

WILL OF GOD

God's Desire and Purpose

I delight to do Thy will, O my God.
(Psalm 40:8)

Therefore be careful how you walk, not as unwise men,
but as wise,
making the most of your time, because the days are evil.
So then do not be foolish, but understand what the will of
the Lord is.

(Ephesians 5:15–17)

So often someone asks, “How do I know the will of God for my life?” Let us start with what we know for sure the will of God is. Beloved, let us search the Holy Scriptures together to discover some simple truths:

Jesus said,

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

(John 6:40)

I urge you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, to
present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable
to God, which is your spiritual service of worship.

And do not be conformed to this world, but be
transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may
prove what the will of God is, that which is good and
acceptable and perfect.

(Romans 12:1, 2)

For this is the will of God, your sanctification; that is, that
you abstain from sexual immorality;

that each of you know how to possess his own vessel in
sanctification and honor,

not in lustful passion, like the Gentiles who do not know
God.

(1 Thessalonians 4:3–5)

Live in peace with one another.

And we urge you, brethren, admonish the unruly,
encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with
all men.

See that no one repays another with evil for evil, but always seek after that which is good for one another and for all men.

Rejoice always;
pray without ceasing;
in everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

(1 Thessalonians 5:13–18)

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 bond-slaves of God.

(1 Peter 2:13–16)

Brothers and sisters, we know that God wants everyone to be saved. Those who are His children are born of His will (John 1:12, 13). At the time we received Jesus as our Lord and Savior, we were indwelt by the Holy Spirit, and from then on He guides us into all truth (John 16:13). God is renewing our mind, and He is conforming us to the image of His Son. God's ways are becoming our ways, His thoughts our thoughts, and His desires our desires. But for that to be a reality in our lives, we have to know God, His thoughts, His ways and His desires, for He Himself said,

“For My thoughts are not your thoughts,
Neither are your ways My ways,” declares the Lord.

“For as the heavens are higher than the earth,
So are My ways higher than your ways,
And My thoughts than your thoughts.”

(Isaiah 55:8, 9)

God's kingdom is not of this world. We have to keep that constantly in mind. We are not of this world any more. Our citizenship is in heaven where, in Christ Jesus, we have been seated already (Ephesians 2:6). We have the ability to evaluate everything from God's point of view now. We don't go to the world for answers. The One who has all the wisdom abides in us; we go to God.

Delight yourself in the Lord;
And He will give you the desires of your heart.

Commit your way to the Lord,
Trust also in Him, and He will do it.

And He will bring forth your righteousness as the light,
And your judgment as the noonday.

(Psalm 37:4–6)

God is bringing all our desires into oneness with His desires. Then His will becomes our *only* will, and His will guides us in Spirit and in truth. Jesus showed us the way. He spent His entire life on earth in total dependency upon His Father. His attitude was, “Not My will, but Thine be done” (Luke 22:42). Jesus always testified that He said only what His Father told Him to say (John 12:49), and that He did nothing of Himself, only that what He saw the Father doing (John 5:19). Jesus did not seek His own will, but the will of Him who sent Him (John 5:30). While on earth, Jesus lived as a man should—in total dependency on God.

The apostle Paul is another example for us. We should embrace the same attitude as Paul: “The will of the Lord be done” (Acts 21:14), and “But I will come to you soon, if the Lord wills” (1 Corinthians 4:19).

How do I know that I am in the will of God? Because I know that in my heart I have surrendered all unto Jesus.

Whom have I in heaven but Thee?
And besides Thee, I desire nothing on earth.

(Psalm 73:25)

So I know that I am in God’s will. Beloved, I know there is no limit to what we, the believers, can do. Why? It will be Jesus who will do everything through us. Nothing is impossible or too difficult for God. If needed, *we will* walk on water. I have absolutely no doubts about that, and I mean in a literal sense. In a spiritual sense we are “walking on water” every time we are functioning in the Spirit, every time we yield to the Holy Spirit instead of our flesh. Christian living is a supernatural living. We will experience it only if our mind is set on God’s interest, not men’s.

We know God loves us perfectly, and we know that He could change any circumstance in our lives. Not everything in my life is the way I would like it to be, but there is a reason for all. God has a purpose for my life, and I know that only in His will I will be fully satisfied. Yes, our heavenly Father could change any circumstance in our life, but above all He wants to change us. Brothers and sisters, to change our character, to change our attitude is more desirable than to change our circumstances. Glory to God, for He is worthy to be praised!

To be in the will of God is to walk in total dependency on Jesus.

Now the God of peace, who brought up from the dead the
great Shepherd of the sheep through the blood of the eternal
covenant, even Jesus our Lord,

equip you in every good thing to do His will, working in us that which is pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

(Hebrews 13:20, 21)

Jesus said,

“Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven; but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven.”

(Matthew 7:21)

Jesus said,

“For whoever does the will of God, he is My brother and sister and mother.”

(Mark 3:35)

Come now, you who say, “Today or tomorrow, we shall go to such and such a city, and spend a year there and engage in business and make a profit.”

Yet you do not know what your life will be like tomorrow. You are just a vapor that appears for a little while and then vanishes away.

Instead, you ought to say, “If the Lord wills, we shall live and also do this or that.”

(James 4:13–15)