



Lesson 17

Your Will Be Done

INTRODUCTION

Many Christians desire to live in God's will but do not know how to determine what that is. Consequently, they find themselves asking: "Why did God not create us to want what He wants? Why did He give us free will?"

God gave us the authority to make our own daily choices. In doing this, He chose to give us the freedom to accept His love and to love Him in return. God loves His children and He wants to bless us! At the beginning of creation, God placed Adam and Eve in a beautiful garden with every conceivable blessing and grace. Their disobedience brought necessary discipline by God (the eternal Judge). Today, despite our sin, God loves us and blesses us. The Bible is very clear that God created man for Himself to love and to bless so that man, in return, would love and bless Him.

Let's ask ourselves:

- Do I love God and do I bless Him?
- Does my life reflect that I love Him?

The entire gospel and salvation plan is based on voluntary submission and obedience. God allows us to live in rebellion and not place our faith in Jesus, but there are consequences for that choice. Since He rewards those who choose to love and obey Him, we need to learn to discern His will for ourselves, our families, our churches, our country and our world. In order for us to discern God's will, we must place our faith in God and act in obedience to His direction. Faith and obedience are the tools that allow for us to really know Him, relate to Him, and fellowship with Him.

Let's ask ourselves:

- Do I actively choose to place my faith in the Lord every single day?
- Do I obey the Lord? Do I respect His commands?

GOD'S WILL

God has a perfect will for us. His will is:

That we will be saved and come to know truth. (1 Tim. 2:4)

That we will present our bodies as a living sacrifice to Him. (1 Cor. 3:16-17)

That we will be transformed by the renewing of our minds in Christ. (Rom. 12:2)

That we will stand perfect and complete in Christ at His coming. (Col. 4:12)

That in every circumstance we will give thanks. (1 Thess. 5:18)

That we will submit ourselves one to another. (Eph. 5:21)

That we will honor all people, love them and fear God. (1 Peter 2:17)

Both the Old and New Testaments are filled with examples of men and women who sought God's will for their lives. Examples include: Noah, Abraham, Sarah, Moses, David, Peter, and Paul.

HOW DO WE FIGURE OUT GOD'S WILL FOR OUR LIVES?

It takes both faith and obedience to know God's heart. When God gave the law to Moses, He explained His faith and obedience principle to include both the offering of sacrifices and the offering of a required lifestyle. The death of Jesus replaced the need for animal sacrifice. His death gives us complete restoration and, by faith, Holy Spirit is available to dwell within us. Through devotion to God, and dependence on Holy Spirit, we are able to live in obedience and turn away from the things of the world. (Rom. 6:11-16)

FOR SIN SHALL NO LONGER BE YOUR MASTER, BECAUSE YOU ARE NOT UNDER THE LAW, BUT UNDER GRACE. WHAT THEN? SHALL WE SIN BECAUSE WE ARE NOT UNDER THE LAW BUT UNDER GRACE? BY NO MEANS! DON'T YOU KNOW THAT WHEN YOU OFFER YOURSELVES TO SOMEONE AS OBEDIENT SLAVES, YOU ARE SLAVES OF THE ONE YOU OBEY—WHETHER YOU ARE SLAVES TO SIN, WHICH LEADS TO DEATH, OR TO OBEDIENCE, WHICH LEADS TO RIGHTEOUSNESS? ROMANS 6:14-16 (NIV)

DURING HIS TIME ON EARTH, JESUS PROVIDED INSTRUCTIONS CONCERNING GOD'S WILL:

- Jesus told us to pray for God's will to be done here on earth. (Matt. 6:9-13) We need to constantly ask God what He wants us to do!
- Jesus stated that doing God's will was "food" to Him. (John 4:34) We need to let God's will be our sustenance and strength.
- We are told to be wise. (Eph. 5:6-7) We gain wisdom and understanding by reading the Bible and memorizing scripture. Let's call wisdom our brother! God's wisdom is very different from the world's wisdom. The more familiar we become with the Word of God, the harder it will be for the world to deceptively sound like God.
- We are told to do God's will from our hearts as servants of Jesus. (Eph. 6:6)

CAUTIONS CONCERNING GOD'S WILL INCLUDE:

- We must have enough faith in God to do His will. Our lives should show works that represent our faith.

**"NOT EVERYONE WHO SAYS TO ME, 'LORD, LORD,' WILL ENTER THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN, BUT ONLY THE ONE WHO DOES THE WILL OF MY FATHER WHO IS IN HEAVEN."
MATTHEW 7:21 (NIV)**

- We should be alert to the fact that the world will often say that something is okay when the Bible (the living Word of God) tells us that it is not okay.
- We should not go through a mental exercise of praying and telling God that we want to know Him and perform His will when, in reality, we intend to do what we already think is best.

"THREE LIGHTS OF GUIDANCE" FOR DISCERNING GOD'S WILL ALL INVOLVE PRAYER!

1. Pray in the Word: our prayers should align with scripture. The Word of God is a light to our path and a lamp to our feet. It comes to those who have hearts full of Jesus.
2. Pray for peace: we will have peace from Holy Spirit that will bear witness with our thoughts and decisions when they align with God's will.
3. Pray for the right timing: our circumstances will align with God's will. This will sometimes take patience because God can be slow (God's perfect timing can seem slow to us) to open necessary doors.

In order to know God's will for our lives, we need to be submitted in prayer!

FIVE STEPS TO FOLLOW FOR KNOWING GOD'S WILL

1. We must submit ourselves to God and ask Him to melt our hearts so that we'll have meek and submitted spirits.
2. We must make the decision not to worry over possible avenues or solutions. We must allow God to be in control!
3. We need to check ourselves for divided affections. If there is division, we must confess and repent.
4. Then, we wait for the "three lights of guidance" (discussed above) to line up.
5. Finally, we must act on what we know is God's will, and ask for revelation guidance on what is yet to be revealed.

BLESSINGS AND GRATITUDE

It is important for us to remember the many blessings that God has provided us. Protection (Matt. 8:26), forgiveness (Luke 7:50), daily bread (Matt. 16:8-10), and victory over the world (1 John 5:4) are just a few of the many gifts that Christians have been given.

Christians sometimes ask the question, "How do we even begin to thank God for all of our blessings?" The Bible answers this question and teaches us that we can show our gratitude to God by blessing Him and praising His name! We are told to keep the first commandment that is to love God with everything we've got! We are instructed to live and walk prayerfully, obediently, and righteously every day. We are told that humbling and denying ourselves is a posture of praise to God. Further, voicing and demonstrating our love for God both privately and publicly blesses our Father!

CONCLUSION

Paul said that in order to obey God as He requires, our desire to please Him must be so strong that we fully submit ourselves to Him. We must place our whole dependence, by faith, on His power within us. We are to bear witness of who Jesus is to all of mankind and communicate that through Him there is eternal life. While we all fall short, we are all loved and wanted by God. Daily press into Him! Remember, when God is working in our lives, He is on display for the whole world to see!