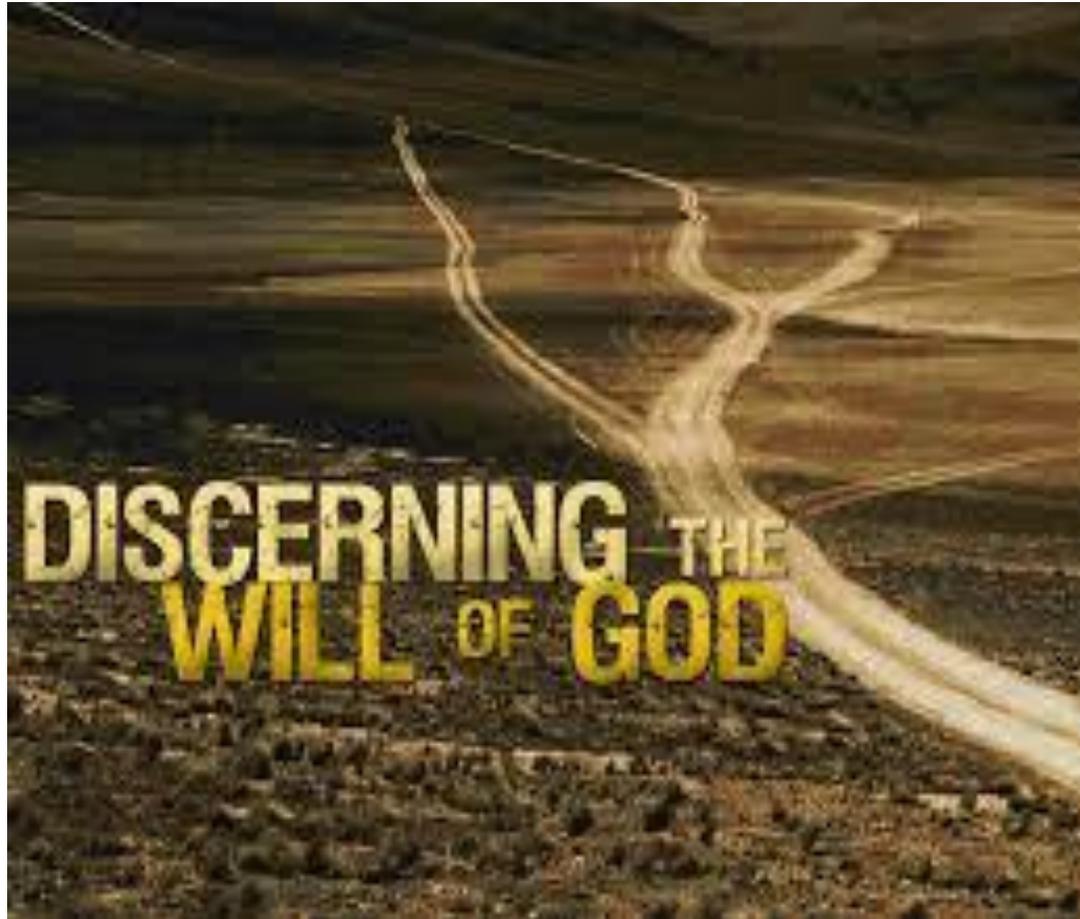


What every Christian Ought To Know.

#7 Discerning the Will of God!



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

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

**GOD'S WILL IS FOR YOU TO BE
SANCTIFIED!**

4. GOD'S WILL IS FOR YOU TO BE SUBMISSIVE!

- Notice: (1 Pet. 2:13-15) *“Submit yourselves for the Lord’s sake to every human institution, whether to a king as the one in authority, 14 or to governors as sent by him for the punishment of evildoers and the praise of those who do right. 15 For such is the will of God that by doing right you may silence the ignorance of foolish men.”*
- Isn't that interesting? Not institutions of God, but institutions of man... This means the **“WILL OF GOD”** is that you submit to the government?
- Well, what if I don't like the laws that the president, congress or APPOINTED leaders are passing? Notice: Vv. 16,17. *“Act as free men, and do not use your freedom as a covering for evil but use it as bondslaves of God.”*

- This is a free country, so I'll just start a riot; you are free, but don't use your spiritual liberty for a cloak of maliciousness. No, here's what we are supposed to do. **17 *Honor all people, love the brotherhood, fear God, honor the king.***
- However, we should **NEVER VIOLATE GOD'S WORD** in order to obey man!!!! (Matt. 22:21)
- Well..., what about my cranky, perverted boss? **Notice: V. 18. *"Servants, be submissive to your masters with all respect, not only to those who are good and gentle, but also to those who are unreasonable."***
- So..., Why is submission so important? **Notice again: V. 15. *"...that by DOING RIGHT you may SILENCE THE IGNORANCE of foolish men."***

You know that people want to criticize Christianity? How best can they do it? What is Christianity's poorest testimony? **CHRISTIANS!** We live in an ungodly system, and we need to be **EXEMPLARY PEOPLE**.

