes to the ends that are necessary to make the expression of that will possible.
Notice: (Eph. 2:4-6) *“But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, 5 even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), 6 and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ.”*

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- **In response to His own will, He sent that which made it possible.** He Himself came in bodily form, died on the cross and rose again. And He did it for **HIS GREAT LOVE WITH WHICH HE LOVED US.**
- A lot of people talk about what God wants in their life, but they don't even know God. He isn't even running their life. God's will is that you be saved. That's where it all starts. **YOU COMMIT YOUR LIFE TO JESUS CHRIST.**

That's basic!

2. GOD'S WILL IS FOR YOU TO BE SPIRIT-FILLED!

- Notice: (Eph. 5:17-18) ***“So then do not be foolish but understand what the will of the Lord is. 18 And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but be filled with the Spirit,”***
- Paul is saying as a Christian, you need to **YIELD CONTROL** of your life to an **INSIDE AGENT**, only not something like alcohol but the **HOLY SPIRIT**, who dwells in you. And when you're **really Spirit-filled**, you have no more self-control over yourself than when you do when you're really wasted with alcohol.
- A **SPIRIT-FILLED CHRISTIAN** is one who has thrown out **SELF** and is **LED** by the Spirit. You can be given (**controlled**) by anger, lust, greed, pride, or the Holy-Spirit.

- **Understand** the Holy-Spirit doesn't come in sections, or pieces. **Notice:** (Rom. 8:9) *“However, you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him.”* YOU EITHER HAVE HIM **ALL**, OR NOT **AT ALL**.
- Here's the deal, the Holy-Spirit lives in you, and all His energy is there, ready to be released to transform you into the very image of Christ (**2 Cor. 3:18**).

