

## NOTES

### ~ *Will of the Father – Defined* ~

- “Will” is defined in two ways in the Greek translated into the New Testament:
  - Strong’s G2307, *thelēma*, a determination; choice; inclination: - desire, pleasure, will. (John 6:40)
  - Strong’s G2309, *thelō ethelō* to determine; choose or prefer; to **wish**, be inclined to; to delight in: - **desire**, intend, list, love, mean, **please** (Matthew 9:13 – desire; Matthew 15:28 – wish; Matthew 26:39 – will; Mark 12:38 – like; Galatians 5:17 – please)
- God’s *will* can be something He *desires* (as in Matthew 18: 12-14) or His *plan* for mankind (i.e. **Matthew 26:42** or **John 6:37-40**).
  - Some of God’s desires:
    - That none are lost (**Matthew 18: 12-14**)
    - Obedience, not legalism (**Matthew 9:13**)
    - Our good deeds so we’ll silence the foolish (**1Peter 2:13-16**)
    - We rejoice and pray continuously (**1Thessalonians 5:16-19**)
    - We preach the Gospel/make disciples (**Matthew 28:19-20**)
  - About His plans:
    - They’re just that – HIS plans. Helping should be our focus.
    - Can be progressive - not immediately accomplished!
- Benefits of partnering with God to accomplish His plan:
  - Redemption and forgiveness; the reward of everlasting life (**John 6:40**) & (**Ephesians 1: 5-13**) & (Hebrews 10: 35-36)
  - God works for the good of those who love him; for it is God who is at work in you (**Philippians 2:12-13**)
  - The Spirit and His intercession (**Romans 8:26-28**)
- **Summary:** God’s *will* is what *He* wants to do, which is primarily to keep us from destruction through salvation. This is His plan for mankind. In the process, He *desires* for us to be obedient, rejoice, pray, and spread the good news to others. Although we tend to think God’s will is actually some kind of grandiose plan for *our* lives, we should instead focus on helping God see *His* plan for mankind through to completion.
- **Next Week:** A glimpse into how to discover God’s will (and responses to our requests):
  - Be a servant, seeking the kingdom of God *first*
  - Be obedient out of faith (care for the poor, abstain from immorality, pray for others, be good to those who hate you, etc.)
  - Seek wisdom and revelation from a variety of sources (Bible, prayer, the spiritually mature, fleece, etc.)

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“What does God want to do in my life?”

“What’s God’s will for me?”

These are common questions people ask today, as they may believe the will of God equates to some kind of special plan for them in particular.

God’s ultimate desire is to **reconcile** with His creation!

What we’ll learn today is that God’s will, which really is His *desire*, is just that – God’s desire. His will can also be viewed as His plan for mankind. Regardless, we can play a part, but God’s plan is for His creation as a whole and His desires for us – even individually – work for the accomplishment of that plan.

Example

**Example:** Business owner and employees. Discuss the owner’s plan and desires for his/her employees in completing that plan.

What the question *should* be

So, our question should probably be more like, “How will I recognize and follow God’s will whatever it is?” Let’s explore together the answer to that and other questions related to God’s plans and desires.

God’s will defined:

First, let’s look at the formal definition in Scripture for God’s will, which is defined in two ways in the Greek translated into the New Testament:

Choice, inclination, **desire**, pleasure, will.

- Strong’s G2307, *thelēma*, a determination; choice; inclination: - desire, pleasure, will. (John 6:40)
- Strong’s G2309, *thelō ethelō* to determine; choose or prefer; to **wish**, be inclined to; to delight in: - **desire**, intend, list, love, mean, **please** (Matthew 9:13 – desire; Matthew 15:28 – wish; Matthew 26:39 – will; Mark 12:38 – like; Galatians 5:17 – please)

Determine, wish, **desire**, like, or please.

He desires for us to be set apart through holiness, and to spread the word – all to accomplish His plan.

So, God’s *will* can be something He *desires* or His *plan* for mankind. For examples, He desires holiness – being ‘set apart’ because of our obedience that comes out of faith. He also desires for us to let others know of the good news of salvation – God’s plan to save mankind through choice and relationship (two entities meeting each other’s needs). Let’s take a look at some Scripture references to will/desire.

