



## *The Mystery of God's Will:*

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

*Part 8 – Answering Your Questions & Praying For God's Will*

# 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)
- WEEK 6:** God's Guidance in Our Lives:  
Is there a Call to Missions and Ministry?
- WEEK 7:** Doing the Will of God
- TONIGHT:** Answering Your Questions About God's Will  
Praying for God's Will

# Questions About God's Will

Can we ever know fully what God's will is? *No.*

Is there such a thing as the perfect will of God? *Under the traditional view, the perfect will of God is the "center" of God's will for each person. Under the alternative view, God's perfect will is His sovereign will, interacting with our free will.*

Where in the Bible is the idea of multiple "wills" of God?

- Sovereign Will: *Matthew 5:8(b), Psalm 129:1-4; Colossians 1:16-17; Daniel 4:35; Job 42:2; Ephesians 1:11.*
- Moral Will: *Found throughout the Scriptures; supported by Colossians 1:9; Colossians 4:12; Ephesians 5:17, Psalm 32:8; Philippians 2:13.*
- Individual Will: *No scriptural support (\*).*

Does God have specific plans, down to the day and the minute? *Yes, as part of His Sovereign Will, but it is not revealed to us.*

# Questions About God's Will

How specific or vague (general) is God's will? *His Sovereign Will is very specific.*

How small can things be and still be included in God's will? *Very small, as part of His Sovereign Will.*

Does God's will change? *No. (Daniel 4:35)*

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?) 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? *God's will does not change.*

If God's will cannot change, then why is an individual responsible for sin? *God still gives us free will and holds us responsible for our choices.. James 1:13-14; Romans 3:19; Romans 6:23; Romans 9:19-21*

# Questions About God's Will

**Does God ever will bad circumstances or trials to happen to make us stronger?** *As part of His Sovereign Will, God may allow certain things to happen, and always uses everything, good and bad, to accomplish His Sovereign Will. God does not zap His people; God does discipline those He loves; God allows us to be tempted. (\*)*

**Does God's will include sin?** *God does not will for us to sin. God hates sin, but sin cannot thwart His Sovereign plan, so from that perspective, His sovereign will can work despite our sin.*

**Does it include pain, suffering, the fall, and the cross?** *Same answer.*

**Is it God's will if I am born with a disease?** *Nothing can happen outside of God's Sovereign Will. From that perspective, the answer is yes. (\*)*

# Questions About God's Will

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.) *There is a split in the church. Some teach that God has predetermined those whom He will call, while others believe that God allows everyone free choice and restricts His Sovereign Will in this one area. A middle view teaches that God uses our free choice to accomplish His calling of those He has called.*

**How is the Old Testament calling different from today?** *Calling in the Old Testament involved supernatural revelation from God to work in the lives of specific people on His behalf. With regard to His Sovereign Will, it has never changed. His Moral Will was expressed in the law.*

**Does God have a will / plan for events after the second coming?** *If God's Sovereign Will is unchanging, then yes. His Moral will may be perfected since there is no sin in Heaven.*

**Does God have a will for non-Christians?** *Yes, God's will is that all obey Him, and that all come to salvation. God's Sovereign Will is at work, even through the actions of non-Christians.*

# Questions About God's Will

**How do I know God's will for my life?** *His Moral Will is clear and abundant. Follow that. With respect to anything else, unless He supernaturally reveals His Sovereign will to you, you won't get any more specific instruction.*

**Does God get involved in every aspect of my life? Does he care about every simple decision I make?** *Yes, as part of His Sovereign will. You cannot go against His Sovereign Will.*

**If not, what are my prayers supposed to be like?** *Stay tuned.*

**Should I just ask God to bless me in all of my projects?** *Sure.*

**Is there a "perfect" plan for my life? How can I discover it?** *There is a perfect plan within God's Sovereign Will, but you cannot discover it until it happens.*

**What if I don't have a will?** *Don't worry, we'll still love you.*



# Questions About God's Will

**Do we all have the same will?** *God's Moral Will is the same for all, believer and unbeliever. God's Sovereign Will will accomplish His will for all things, as well as the way that our individual lives will play out, so His Sovereign Will for each of our individual lives will obviously differ.*

**If God does have a certain will for us, what consequences are in store for those who disobey?** *For those who disobey His Moral Will, the Lord may discipline His children. Our lives may also be less effective or less fulfilled. If we do not choose salvation, we will face eternal separation. However, we cannot "disobey" God's Sovereign Will, no matter what we do, we cannot thwart His Sovereign Will.*

