

THE WILL OF GOD

OUTLINE OF STUDY:

1. Jesus
2. The Rest of Us
3. Essentials of Salvation
4. Discerning the Will of God
 - a. Through Express Scriptural Instruction
 - b. For direction in ministry
5. Doing the Will of God
 - a. General Comments
 - b. King Saul
 - c. King David
6. Why Must We Do God's Will?

**DISCERNING AND DOING THE WILL OF GOD
IS THE MOST IMPORTANT ENDEAVOR THAT
EVERY BELIEVER WILL EVER PURSUE.**

JESUS

Jesus' purpose for being sent to earth was to do the will of God!! This was first written in Psalm 40:6-8 and was repeated in Hebrews 10:5-7. Hebrews 10:5-7 (NKJV) reads as follows: "Therefore, when He came into the world, He said: 'Sacrifice and offering you did not desire, but a body you have prepared for Me. In burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin you had no pleasure.' Then I said, 'Behold I have come – in the volume of the book it is written of Me – to do your will, O God.'"

Jesus reveals His desire to seek the will of His Father by a comment made while speaking to a company of Jews, as recorded in John 5:30 (NKJV): "I can of Myself do nothing. As I hear, I judge; and My judgment is righteous, because I do not seek My own will but the will of the Father who sent Me."

Jesus always did the will of the Father but was deeply challenged while praying in the Garden of Gethsemane shortly before His arrest and eventual death by crucifixion for the sins of the world. He prayed twice about the matter, in Matthew 26:39, 42 (NKJV).

In Matthew 26:39, Jesus prayed: “O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will.” Then in Matthew 26:42, Jesus prayed: “O My Father, if this cup cannot pass away from Me unless I drink it, Your will be done.”

THE REST OF US

If it was of extraordinary importance for Jesus to do the will of God on earth, we would be wise to consider how important it is for “the rest of us” to discern and do God’s will.

The remainder of this article will, therefore, be addressed primarily to those who are born again in the manner described by Jesus in John Chapter 3 (born from above of the Spirit of the Lord) verses 3,5-7. Anyone not yet born again but having a curiosity about it, please read on. This will be especially helpful when you make the decision to believe on Christ for salvation.

ESSENTIALS OF SALVATION

The essentials of that decision include believing on Christ as the Son of God Who came to earth for a time to die for the sins of the world – for yours personally as well as mine. Then to activate Jesus’ blood sacrifice for your sins, confess to God that you have sinned (for all have done so- Romans 3:23) and want Him to forgive you for your sins as promised in 1 John 1:9. Once you have sincerely done all of the above, you have received Christ and the right to be called a child of God. (John 1:12) You have begun a new life, having been born again. After all of this, I recommend becoming part of a good Bible-believing church that can provide the sound Bible teaching that we all need.

DISCERNING THE WILL OF GOD

1. Through Express Scriptural Instruction

Romans 12:1-2: The Apostle Paul gives good advice about how to “prove” the will of God. He urges us to present ourselves as a living sacrifice to God. By doing so, our minds can be renewed so that we may “prove” (discern) what is the will of God for us individually.

1 Thessalonians 4:3-5 (NKJV): “For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you should abstain from sexual immorality; that each of you should know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honor, not in passions of lust, like the Gentiles who do not know God...” Here Paul directs God’s people to understand God’s will as living a life of sanctification, whereby through the grace given to us we are able to “cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.” (2 Corinthians 7:1 NKJV)

A life of sanctification is a life undergoing cleansing and separation from the world and its lustful passions. It is also the express will of God for His people.

2. For Direction in Ministry

Acts 13:1-4 (NKJV): Without discerning the will of God by those in ministry (pastors, missionaries, etc), it would be very confusing for the ministers involved. That is why the prophets and teachers in the church at Antioch served the Lord and fasted in order to learn what the will of God would be for them. Then “the Holy Spirit said, ‘Now separate to Me Barnabas and Saul (Paul) for the work to which I have called them.’ Then, having fasted and prayed and laid hands on them, they sent them away. So, being sent out by the Holy Spirit, they went down to Seleucia, and from there they sailed to Cyprus.” Barnabas and Saul (Paul) correctly discerned the will of God because they spent time with God in prayer and fasting. Not only that, apparently much of that time spent with the Lord was also spent with the other prophets and teachers in Antioch. Individual prayer and fasting along with group prayer is a good way to receive direction from the Holy Spirit.

Acts 16:6-12 (NKJV): When Paul and Silas traveled through parts of Asia Minor (Phrygia and Galatia), “They were forbidden by the Holy Spirit to preach the word in Asia.”(verse 6) They went to Mysia and then tried to go to Bithynia “but the Spirit did not permit them” (verse 7) They went by Mysia again on the way to Troas, a coastal city of western Asia Minor. (verse 8) It was at Troas that Paul had a vision of a man in Macedonia asking: “Come over to Macedonia and help us.” (verse 9) Paul and Silas believed the vision was God’s way of revealing His will – that they should go to Macedonia and preach the Gospel (verse 10)

All of their own efforts to go to various provinces in Asia Minor did not work because they were not God’s will. But now they knew what God really wanted them to do. They went as soon as they could to Philippi, “which is the foremost city of that part of Macedonia, a colony.” (verse 12) Their adventures in Philippi are worth reading in Acts 16:12-40.

