

I. The Desirous Will of God - *Continued*
a. *Thelo and Thelema*

8. Ask for yourself (middle voice) according to His will – 1 John 5:14, 15
 - a. Christ promised His disciples that they would receive whatever they asked the Father in His name
 - i. John 14:13,14 – When we ask according to His desirous will, God is glorified
 - ii. John 15:7 – Resting in one's relationship to God in Christ and His word being comfortable in us results in believers asking according to His will
 - iii. John 16:23, 24 – Up to that point, the disciples had never asked in the name of Jesus
 1. God instituting a new means of communication
 2. This type of communication was not available to the Old Testament saint
 - b. God hears the believer when their asking is consistent with God's desirous will
 - i. *Akouo* – “consider what is or has been said”; the request has been acknowledged
 1. “God's will is the standard of the kind of asking which God acknowledges” – Hoelscher
 2. When a believer asks for something that is consistent with God's will and His character then He will hear their request
 - c. How does one ask according to God's will?
 - i. Asking in Jesus' name means asking according to Christ's character, or in other words, ask the same way that Christ would ask
 - ii. It does not mean adding the name of Jesus to the end of one's prayer
 - iii. The Character of Christ
 1. Ro. 12:1-2; Heb. 10:5-10 -Willingness to make self available to God
 2. Ro. 12:3-5– Being considerate of the Body of Christ
 3. Ro. 12:9-13; 1 John 5:1-2 – Motivated by love in relationships with the members of the Body
 4. 1 Thess. 5:16; John 6:38 – An appreciation for the will of God in all things (rejoicing)

5. 1 Thess. 5:17; John 17:1-3 – Being consistently mindful of the glory of God
 6. 1 Thess. 5:18; Lk. 22:19 – An attitude of gratitude in all things
- d. Asking contrary to the will of God
 - i. James 4:1-4 – James addresses believers that were in conflict with one another because they were seeking to gratify their selfish desires
 1. Their desires were not being met because they weren't asking
 2. They asked so that could totally consume it upon their desires
 - ii. Out of control desiring, yet despite their energetic efforts to get what they want it always out of their reach
 - e. The purpose of prayer is not us bending God's will to do our bidding but our will's being brought into conformity with His desirous will