

Omnipotence

- Latin: *omni* = all; *potens* = power.
- Sovereign will
 - God has the freedom of will to decide whatever he wants
 - Power to choose or decide
- Absolute Power
 - Omnipotence in the technical sense
 - Power to execute his will
 - How much and which power God has
 - Power to do

Definitions

- **Grudem:** “God’s will is that attribute of God whereby he approves and determines to bring about every action necessary for the existence and activity of himself and all creation.”
- **Frame:** “God’s will is anything he wants to happen.”
- Several crucial components:
 - God’s will is free
 - God’s will is immutable
 - God’s will is efficacious

General Expressions

- Rev. 4:11 – “Worthy are You, our Lord and our God, to receive glory and honor and power; for You created all things, and because of Your will they existed, and were created.”
- Ps. 135:6 — Whatever the LORD pleases, He does, In heaven and in earth, in the seas and in all deeps.
- Eph. 1:11

Distinctions in the Divine Will

- **Decretive** = what God has determined will happen
- **Preceptive** = what we are obligated to do
- Deut. 29:29 – The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but the things revealed belong to us and to our sons forever, that we may observe all the words of this law.

Preceptive Will (will of precept)

- Revealed will of God
 - 1) Those rules of life laid down in Scripture; hence “precept”
 - 2) Outcomes God sees as desirable but does not choose to bring about
- Does not always come to pass
- Can be known

Biblical examples

- Ezek. 18:23 – “Do I have any pleasure in the death of the wicked,” declares the Lord GOD, “rather than that he should turn from his ways and live?”
- Matt. 7:21 – “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 *will enter*.”
- John 7:17 – “If anyone is willing to do His will, he will know of the teaching, whether it is of God or *whether* I speak from Myself.”
- Rom. 12:2 -- do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.

Biblical Examples

- Eph. 5:17 -- do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is.
- 1 Thess. 4:3-- this is the will of God, your sanctification; *that* is, that you abstain from sexual immorality;
- 1 Thess. 5:18 — in everything give thanks; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.

Decretive Will (will of decree)

- Will of God through which he determines whatever comes to pass
- Often called the Eternal Decree.

The Eternal Decree

“God from all eternity did, by the most wise and holy counsel of his own will, freely and unchangeably ordain whatsoever comes to pass: yet so, as thereby neither is God the author of sin, nor is violence offered to the will of the creatures, nor is the liberty or contingency of second causes taken away, but rather established.”

The Eternal Decree

“Although God knows whatsoever may or can come to pass upon all supposed conditions, yet hath he not decreed anything because he foresaw it as future, or as that which would come to pass upon such conditions.”

God's Sovereign Will

1. Will be certainly and completely fulfilled (Dan. 4:35)
2. Is exhaustive (Eph. 1:11)
3. Is secret (Deut. 29:29; Ps. 115:3; Rom. 11:33-34; Jam. 4:15)



Biblical Examples

- Gen. 50:20 – "As for you, you meant evil against me, *but* God meant it for good in order to bring about this present result, to preserve many people alive.
- Ps. 115:3 – Our God is in the heavens; He does whatever He pleases.
- Dan. 4:35 – "He does according to His will in the host of heaven And *among* the inhabitants of earth; And no one can ward off His hand Or say to Him, "What have You done?"
- Matt. 11:25-26
- Acts 2:23 – this *Man*, delivered over by the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God, you nailed to a cross by the hands of godless men and put *Him* to death.

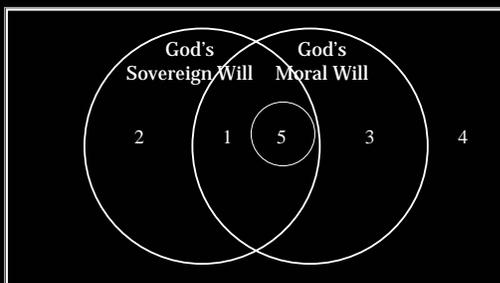
Biblical Examples

- Acts 4:28 – "in this city there were gathered together against Your holy servant Jesus, whom You anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, along with the Gentiles and the peoples of Israel, to do whatever Your hand and Your purpose predestined to occur.
- Rom. 9:18-19 – He has mercy on whom He desires, and He hardens whom He desires. 19 You will say to me then, "Why does He still find fault? For who resists His will?"
- 1 Cor. 4:19 – But I will come to you soon, if the Lord wills, and I shall find out, not the words of those who are arrogant but their power.
- Eph. 1:11 – we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to His purpose who works all things after the counsel of His will

Ramifications

- Obey the precepts of God's Word; that is clearly God's will.
- Submit yourself to God's sovereign, decretive will for your life (Jam. 4:13-17)
- Trust God's sovereign purpose to bring good out of all of life's circumstances (Gen. 50:20; Rom. 8:28).
- Revel in the freedom this truth brings to making life's important decisions.