God's PLAN – that none should perish.

The plan

Jesus praying for accomplishment

Introduce some of God's desires:

- None are lost
- We're holy
- We pray/rejoice
- We spread the good news

None lost

Obedience, not legalism. Sheep; tithing; etc.

God's plan for mankind: That none should perish but have everlasting life. We see this here in John 6:27-30 and Matthew 26:42.

- The plan: **[John 6:37-40]**
- Jesus praying for strength to accomplish the Father of Spirit's will – not His own: **[Matthew 26:42]**

We now understand that God's PLAN is to save mankind. It's His DESIRE that none are lost, and that we become HOLY – set apart – through obedience out of our faith. He also desires for us to rejoice and praise continuously for the excellent things He does in accomplishing His plan for mankind. We're also to let others know of the good news of the Gospel so they too can enjoy eternal life and the Spirit of God's intervention in the meantime. Isn't it exciting to know that God, the Father of Spirits, has entrusted us with helping carry out the plan of salvation?

Let's take a closer look at some of the references related to a few of God's desires.

- That none are lost. And why not? We are God's creation. Despite the bad choices we make, He desires reconciliation with humans He created. **[Matthew 18: 12-14]**
- Obedience, not legalism. In the previous passage, Jesus refers to rescuing a lost sheep. In another passage, Jesus chides the religious leaders for giving Him a hard time for healing on the Sabbath. He pointed out that they would rescue a lost sheep on the Sabbath. How much more important is man? (Matthew 12:11). In another reference, Jesus gives those religious leaders a smack down because they pay close attention to the legal religious things like tithing and yet they neglect the more important things such as caring for others – this actionable, agape, love we've talked about. (Matthew 23:23). Let's look at Jesus' reciting of an Old Testament reference to God's desire for obedience – treating Him appropriately and our fellow man charitably – over legalism. **[Matthew 9:13]**

Silence the foolish

Rejoice and pray

Preach the Gospel.  
How else will they  
hear?

Let's talk about will =  
plan

**HIS PLAN!**

We'll talk more about  
praying for  
intercession and  
revelation of answers  
next week. **Perfection**  
of God's plan is  
important now!

His will is usually  
progressive!

- Our good deeds so we'll silence the foolish. The foolish – the wicked who don't follow God and His ways – look closely to find fault. We're to not let them get a foothold and find ways to discredit the Gospel or our Christian faith. **[1Peter 2:13-16]**
- We rejoice and pray continuously. One excellent side effect of this is that we **take our eyes off ourselves and keep them on God and others.**  
**[1Thessalonians 5:16-19]**
- We preach the Gospel/make disciples. How can people hear the Gospel and believe if no one tells them? **[Matthew 28:19-20]**

Now that we've talked some of God's desires, let's discuss the use of the word **will** as it relates to His *plans*:

First of all, they're just that – HIS plans. Helping should be our focus. Nowhere in the Bible will you find something to the effect of, "*Pray for God to show you His special plan for you!*" or "*God has some grandiose plan in store for you because you're so special in the grand scheme of things!*"

We're certainly compelled to pray for guidance and for intercession on our behalf, and to ask God to reveal His answers to us. We'll talk more about that next week. But, we should be focused on seeing God's plan to completion – **perfection** is the word often used in Scripture – otherwise.

Another important point about God's will is that it can, and usually is, **progressive**. It's not immediately accomplished. His plan for redemption and salvation has taken about 5,000 years! His plan for Paul to go from Saul to Paul the evangelist took about 10 years while he waited in Tarsus. It took 15 years to fulfill the publishing of my book, *Finding the End of the World* – something I felt compelled to do in working toward God's plan of salvation.

Reiterate what God's will means.

What's in it for us?

Redemption and forgiveness. We'll be translated.

God is at work in those who love Him.

More on "Why bad things happen to good people" next week.

Spirit's intercession.

- **Ask for personal examples of progressive fulfillment by God.**

We've talked about what God's will *really* means. It's His plan and He desires for us to be a part of it through obedience and evangelism.

