

Biblical Discipleship



THE WILL OF GOD



LESSON 7: THE WILL OF GOD

"How Do I Find God's Will For My Life?"

A famous preacher once said that a successful man is a man who finds out what God wants him to accomplish with his life and then fulfills it. That is a very profound statement. The true measure of a man's success is not his social status or bank account, or his influence and fame. It is simply doing what God wants him to do.

The purpose of this lesson is to give the individual a clear understanding of what the will of God is, as revealed in the Bible, so he can begin to accomplish those things God would have him to accomplish.

I. What the will of God is NOT:

A. The will of God is not physical, but spiritual. It is never connected with a set of rules, a geographical location, or a specific ministry.

B. The will of God is not to be confused with the plan of God for your life. God has a specific plan for your life individually. That plan is the specific direction God will give in individual circumstances of your life.

II. There are two aspects to the will of God, His permissive will, and His directive will.

A. The permissive will of God. It must be clearly understood that God occasionally allows things to happen He does not necessarily approve of in order to accomplish some larger purpose. Examples are abundant, both in and out of scripture.

1. Occasionally, things happen in a Christian's life which do not appear to be good.

a. God will allow suffering in the lives of His children to perfect them, although He would prefer that they did not have to suffer.

*I Peter 3:15-18; II Corinthians 12:6-10;
I Peter 5:10*

b. From lesson one we learned that our Heavenly Father will never make a mistake in His dealings with His sons.

Matthew 7:11, Romans 8:28

2. God allows men to make their own choices in life, both good and bad.

a. Paul's trip to Jerusalem — Acts 21:4-14. God warned him three times not to go, but then allowed him to go to teach him obedience.

b. Hitler — God did not necessarily approve of him murdering 6 million of His chosen people, but

allowed it as the beginning of the restoration of the Jews, and to return them to their homeland.

- c. Man has a free will. God will not force anyone to do anything. God offers salvation and lays down the principles for a godly life; but if a man exercises the free will God has given him and rejects salvation, God permits that man's free will to be exercised, and the man suffers the consequences.

Galatians 6:7-8

B. The directive will of God.

1. There are certain things God specifically wills.
 - a. *II Peter 3:9* — God is not willing that any should perish. All lost people are out of the will of God regardless of what else they may do.
 - b. *I Thessalonians 5:18* — We are to give thanks for everything.
 - c. *I Peter 2:13-15* — We are to submit to every ordinance of man. However, this must be balanced by the next point:
 - d. *Romans 12:1-2* — We are not to be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of our minds. (Submission to the ordinances of man is to maintain a proper testimony to win them; while at the same time, your life

is to be transformed to live by a higher standard to please God.)

- e. *1 Thessalonians 4:3-7* — God desires our sanctification.
 - f. *Ephesians 6:5-8* — Our service is to be from the heart, with pure motives, as if we were serving Jesus Christ.
 - g. *Ephesians 5:15-17* — We are to redeem the time. Quit wasting time! Make use of the small amount God has given you.
2. Summarizing God's will for your life: The will of God is the same for every person on earth, to be conformed to the image of His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ.
- a. *Romans 8:28-29*
 - b. *John 17:20-23*
 - c. *Ephesians 4:13-15*

III. How can I find God's direction in my life?

Three things must be functioning in the life of a Christian for him to fulfill God's will and receive His direction.

Key memory verses:

Romans 12:1-2; 1 Peter 3:17; 2 Peter 3:9

NOTE: There is much confusion today about the will of God. Some popular beliefs are:

1. The will of God is different for every individual.
2. The will of God has to do with specific, physical matters.
3. God has predetermined what will happen (fate) and man's free will has no bearing on the matter.
4. Problems in a Christian's life are always the result of sin in his life.

From the Bible principles taught in this lesson, you should understand that these beliefs are false, and why.

Write any questions you may have concerning the subjects in this lesson.

10. Briefly explain the difference between the will of God and the plan of God.

A. The Holy Spirit of God. The Holy Spirit which indwells you must have free course in your life to direct you.

Galatians 5:25; John 16:13; 1 Corinthians 2:9-10

B. The word of God. The word of God is your absolute authority in every detail of your life. You must learn to saturate your mind with God's thoughts.

Philippians 2:5; Romans 12:1-2; Isaiah 55:6-11

11. Briefly explain the primary purpose of this lesson.

C. The local church. The local church is organized to equip Christians for ministry.

Ephesians 4:11-12

IV. How does God give His direction in details of my life?

* A. You must be in conformity to the will of God before He will direct you in the specifics of life. Your priority should be to fulfill the general will of God in your daily life, and then trust Him to guide you in the detailed plan, step by step.

B. God is infinitely more interested in your being the type of person He wants you to be than in your doing for Him all the "mighty works." Be what He wants you to be, and He will show you what to do.

V. Basic questions.

A. Why doesn't God reveal all of the details of His direction for me now?

1. It would overwhelm you before you got started.
2. You may not be equipped to handle it yet.
3. You may not be the type of person God wants you to be yet.
4. God will reveal what you can handle when you can handle it.
5. This is illustrated by the old question asked of children, "What do you want to be when you grow up?" If all the five-year olds in America were surveyed on this question, then forced to stick with their answer, in 20 years there would be nothing but firemen, policemen, and nurses. As time goes on and you grow spiritually, your interests, talents, and desires will grow and change. Be patient and wait on God while fulfilling His specific will for your life.

F.

G.

7. Summarize God's will for a Christian's life. Give scripture references to support your answer.

8. What must be active in the life of a believer to fulfill God's will and receive His direction in life?

A.

B.

C.

9. Before God will give His direction in your life, what must take place?

C.

NOTES

D.

- i. God has given all men a free will, therefore, He will not force man to do anything. But when God offers an individual salvation or direction, and this is rejected, what is the result?

- . God has a direct will for man. List seven things that God specifically wills for us.

A.

B.

C.

D.

E.