**Will God be mad at you if you don't do His will or if you can't figure out His will?** *He will always love you, He may be "mad" enough or think it's in your best interest to discipline you if you disobey His Moral Will, but you won't have to worry about figuring out His will.*



# Questions About God's Will

**How do you know if He calls you to full time ministry?** *Except in the case of supernatural revelation, it is your choice to make in wisdom and freedom, knowing you will be accountable to God for your choices and what you did with the things He gave you in this life. Read 1 Timothy Chapter 3.*

**How do we test what God's will is for our lives?** *His Moral Will is clear and abundant, start there. For everything else, use wisdom to decide what parts of His Moral Will you should focus upon.*

**Is it a sin or just a preference to not follow His will?** *It is sin not to follow His Moral Will. When His Moral Will does not control, use wisdom, remembering that you are responsible for your choices. Bad choices can also be sin.*

**How can I tell the difference between God's will and my own will?** *Unless you are violating God's Moral Will, or acting unwisely, you may not know.*

# Questions About God's Will

**Can my will be God's will?** *Yes, especially when we follow His Moral Will, and where His Sovereignty is at issue.*

**People have told me that God totally wanted them to have something like a parking spot (I don't think I agree.)** *Everything is part of God's Sovereign Will, so if He didn't want them to have the spot, it probably would have gone to someone else. But we can't know if He actually acted to make it happen.*

**Has anyone here ever heard God's voice as a call to do something?** *Yes, but it is a rare event.*

**Is it true that if I have a passion for something then it is probably God's will?** *Maybe. God has given us gifts, talents and passions to use for His kingdom, and it would probably be wise to choose to work in a ministry that uses those gifts.*



## Questions About God's Will

If something keeps coming up in conversation, or on TV, could that be God, or is that coincidence? *Most likely coincidence, or heightened awareness. It could also be the wisdom of other believers helping us make decisions, or even the Holy Spirit working in the Body of Christ. But God still gives us freedom within the confines of His Moral and Sovereign Will.*

Can we discern God's will based on a feeling? *No. (\*)*



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

**Will I ever get married?** *Only God knows. There is no guaranty of marriage in scripture.*

**Does God care who I marry?** *Yes.*

**Does God have a specific person for me to marry (like a soul mate) or are there many positive choices?** *God may (MAY!) have a specific person in mind, but it would be part of His Sovereign Will. Unless He supernaturally reveals His will to you, you will not know. For most of us, He does not have one specific person in mind. He does command that we marry a Christian.*

**Does He ask some to remain single? Is there a mate out there for everyone?** *No.*

**Was it God's will for me to marry the person I married?** *Only if the person who asked this question is Lina. In that case, it was definitely God's will that you marry John, and he is the only person for you.*

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

**Does God have a will for my finances?** *Yes, God wants you to download our 5-part series on Money in the Kingdom of God.*

**Is it okay to make money and live comfortably?** *Same answer.*

**What if what I want to do is a childhood dream, something secular, and not something like saving Africa?** *God gives us freedom to act in wisdom within His Moral Will. God gives us gifts and talents that we must steward, and we will be responsible for how we use them. If you think it's best to use them in ways other than saving Africa, God will allow you to choose except where His Sovereign Will requires otherwise.*

**What's the difference between a search for purpose and the pursuit of happiness?** *Our purpose is to glorify God. We have responsibility and freedom for how we do that. God does not promise us happiness. Many who found their purpose also found suffering and hardship, even death.*

**Is it God's will that I eat at Alberto's?** *Absolutely. That's why God allowed them to open a location right next to APU.*

# Praying for the Lord's Will

*If God's Sovereign Will cannot be changed or thwarted, and at the same time is not known to us, how (why) do we pray to God?*

*Prayer vs. Magic*

*The Lord's Prayer:*

*"... Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is heaven."*



# Praying for the Lord's Will

## *THY WILL BE DONE:*

- (1) **Recognizing God's Will is Going to be Done / Recognizing His Sovereignty**
- (2) **Giving Thanks to God Regardless of What His Will Involves**
- (3) **Learning to Be Pleased and to Look Forward to God's Will**

- **Job 1:20-22**
- **1 Samuel 3:10-18**

# Praying for the Lord's Will

## SOME CAUTIONS . . .

- (1) It is permissible, and even healthy, to pray for God to change His will (so long as we are satisfied with His will regardless of the outcome).
- (2) We should not stop praying or adopt an attitude that it is useless to pray based on the idea that God's will is going to be done regardless of our prayers. Prayer is part of God's Moral Will, and has many other purposes.
- (3) Accepting God's will does not mean that it will always be easy. It involves surrender, that is part of the reason we pray.





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