

Small Group Discussion + Leader Guide

Sunday, April 26, 2026

Preached By: Matt Alexander

Understanding the Will of God: *Can I Miss God's Perfect Will?*

Opening Prayer & Icebreaker (10 minutes)

Icebreaker Question:

What's one decision you've struggled with recently—big or small? What made it difficult?

Sermon Recap (5 minutes)

Main Point:

The will of God is not a hidden path you might miss—it is a holy path you are called to walk.

Key Scripture:

Romans 12:2 - "Be transformed by the renewal of your mind... that you may discern what is the will of God..."

Quick Review of Last Week:

- Hidden will → Trust
- Perfect will → Obey
- Permissive will → Submit and Persevere

Discussion Questions

Section 1: Understanding Our Fear (15 minutes)

1. Pastor Matt said the hardest question believers wrestle with isn't "Does God exist?" but "What if I miss God's perfect will?"

- Why do you think this question creates so much anxiety for Christians?
- Have you personally experienced this fear? Share an example.

2. He stated: "This is not usually rebellion. It's fear."

- What's the difference between fearing God and being afraid of missing His will?
- How does fear of making the wrong decision affect your relationship with God?
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Section 2: God's Sovereignty & Our Responsibility (15 minutes)

3. Read Isaiah 55:8-9 and Deuteronomy 29:29 together.

- What comfort do you find in knowing God's ways are higher than ours?
- What does it mean that "the secret things belong to the LORD"?

4. Pastor Matt said: "God does not guide us by giving us a map—He guides you by making us wise."

- How does this shift your perspective on decision-making?
- What's the difference between wanting a map and developing wisdom?
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Section 3: Maturity Over Mystery (15 minutes)

5. Read 1 Thessalonians 4:3: "For this is the will of God, your sanctification."

- How does knowing God's will is primarily about your spiritual growth change things?
- What are some clearly revealed aspects of God's will that we often overlook?

6. Pastor Matt stated: "You cannot ruin God's will by choosing between righteous options. You can resist God's will by choosing sin."

- How does this statement bring freedom?
- Can you think of a time when you were paralyzed between two good choices?

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Section 4: From Tree to Tree (15 minutes)

7. The sermon traced God's plan through three trees: Garden, Cross, and Tree of Life.

- How does seeing the "big picture" of God's plan help with daily decisions?
- Why is it important to remember that the cross was "not Plan B, but THE plan"?

8. Pastor Matt asked: "Am I in the center of God's will?" vs. "Am I submitted to Christ?"

- What's the difference between these two questions?
- Which question have you been asking more often?

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Section 5: Practical Application (15 minutes)

9. Three Hard Questions from the sermon:

- Are you more concerned about finding the perfect job than becoming like Christ?
- Are you more anxious about making the right decision than killing sin in your life?
- Are you waiting for clarity about your future while neglecting obedience in the present?

Group Activity: Have each person choose one of these questions to answer honestly (they can share or keep it personal).

10. Read Galatians 5:22-24 (Fruit of the Spirit)

- How does cultivating the fruit of the Spirit help us navigate "the middle space of life"?
- Which fruit do you need to develop more in your current season?

Key Takeaways

Write these down and share which one resonates most with you:

1. God's will is not a mystery to be solved, but a life to be lived.
2. We have confused God's secret will with God's revealed will—and that confusion robs us of freedom.
3. Scripture is sufficient for formation, not fortune-telling.
4. The will of God is maturity—growing in Christlikeness.
5. We don't need more information. We need obedience.

Personal Reflection & Application (10 minutes)

This Week's Challenge:

Choose ONE area where you've been waiting for "perfect clarity" before moving forward:

- Identify it: What decision or area of life are you stuck in?
- Check Scripture: What does God's Word already say about this area?
- Take one obedient step: What's one thing you know you should do that you've been avoiding?
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Accountability Partner:

Pair up with someone in the group. Share your "one obedient step" and commit to checking in with each other this week.

Closing Prayer Focus (5 minutes)

Pray for one another in these areas:

- Surrender: That we would stop trying to control our lives and trust God's sovereignty
- Wisdom: That God would give us discernment in the decisions we face
- Obedience: That we would act on what God has already revealed rather than waiting for what He hasn't
- Freedom: That we would walk in the freedom of knowing our salvation doesn't depend on making perfect decisions

Additional Resources

Recommended Reading:

- "Just Do Something" by Kevin DeYoung
- "Knowing God" by J.I. Packer
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Scripture Memory for the Week:

Romans 8:28-29 - "And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son..."

Leader Notes

- Allow space for silence when asking harder questions
- If someone shares a current struggle with decision-making, pray for them specifically
- Emphasize grace—this is about freedom, not adding more pressure
- Keep the focus Christ-centered: our security is in Him, not our perfect choices