



The Mystery of God's Will:

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

Part 6 – God's Guidance & Calling

The Road Map

WEEK 1: God's Sovereign Will

WEEK 2: God's Moral Will

WEEK 3: God's Individual Will – The Traditional View

WEEK 4: Critiquing the Traditional View

WEEK 5: Freedom to Choose (The Alternative View)

**TONIGHT: God's Guidance in Our Lives:
Is there a Call to Missions and Ministry?**

COMING UP: Doing the Will of God

Answering Your Questions About God's Will

Praying for God's Will

God's Individual Will – Traditional View

In (almost) every decision, God has an ideal will or plan for each individual believer, which we must discover in order to be in the “center” of God’s will.



The Alternative View - Freedom

Freedom to Choose Using Wisdom and Responsibility

God's Moral Will

Freedom
To
Choose

(with Wisdom
and Responsibility)



Responding to the Critique

BUT . . .

Doesn't God have a plan for me?

Doesn't God know the hairs on my head?

Doesn't every Christian have a unique purpose?

Doesn't every Christian have unique giftings or talents?

Doesn't God need me?

Doesn't God care about me and everything I do?

Doesn't God promise me that all things will work together for good?



God's Will in Concert

God's Moral Will

**Freedom
To
Choose**

(with Wisdom
and Responsibility)



God's Will in Concert

God's Sovereign Will

God's Moral Will

Freedom
To
Choose

(with Wisdom
and Responsibility)



God's Will in Concert

God's Sovereign Will

God's Moral Will

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So What Then? The Alternative View

DECISION MAKING:

- 1. Where God commands (Moral Will), we must obey.**
- 2. Where there is no command, God gives us freedom (and responsibility) to choose.**
- 3. Where there is no command, God gives us wisdom to choose.**
- 4. Occasionally (and not very often), God gives us special revelation and guidance.**



The Alternative View - Freedom

How Did the Apostles Make Decisions?

The Apostles' Words:

“It is good...”

“It is better ...”

“We thought it best...”

“It is fitting...”

“We thought it necessary...”

“It is not desirable...”



The Alternative View - Freedom

Marriage

(Excerpts from 1 Corinthians Ch.7)

“Because of the present crisis, I think that it is good for you to remain as you are. Are you married? Do not seek a divorce. Are you unmarried? Do not look for a wife. But if you do marry, you have not sinned; and if a virgin marries, she has not sinned. . . .

If anyone . . . feels he ought to marry, he should do as he wants. He is not sinning. They should get married. But the man . . . who has made up his mind not to marry the virgin—this man also does the right thing. . . .

A woman is bound to her husband as long as he lives. But if her husband dies, she is free to marry anyone she wishes, but he must belong to the Lord.”

The Alternative View - Freedom

Wait, Wait, Wait...

*What about the “Call” to Ministry or
The “Call” to Missions?*

*Don't we all have a purpose? Or a
“calling” of some sort that we should discover?*



The Alternative View - Freedom

“Call” in the New Testament

The word “call” is used 148 times in the New Testament. There are three ways in which it is used:

- (1) In the Gospels, it is most often used by Jesus to mean an invitation, such as an invitation to accept Him or to follow him.
- (2) Paul used the word frequently, but mostly used the word to refer to God’s grace at work to bring a person to salvation.

Example: Romans 8:28

The Alternative View - Freedom

Romans 8:28-30:

“And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.

For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren;

and these whom He predestined, He also called; and these whom He called, He also justified; and these whom He justified, He also glorified.”

The Alternative View - Freedom

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- (2) Paul used the word frequently, but mostly used the word to refer to God’s grace at work to bring a person to salvation.
- (3) The third usage of the word “call” refers to a calling to a specific function or office.

The Alternative View - Freedom

“Call” in the New Testament

- (3) The third usage of the word “call” refers to a calling to a specific function or office.**

We have evidence of three (3) calls in the N.T.:

- **God’s call to Paul (Romans 1:1; 1 Cor. 1:1)**
- **God’s call to Barnabas and Saul to be the first missionaries (Acts 13:2)**
- **God’s call to Paul and company to go to Macedonia (Acts 16:9-10)**

The Alternative View - Freedom

“Call” in the New Testament

- (3) The third usage of the word “call” refers to a calling to a specific function or office.**

We have evidence of three (3) calls in the N.T.:

- **These are exceptions, not the norm, consistent with God’s pattern of (infrequent) vocational calling in the Old Testament**
- **These calls involved some form of supernatural revelation**
- **They were clearly communicated, not through some sort of inner impression**
- **The person who got the call was not looking for it, and was not seeking out God’s detailed roadmap in any other related decisions**

The Alternative View - Freedom

So how do you know if you should take up vocational ministry?

How do you know if your place is to minister in the world outside the walls of the church?

How do you know if you should pursue ministry at all?

It may be up to you to decide in wisdom, pursuant to God's Moral Will, and governed by His Sovereign Will.

(Example: Parable of the Talents)

The Alternative View - Freedom

*How do I know if I am called
to missions?*

Matthew 28:18-20

And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

But how do I know where I am supposed to go?

**Absent a supernatural call, we have freedom,
wisdom and responsibility to choose,
governed by God's Sovereign Will.**

Acts 15:19-41

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INTERACTIVE



Participate, ask questions, talk back...

What if we listened to what everyone had to say — and discovered that God can speak through us all? After all, we all learn better when we talk things out, hear different points of view, and give room for the Spirit to speak through our deliberation.

[Read more](#)

THOUGHTFUL



Test everything, hold on to what is good...

Many hours of research are dedicated to prepare each one of our series. We explore the scriptures, the breadth of Christian scholarship, contemporary authors, and consider a wide range of sources outside of our faith.

[Read more](#)

FAITHFUL



Set apart Christ as Lord...

We all have questions. But we learn together in a way that tackles the deepest part of our doubts while making sure that our purpose is clear: to always know the reason for the hope that we have in Jesus Christ, and to be prepared to share that answer with everyone who asks us about that hope.

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