Remember, Satan can't get your **salvation**, so he's after your **TESTIMONY!** A bad testimony is a dagger to the cause of Christ.

Don't forget that we are to submit to **Christ**, as well as **each other**. Notice: (Eph. 5:21) ***“and be subject to one another in the fear of Christ.”***

5. GOD'S WILL IS FOR YOU TO SUFFER!

- Notice: (1 Pet. 2:19) *“Therefore, those also who suffer according to the will of God shall entrust their souls to a faithful Creator in doing what is right.”*
- Notice: (1 Pet. 3:17) *“For it is better, if God should will it so, that you suffer for doing what is right rather than for doing what is wrong.”*
- Understand that he’s not talking about your **“SUFFERING”** being your wife/husband, or any other relationship. What he's talking about here is when you suffer for **“DOING WHAT IS RIGHT.”** What does he mean? When you live a godly life in an ungodly society, you're going to get some opposition/persecution. That's what he's talking about.
- Notice: (1 Pet 4:13) *“but to the degree that you share the sufferings of Christ, keep on rejoicing, so that also at the revelation of His glory you may rejoice with exultation.”*
- In other words, He (**CHRIST**) suffered for doing what's **right**, and for the **truth**, that's what he's talking about. When you go out and really confront the world and are bold for Christ and you suffer, **THAT'S THE WILL OF GOD**. We really need to suffer as a Christian. Notice: (1 Pet. 4:16) *“but if anyone suffers as a Christian, he is not to be ashamed, but is to glorify God in this name.”* Do we really suffer as Christians? Do we really face the world and take what they give?

- In this world, there are always going to be critics , mockers, and persecutors. However, **it is God's will that you make the Gospel an issue, the issue.**
- **Notice: 2 Tim. 3:12) *“Indeed, all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.”***
- Godly followers of Christ should expect to suffer. Paul’s experiences were not isolated or exceptional. These words were an emphatic appeal for Timothy to join Paul in suffering.
- ***PERSECUTION*** may vary in degree and take different forms in different countries and in different ages, but the basic hostility of the world to the godly man remains unchanged. For the most part ***“PERSECUTION”*** is foreign to Americans.

- Christians will suffer because the world is hostile to the kingdom of God. Both **Christ (Matt. 5:11–12; Mk. 8:34)** and **Paul (2 Cor. 12:9–10; 1 Thess. 3:4)** had prepared their followers to anticipate such hardship. Paul’s words about the expectation of suffering were frightening, and they are also a reminder to every Christian to expect opposition for devotion to Jesus. Such forewarning allows the thoughtful Christian to be armed with a **commitment for spiritual battle**.
- The phrase **“IN CHRIST JESUS”** carries the meaning of union with Christ. The believer experiences fellowship with Christ in suffering as a part of the **“mystical union”** with him.
- **Notice: 3:13** Paul’s explanation for the certainty of suffering was that evil would grow in its intensity. Paul described the false teachers as **“EVIL MEN”** and branded them as religious swindlers or **“impostors.”** Although the word **“imposter”** is used outside the New Testament to refer to a dabbler in the occult or a wizard, Paul may have been designating them as impostors, not magicians.

Notice (2 Cor. 12:7-9) *“Because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, for this reason, to keep me from exalting myself, there was given me a thorn in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to torment me—to keep me from exalting myself! 8 Concerning this I implored the Lord three times that it might leave me. 9 And He has said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness.” Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me.”*

1. **GOD** uses *suffering* to **REVEAL** our **spiritual condition**, or **character**.
2. **GOD** uses *suffering* to **HUMBLE US**.
3. **GOD** uses *suffering* to **DRAW US TO HIMSELF**.
4. **GOD** uses *suffering* to **DISPLAY HIS GRACE**.
5. **GOD** uses *suffering* to **PERFECT HIS POWER**.