



The Mystery of God's Will:

Decision Making and the Question of Whether God Has An Individual Will For Your Life

Part 2 – God's Moral Will

Why Study God's Will

- 1. The words “it’s God’s will” are among the most abused words in the Church today.**
- 2. Many of us spend so much time and effort searching for God’s individual will for our lives. If it exists, we should learn how to find it more efficiently. If there is no such thing, we should stop looking for it.**
- 3. Many Christians cannot articulate the tension between God’s sovereignty, His will, and our free will. This leads to a lot of bad theology and bungled witnessing attempts.**
- 4. Christians have so many questions about God’s will, strongly suggesting that most of us do not know much about the will of our Father.**

The Road Map

Last Week: God's Sovereign Will

TONIGHT: God's Moral Will

COMING UP: Traditional View of Finding God's Individual Will for Your Life

Critique of the Traditional View
(Does God Really Have an Individual Will for Each Person?)

God's Guidance in Our Lives

Doing the Will of God

Tough Questions About God's Will

Questions About God's Will: In General

What is the definition of the word “will”? Can we ever know fully what God's will is? Is there such a thing as the perfect will of God? Where in the Bible is the idea of multiple “wills” of God? Does God have specific plans, down to the day and the minute? How specific or vague (general) is God's will? Does God's will change? If so, how is that accomplished (Prayer? Sin? Fasting? Righteousness?) If God's will can change, does He know that it is going to change? Does He plan to change it? Can you change God's will? Do we have the right to change God's will (do we know better than God?) If God's will cannot change, then why is an individual responsible for sin? Does man have the ability to thwart or hinder God's will? If someone else changes God's will, do their actions change God's will for me? Can I force God's will? How small can things be and still be included in God's will? Does God ever will bad circumstances or trials to happen to make us stronger? Does God's will include sin? Does it include pain, suffering, the fall, and the cross? Is it God's will if I am born with a disease? If all our days are written like the Bible says, and God chooses us, then why does he punish the people he doesn't choose? (It seems like God creates “sinners” and then punishes them for being so.) If God knows what will happen in the future and knows that He has the ability to shape the future, then does God's will include all events? How is the Old Testament calling different from today? Does God have a will / plan for events after the second coming? Does God have a will for non-Christians?

Questions About God's Will: Individual Will

How do I know God's will for my life? Does God get involved in every aspect of my life? Does he care about every simple decision I make? If not, what are my prayers supposed to be like? Should I just ask God to bless me in all of my projects? Is there a "perfect" plan for my life? How can I discover it? What if I don't have a will? Do we all have the same will? If God does have a certain will for us, what consequences are in store for those who disobey? Will God be mad at you if you don't do His will or if you can't figure out His will? How do you know if He calls you to full time ministry? How do we test what God's will is for our lives? Is it a sin or just a preference to not follow His will? Can we pray to change God's will for my life? How can I tell the difference between God's will and my own will? Can my will be God's will? People have told me that God totally wanted them to have something like a parking spot (I don't think I agree.) Has anyone here ever heard God's voice as a call to do something? Is it true that if I have a passion for something then it is probably God's will? If something keeps coming up in conversation, or on TV, could that be God, or is that coincidence? Can we discern God's will based on a feeling? If the most important thing is to love God and others, what does that entail?

Questions About God's Will: What You Really Want to Know

Will I ever get married? Does God care who I marry? Does God have a specific person for me to marry (like a soul mate) or are there many positive choices? Does He ask some to remain single? Is there a mate out there for everyone? Was it God's will for me to marry the person I married? Does God have a will for my finances? Is it okay to make money and live comfortably? What if what I want to do is a childhood dream, something secular, and not something like saving Africa? What's the difference between a search for purpose and the pursuit of happiness? Is it God's will that I eat at Alberto's?



God's Sovereign Will

If God is truly sovereign, and nothing is outside of His will, how can we have free will?

- 1. It is impossible for us to fully understand the relationship between God's sovereignty and man's free will. Only God truly knows how the two work together (Romans 11:33-36).**
- 2. Scripture is clear that God knows the future (Matthew 6:8; Psalm 139:1-4) and that, because of His sovereignty is in control of all things (Colossians 1:16-17; Daniel 4:35).**
- 3. The Bible also says that we have a free will. God does not force us or cause us to do anything (James 1:13-14). We are completely responsible for our own actions (Romans 3:19; 6:23; 9:19-21).**
- 4. Most theologians agree that we will never know God's sovereign will, also known as His secret will, until it is revealed to us in retrospect.**

God's Moral Will

Simple Definition: God's revealed commands which are found in scripture which instruct us on how we should live and believe.

1. God's moral will flows from His holiness, and from the law of love:

“Jesus replied: " 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.'

This is the first and greatest commandment.

And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'

All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.” (Matthew 22:37-40)

“You shall be holy, for I am holy.”
(1 Peter 1:16; Leviticus 11:44-45)

God's Moral Will

2. God's moral will is the expression of the character of God.
3. God's moral will is fully revealed in the Bible:
 - concrete guidance for our lives;
 - the attitude in which we are live;
 - the manner or means we are to employ;
 - wisdom for all circumstances.



God's Moral Will

Examples

Live on the word; do not put the Lord to the test; worship the Lord; follow the Lord; rejoice and be glad in the face of insults and persecution; be salt to the earth; let your light shine; keep the commandments of the law and teach others to do the same; do not be angry; not call anyone a fool; reconcile with your brother; settle matters quickly with your adversary; do not commit adultery; do not look lustfully upon another; do not divorce except in case of marital unfaithfulness; do not swear an oath; let your yes be your yes and your no be your no; do not resist an evil person; turn the other cheek; if someone demands your tunic, give him your cloak as well; love your neighbor; love your enemies; be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect; do not do your acts of righteousness before men; give to the needy; give in secret; pray in secret; pray the Lord's prayer; forgive others so that you can be forgiven; fast, and do it in secret; do not store treasures on earth; store treasures in heaven; resist the darkness within you; choose to serve one, either God or money; do not worry about your life, or what you will eat or drink; do not worry about what you wear; seek first the kingdom and righteousness; do not worry about tomorrow; do not judge; do not look at the speck in your neighbor's eye; take the plank out of your own eye; do not give dogs what is sacred; do not throw pearls to pigs; ask, seek and knock; enter through the narrow gate; watch out for false prophets; build your house on the rock by putting the words of the Lord into practice; believe and have faith; ask the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest field. *(Taken from Matthew Chs. 4-9)*

God's Moral Will

**With so many people looking for God's will,
it really begs the question:**

**How much time are we spending
studying, memorizing and meditating on
God's word?**

**And if God's will is readily accessible to us,
meaning that His moral will is easily ascertained,
why is that not good enough for us?**

Questions About God's Will: Why Do You Want to Know God's Will?

1. **God is the wisest Being so it is best to seek wisdom from the source of true wisdom.**
2. **So I can know exactly what to do and won't have to figure it out or guess at what you are supposed to do.**
3. **To be able to please God by doing specifically defined acts that He wants accomplished.**
4. **To know you have a specific purpose; to know your life has a specific meaning to it.**
5. **To have freedom/peace of mind so that one can do whatever you are supposed to do and not feel guilty over the thought that you are not doing the will of God.**

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