

THE WILL OF GOD

A Study of the Will of God for the Christian

Lesson Twelve

Memory Verse: *1 Corinthians 12:27*

Lesson Verses: *Romans 12:1,2*

"I beseech you therefore brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God."

Romans 12:1,2

I. Introduction

- A. A famous preacher once said, "a successful man is one who finds out what **God** wants him to accomplish with his life, and then fulfils it." Therefore, the true measure of a person's success is not in social status, bank account, influence, or fame. It simply is doing what God wants him or her to do.
- B. This lesson will acquaint the Christian with how to find what God's will is for them, as revealed in the Bible, so he can begin to live the abundant Christian life in the centre of God's perfect will!



II. Understanding The Will of God - Let's first understand some things:

- A. Most people are *self*-willed by nature. They do what they do because they want to. The Christian's actions however, are not to be driven by *self*, but rather by God. Take a look at *Galatians 2:20*, and ponder whether that verse is true in your life yet or not.
- B. God created you for *His* glory and _____ (*Rev 4:11*), and therefore, not for yours only (*1 Cor 6:19,20*). That may come as a surprise!
- C. There are two kinds of wills God has for a person - His *general*, all encompassing will for people everywhere; and His *specific will* for each individual.
 1. Before God reveals His *specific* plan to an individual, that individual must be submitted to God's authority over his or her life. Every person must want to not only find God's plan, but already be willing to do it no matter what it happens to be! Why try and tell someone specifically what to do with their life, when you know they won't do it?
 2. The key rests in whether you are truly interested in not just *knowing* the will of God, but more importantly, interested in *DOING* it (*Romans 8:5; James 1:22*)!
- D. There are always THREE stages to the will of God
 1. Doing what God says in the Bible – not the whole Bible, but a general set of clear instructions for every man, woman, boy, girl!
 2. As you are doing those things, God will show you His perfect will for your life – sounds great, but listen to the last stage...
 3. There will always be a delay before you actually experience living in that BIG, perfect will of God for your life
 - a. Illustrated by David:
 - 1) When God found David, David was already doing God's will in small things (i.e., taking care of his father's sheep)
 - 2) Then God anointed him to be king
 - 3) Then it took 7 years before David was finally crowned as king!

- b. Where we most of the time get hindered, is in the first stage – we won't get faithful in doing the "little" things (Luke 16:10).

III. God's General Will is Found in His Word, the Bible

- A. You will never discover God's will without the Bible, because God has given seven foundational instructions/plans for all mankind to live by.
- B. God's general will for all of mankind is to:
1. Be _____ (1 Tim 2:4; 2 Pet 3:9)! Everyone must begin here!
 2. Be **saturated**/filled with the _____ (Eph 5:17,18). A surrendering of your life to the work and authority of God over your will and plans.
 3. Be **satisfied**/thankful in _____ things (Eph 5:19,20; 1 Thes 5:18)
 4. Be **submissive** servants in everything you do (Eph 6:5-8), remembering "ye serve the _____" (Col 3:23,24). This includes submitting to all the laws of the land (1 Pet 2:13-15).
 5. Be **sanctified** (1 Thes 4:3-7). Sanctification means that we separate ourselves from sins and evils so that we can be holy and clean objects in God's hands (2 Tim 2:21). This involves every Christian coming away from all the activities and influences that hinder us from serving the Lord with our whole heart (2 Cor 6:17,18).
 6. Be ready to sometimes _____ (1Pet 3:14-17; 4:19).
 7. Be a **soul-winner** (Mt 28:19,20; Acts 1:8)
- C. All the above will make you so that you are **so much like the Lord Jesus!** All Christians are designed by God to ultimately become *conformed* to (just like) the image of God's Son, Jesus Christ (Rom 8:28,29).
- D. If you are not currently obeying God's clearly revealed will for your life (the above list), then God can never reveal His specific will to you because the one builds upon the other (Matt 25:21).

IV. Finding God's Specific Will For Your Life

- A. The specific will of God for your life is just an extension of the general will of God for all of mankind. Therefore, the will of God for your life will not violate His general will - there are no "exceptions to the rule," and God's will never contradicts His word.
- B. Finding God's specific will is referred to as "proving" it, to yourself and to the world (Rom 12:1,2). Whatever you discover, will have to be proven as being God's will for you. God expects you to *live* His plans. This requires you to "sacrifice" your plans and goals, and replace them with His!
- C. Let the word of God "speak" to your heart. God speaks directly to you through the Bible (Like Gen 12:1 where Abraham is told to leave his family and go to a place that God would lead him to). You must therefore be saturating your mind with Scriptures so that God can "talk."
- D. One of the main purposes of the Holy Spirit in your life is to guide you in your decisions (John 14:26; 16:13; 1 Cor 2:9,10). When making decisions, especially ones you are unsure of yourself, pray, and seek wisdom (James 1:5), and the confirmation of the Holy Spirit before proceeding (Rom 8:14).
- E. Wait for God to "open doors" of opportunity. Sometimes, when we just "push ahead," we find ourselves forcing through blocked "doors" that God intended for us to keep out of (like marrying the wrong person, or working at the wrong job). The Apostle Paul sensed God blocking his path several times so that he would ultimately

find the right path (**Acts 16:6-10**). Learn to accept circumstances as guideposts in the direction of God's leading. Just make sure you "_____ " in all the steps of the Lord (**Ps 37:23**).

- F. Finally, make sure that in your decisions, you "_____ *in the Lord with ALL thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding,*" (**Prov 3:5,6**). God's will does not always make sense - but it is always best! Therefore, when you find God's will, you will have _____ (**Psalm 37:37**), because He knows best! Your attitude must be to let God's "_____ " be done, not your own (**James 4:13-15**).

V. Some Discussion

Work through the following issues in life, and discuss how you would go about finding God's will in the various situations. Think of some additional helpful Scriptures that would guide you in finding God's will for each issue.

- Concerning Marriage - what are qualifications God has for you to choose from (**2 Cor 6:14; Dt 10:12**). Ask yourself, Is the person saved? Are they faithful in seeking God's will, or only self-centred? Are they mature, or childish? Have you sought wisdom about your desires from your parents? God wants us to honour them, and seek their counsel.
- Finding a job - what would be important for a Christian to look for in a job, and how would the Christian know it is the right one for him or her? What kind of job should be accepted? When is it time to leave a job?
- How do I find my ministry that the Lord has for me? Is God looking for talent or availability (**Philp 4:13,19; 1Cor 15:58**)? Am I worried about people's impressions of me, or pleasing God?
- Hearing God's Call to Preach? (**Mt 9:35-38; Lk 14:16-24; Act 13:1-4; 2Tim 4:1-4**).

Key Truths about God's Will

- ❖ It will never contradict His written word!
- ❖ It will cost you to live it.
- ❖ It is built upon the seven general wills for all man-kind - you cannot short-cut those to do what you want to do.
- ❖ It is found through prayer, and getting counsel from mature Christians and your pastor.

Date Lesson Completed _____ Discipler _____