DOING THE WILL OF GOD

1. General Comments:

It is a joyous occasion to discern the will of God for our life. But having done so, we learn that we have a new responsibility – doing the will of God. Think of it this way, the will of God is God’s desire for you. It would be very foolish (and rude) to pray earnestly, with fasting, to know God’s will but once you found out what it was, you did nothing to live in obedience to it. You have, in such an instance, allowed your desire for your life to outrank God’s desire for it. The best way I know how to correct this imbalance of desire is to submit my/your desires through the cross to God until my/your desires are the same as God’s. No more imbalances.

2. King Saul (1 Samuel 8:5-7; 15:1-35)

When the people of Israel cried repeatedly for a king, God gave them Saul as first king of Israel. Even though this was not God’s desire for Israel, He nonetheless gave them a king with the blessing of a king as if it were His desire. When God told Saul, through Samuel, to completely destroy the Amalekites (sparing no person or animal), Saul did not completely obey this command. He killed all of the people except Agag the king of the Amalekites, whom he brought back home. He also kept the best animals from Amalekite plunder, ostensibly to sacrifice to the Lord. Yet, he thought that he had obeyed the Lord – had done His

will. But with God, incomplete obedience is disobedience. God was finished with Saul, and used Samuel to convey His displeasure to Saul: “But Samuel said to Saul, ‘I will not return with you for you have rejected the word of the Lord, and the Lord has rejected you from being king over Israel.’” (1 Samuel 15:26 NKJV) But God is never caught by surprise. He already had someone whom He wanted as Saul’s replacement. Someone who would do His will!

3. King David (1 Samuel 13:14; Psalm 89:22; Acts 13:22)

In actuality, God had His eye on David even before Saul’s disobedience in the matter of the Amalekite extinction. Prior to that disobedience, Saul had offered a burnt offering in Gilgal – something unlawful for anyone except priests to perform. It was at that time that we first learn of God’s interest in David as the next king.

1 Samuel 13:14 (NKJV) “But now your (Saul’s) kingdom shall not continue. The Lord has sought for Himself a man after His own heart, and the Lord has commanded him to be commander over His people, because you have not kept what the Lord commanded you.” In Acts 13:22 (NKJV), we are shown why David is described as a man after God’s own heart: “I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after My own heart, who will do all My will.”

Whether confronting Goliath or other enemies of Israel, David gave his entire strength to do the will of God as a faithful warrior. God declared that “the enemy shall not outwit him (David).” (Psalm 89:22 NKJV) Even when King Saul pursued him with the intention of killing him, David gave his entire heart to do the will of God by refraining from harming Saul – God’s anointed – even when opportunities to do so presented themselves. I know of no other man of Scripture more deserving of the title given David: a man after God’s heart.

WHY MUST WE DO GOD’S WILL?

There are two Scriptures which give us immediate answers to the question of “why must we do God’s will?” The first is Matthew 6:10, which says, as one of the verses in the model prayer that Jesus teaches us to pray: “Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven...” (Matthew 6:10 NKJV)

It is pretty clear that if we do not learn to do God’s will on earth there will be no opportunity to do God’s will in heaven. In heaven, His angels “do His word, heeding the voice of His word.” (Psalm 103:20 NKJV) That’s the way God’s will is done in heaven and that’s the way He wants it done on earth. Can you imagine not doing God’s known will until years after you first knew what it was? Not exactly the way things are done in heaven. And yet, I am guilty of that same long delay in doing the will of God. Many others in the Body of Christ are likewise guilty and probably as embarrassed as I am to admit it. But the Holy Spirit will rekindle in us a love, a passion for doing God’s will as we appeal to Him for help.

The second Scripture is Matthew 7:21 (Jesus speaking): “Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven.” (Matthew 7:21 NKJV) I’ve never heard anyone say: “I just can’t wait to miss heaven.” But failing or refusing to do the will of God will

accomplish that dreadful outcome whether or not we ever put it into an organized statement like the one above.

According to the verse just cited (Matthew 7:21), Jesus said there are those who actually call Him Lord but who do not do the will of God. Luke 6:46 finds Jesus saying something quite similar in the form of a question to the people listening to Him speak a parable: “But why do you call Me ‘Lord, Lord,’ and not do the things which I say?” (Luke 6:46 NKJV)

Indeed, why do we try to gain entrance to heaven and its known benefits simply by calling Jesus our Lord without doing the will of God? We can find the answer to that question in Matthew 7:22-23, where Jesus says that many will try to convince Him in the day of Judgment that they have done works worthy of their heavenly reward (even though not having done the will of the Father). Jesus will simply tell them: “I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!” (Matthew 7:23 NKJV) There is no compromise or short cut to being invited into the eternal presence of God. It takes doing the will of God.

**DOING THE WILL OF GOD IS
SUBROGATING OUR WILL AND
DESIRE TO THOSE OF GOD.**

FOR YOUR PERSONAL STUDY ON THIS TOPIC:

The Believer’s relationship to the will of God seen in his:

Calling	1 Corinthian 1:1
Regeneration	James 1:18
Sanctification	Hebrews 10:10
Transformation	Romans 12:2
Instruction	Psalms 143:10
Prayers	1 John 5:14
Submission	Acts 21:14
Whole life	1 Peter 4:2
Daily work	Ephesians 6:6
Travels	Romans 1:10
Plans	James 4:13-15
Suffering	1 Peter 3:17
Perfection	Colossians 4:12