So, what's in it for us? After all, relationship implies two entities working together to meet each other's needs. Let's take a look at the benefits of partnering with God to accomplish His plan:

- Redemption and forgiveness; the reward of everlasting life. Those who believe and are obedient out of their faith will be forgiven for their sin – rebellion – and live for at least a very, very long time in the heavenly realms. For some, that might seem boring, but Jesus tells us that "eye has not seen nor ear heard that which God has in store for those who love Him." We're also told that we'll receive new bodies and be like the angels when we're translated at the end of our age (world). Sounds like a great investment to me!! **[John 6:40] & [Ephesians 1: 5-13]**
- God works for the good of those who love him; for it is God who is at work in you. We may've messed things up and have to suffer the consequences of our own actions, but God does intercede on our behalf and use us to accomplish His plan of redemption. We'll talk more about "Why bad things happen to good people" week after next. **[Philippians 2:12-13]**
- The Spirit and His intercession. The Bible tells us that we receive the Spirit of God the moment we truly believe. This Spirit is our connection to God and our Christ. Without it, we have no lifeline so-to-speak. So, we need the Spirit's intervention, intercession, guidance, and gifts as we await the translation I mentioned above. **[Romans 8:26-28]**

Summary

- **Summary:** God's *will* is what *He* wants to do, which is primarily to keep us from destruction through salvation. This is His plan for mankind. In the process, He *desires* for us to be obedient, rejoice, pray, and spread the good news to others. Although we tend to think God's will is actually some kind of grandiose plan for our lives, we should instead focus on helping God see His plan for mankind through to completion.

Next week

- **Next Week:** A glimpse into how to discover God's will (and responses to our requests):
  - Be a servant, seeking the kingdom of God *first*
  - Be obedient out of faith (care for the poor, abstain from immorality, pray for others, be good to those who hate you, etc.)
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Week after next:

Mention again about the week after next: Why bad things happen to good people". The purpose is to help show what God's will *isn't* and why even followers of Jesus suffer at times

He went away again a second time and prayed, saying, “My Father, if this cannot pass away unless I drink it, Your will be done.” —Matthew 26:42.

“All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will certainly not cast out. For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me. This is the will of Him who sent Me, that of all that He has given Me I lose nothing, but raise it up on the last day. For this is the will of My Father, that everyone who beholds the Son and believes in Him will have eternal life, and I Myself will raise him up on the last day.” —John 6:37-40.

“What do you think? If any man has a hundred sheep, and one of them has gone astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine on the mountains and go and search for the one that is straying? If it turns out that he finds it, truly I say to you, he rejoices over it more than over the ninety-nine which have not gone astray. So it is not the will of your Father who is in heaven that one of these little ones perish.” —Matthew 18: 12-14.

“But go and learn what this means: ‘I DESIRE COMPASSION, AND NOT SACRIFICE,’ for I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners.” —Matthew 9:13.

Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every human institution, whether to a king as the one in authority, or to governors as sent by him for the punishment of evildoers and the praise of those who do right. For such is the will of God that by doing right you may silence the ignorance of foolish men. Act as free men, and do not use your freedom as a covering for evil, but use it as bondslaves of God. —1Peter 2:13-16.

Rejoice always; pray without ceasing; in everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. Do not quench the Spirit —1Thessalonians 5:16-19.

“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.” —Matthew 28:19-20.

“For this is the will of My Father, that everyone who beholds the Son and believes in Him will have eternal life, and I Myself will raise him up on the last day.” —John 6:40.

He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will, to the praise of the glory of His grace, which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace which He lavished on us. In all wisdom and insight He made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His kind intention which He purposed in Him with a view to an administration suitable to the fullness of the times, that is, the summing up of all things in Christ, things in the heavens and things on the earth. In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to His purpose who works all things after the counsel of His will, to the end that we who were the first to hope in Christ would be to the praise of His glory. Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation--having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise — Ephesians 1: 5-13.

So then, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure. —Philippians 2:12-13.

In the same way the Spirit also helps our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we should, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words; and He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. 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. —Romans 8:26-28.