The Will of God



Directions from God

Four Ways God Guides

1. Sovereign Guidance
2. Special Guidance
3. Moral Guidance
4. Wisdom Guidance

Two Kinds of Decisions

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|--|--|
| 1. Moral – issues directly addressed in God’s Word | • Follow the moral will of God laid out in Scripture |
| 2. Non-moral – issues not directly addressed in God’s Word | • Consider those aspects that are biblical
• Use Godly wisdom |

Making Your Decision

- Pray
 - For wisdom
 - For God’s will to be done
 - In humble acceptance of His sovereign will
- Search the Scripture
- Use the tools through which God provides wisdom
- Analyze your legitimate options
- Make a decision
- Thank God for His providential direction

Definitions

- Charnock: “As His essence is immense, not to be confined in place; as it is eternal, not to be measured in time; so it is almighty, not to be limited in regard of action.”
- Reymond: “God can do, and does, all his holy will.”
- Simplest: all powerful
 - OT – El Shaddai (Gen. 17:1)
 - NT – Pantokrator; (Rev. 19:6)

Explanation: what it means The Biblical Propositions

- God has the power to do everything He has determined to do
 - Job 23:13 -- “But He is unique and who can turn Him? And *what* His soul desires, that He does.
 - Ps. 115:3 – But our God is in the heavens; He does whatever He pleases.
 - Ps. 135:6 – Whatever the LORD pleases, He does, In heaven and in earth, in the seas and in all deeps.

Explanation: what it means The Biblical Propositions

- God has the power to do everything He has determined to do
 - Is. 14:24-27 — The LORD of hosts has sworn saying, “Surely, just as I have intended so it has happened, and just as I have planned so it will stand ...” “For the LORD of hosts has planned, and who can frustrate *it*? And as for His stretched-out hand, who can turn it back?”
 - Dan. 4:35—“All the inhabitants of the earth are accounted as nothing, But He does according to His will in the host of heaven And *among* the inhabitants of earth; And no one can ward off His hand Or say to Him, ‘What have You done?’”

Explanation: what it means

The Biblical Propositions

- God has the power to do all things
 - Gen. 18:14 – "Is anything too difficult for the LORD? At the appointed time I will return to you, at this time next year, and Sarah will have a son"
 - Num. 11:23 – The LORD said to Moses, "Is the LORD'S power limited? Now you shall see whether My word will come true for you or not."
 - Job 42:2 – "I know that You can do all things, And that no purpose of Yours can be thwarted."

Explanation: what it means

The Biblical Propositions

- God has the power to do all things
 - Jer. 32:17 – 'Ah Lord GOD! Behold, You have made the heavens and the earth by Your great power and by Your outstretched arm! Nothing is too difficult for You.
 - Jer. 32:26-27 – Then the word of the LORD came to Jeremiah, saying, 27 "Behold, I am the LORD, the God of all flesh; is anything too difficult for Me?"
 - Matt. 19:26 – And looking at *them* Jesus said to them, "With people this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."
 - Luke 1:37 – "For nothing will be impossible with God."

Explanation: what it means

The Biblical Propositions

- God has the power to do even what he chooses not to do
 - Matt. 3:9 – do not suppose that you can say to yourselves, "We have Abraham for our father"; for I say to you that from these stones God is able to raise up children to Abraham.
 - Matt. 26:53 – "Do you think that I cannot appeal to My Father, and He will at once put at My disposal more than twelve legions of angels?"
 - Mark 14:36 – [Christ] was saying, "Abba! Father! All things are possible for You; remove this cup from Me; yet not what I will, but what You will."

Graphic Displays

- Creation (Is. 44:24; Rom. 1:20; 4:17)
- Providence (Heb. 1:3)
- Miracles (Mark 5:30)
- Redemption (Rom. 1:16; 1 Cor. 1:24)
- Christ Himself (Matt. 28:18—all power)

Basic Principles

- All power in the universe belongs to God.
- He can do everything as easily as anything else.
- All his acts are accomplished without effort.
- He never expends energy that must be replenished.
- God does not do all that he can do.

Qualification: What God can't do

- Actions Contrary to His Nature
 - Actions that contradict His moral attributes
 - Actions that contradict other divine attributes
 - Actions by which he abandons his divine attributes
- Logically Contradictory Actions
- Finite Actions
- Change his eternal plan

Ramifications: What it means for us

- It means we should fear God (Job 37:23-24; Luke 12:5).
- It is the very same power at work in us to affect our sanctification (Eph. 1:19-20; 6:10; Phil. 1:6; 2:13; Col. 1:11; 2 Pet. 1:3)
- God will accomplish all he has promised regardless of how unlikely it may look to us (Gen. 18:14).
- It means that nothing can happen to us that God does not permit (Ps. 27:1; 91:1).

Ramifications: What it means for us

- God's power guarantees our eternal salvation (1 Pet. 1:5; Rev. 21:22).
- The reality of God's power underscores the terror of coming judgment (Ps. 24:8; Joel 1:15; Revelation: 1:8; 4:8; 11:17; 15:3; 16:7; 16:14; 19:15).
- God's power controls and uses all of life's events and circumstances for our good (Rom. 8:28).
- God's power is available to provide strength for our trials (Is. 40:27-31; 2 Cor. 12:9).

Ramifications: What it means for us

- The reality of God's power should motivate us to evangelism (Matt. 19:25-26; Luke 18:23-27; John 1:12; 17:2; Rom. 1:16; 1 Cor. 1:18).
- It guarantees our resurrection (1 Cor. 15:43).
- It guarantees his eternal plan will be fulfilled (Is. 14:27)