

## THE TWO “WILLS” OF GOD

### NOTES

#### 1. The \_\_\_\_\_ Will of God

- God is sovereign above all things and that means that his WILL, his ultimate plan, is the end all, be all plan.
- The sovereign will of God determines what WILL happen and it *cannot* be changed.
- Example: Jesus is praying in the garden before he is arrested and says, “If it’s possible, let this cup pass from me, nevertheless, not as I will but as you will.” (Matthew 26:39) Jesus is submitting to the *sovereign will* of God that WILL come to pass.

*God's plan for redemption has been in place since the fall of man and there is no changing it!*

#### 2. God’s Will of \_\_\_\_\_

- These are things he commands us to do, that are his will for our lives, but ultimately we can choose our own will over his.

1 Thessalonians 4:3 ESV - *This is the will of God, your sanctification: that you abstain from sexual immorality.*”

- This verse illustrates that certain wills of God for our lives are not sovereign. We can choose our own will (our personal desires of the flesh) over his will.
- Not everything that happens in our lives is because it was God’s (sovereign) will. Sometimes it’s that he commands us to do one things, we choose our own way, and then have to walk out the consequences.

## KEY VERSES

Proverbs 3:5-7 NIV - *Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; v.6 in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight. v.7 Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord and shun evil.*

Romans 12:1-2 ESV - *“I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. v.2 Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.”*

One thing we have to remember as Christ followers is that God has a good plan for our lives and for our future; but, ultimately to have that good life, we have to desire to please him with our life that is lived as a sacrifice to him: submitted to his will (his desires and commands).

- The Apostle Paul is comparing the Old Testament sacrifice to you and me, our bodies and our lives.
- This verse is saying is that to be a worthy sacrifice to the Lord, our lives must be lived in his will, and a life lived in his will is good, is acceptable and is perfect.

## THE BENEFITS OF LIVING SUBMITTED TO GOD'S WILL

### 1. The Benefit of a \_\_\_\_\_ Life

- God's plan for your life is good. But the benefit of a good life comes with living a life in his will; choosing his desire for your life over the desires of your flesh.
- In every situation where we are faced with a choice, we should ask ourselves, "Does this decision I am making pass the test of God's goodness?"

*Romans 8:28 ESV - And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.*

- The benefit of loving God and being submitted to his will is that you can be confident that he is working all things out for your good. This is the benefit of a good life!

### 2. The Benefit of an \_\_\_\_\_ Life

- An acceptable life is the Jesus-life.
- When we learn to live the life Jesus did, we can walk in confidence that we will be under his covering.
- In every situation where we are faced with a choice, we should ask ourselves, "Does this decision pass the acceptability test?"

### 3. The Benefit of a \_\_\_\_\_ Life

- Just like the Old Testament sacrifice was mature and complete, God's will for us is that we reach a level of maturity and completeness.
- In every situation where we are faced with a choice, we should ask ourselves, "Does this choice pass the maturity test? Does it make me more complete in Christ?"

*James 1:2-4 ESV - Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, v.3 for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. v.4 And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.*

- Sometimes getting back into alignment with God's will can cause trials, and even the testing of our faith. But God uses that to help shape us and make us complete in him.

## LEARNING TO DISCERN THE WILL OF GOD

### 5 Practical Steps

#### 1. You have to die to your own will in order to \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ the will of God.

- As disciples of Jesus we say, "It's not what I like, but what pleases you. It's not what is easy or convenient, but what is obedient to your word. It's not what I want, but what you want."

#### 2. Ask God to put in you a \_\_\_\_\_ to do His will.

- Ask God to renew your heart and mind and give you new desires that align with his.

#### 3. Seek the \_\_\_\_\_ of God through His Word and the Holy Spirit.

- The Holy Spirit who lives inside you knows the perfect will of God and knows his heart and desires and plan for you.
- If you make a choice that is in step with God's will, the scripture will confirm it. God's will for your life never violates scripture.

#### 4. Follow the \_\_\_\_\_ which God has placed in your heart.

*Philippians 4:7 ESV - And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*

*1 Corinthians 14:33 ESV - For God is not a God of confusion but of peace...*

- The Spirit of God inside you will confirm your decision with peace or with a lack of peace.

5. The circumstances will be \_\_\_\_\_.

- The reason you have to look at all five of these things collectively is that there may be times when the circumstances are not favorable and you are still within the will of God.
- When we take steps in the direction God wants, the circumstances will turn in our favor.

*Make God's will your number one desire; don't get out of balance; obey the word; follow the peace God gives you by the Spirit; and you will feel your circumstances confirm that you are in the will of God.*

### GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Talk through the difference between the "Sovereign Will of God" and "God's Will of Command." Have you ever found yourself confusing the two?
2. 1 Thessalonians 5:18 says, "Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." What type of will is this? How do you know? What is the benefit vs. the consequence of this will of God?
3. Discuss the benefits of being in God's will.
4. Discuss the dangers of not being in God's will.
5. After this week's lesson, is there an area in your life that you feel you are not in God's will?
6. You are offered a big promotion at work but it will involve relocating your family to another state. How would you determine if this opportunity is God's will for your family?