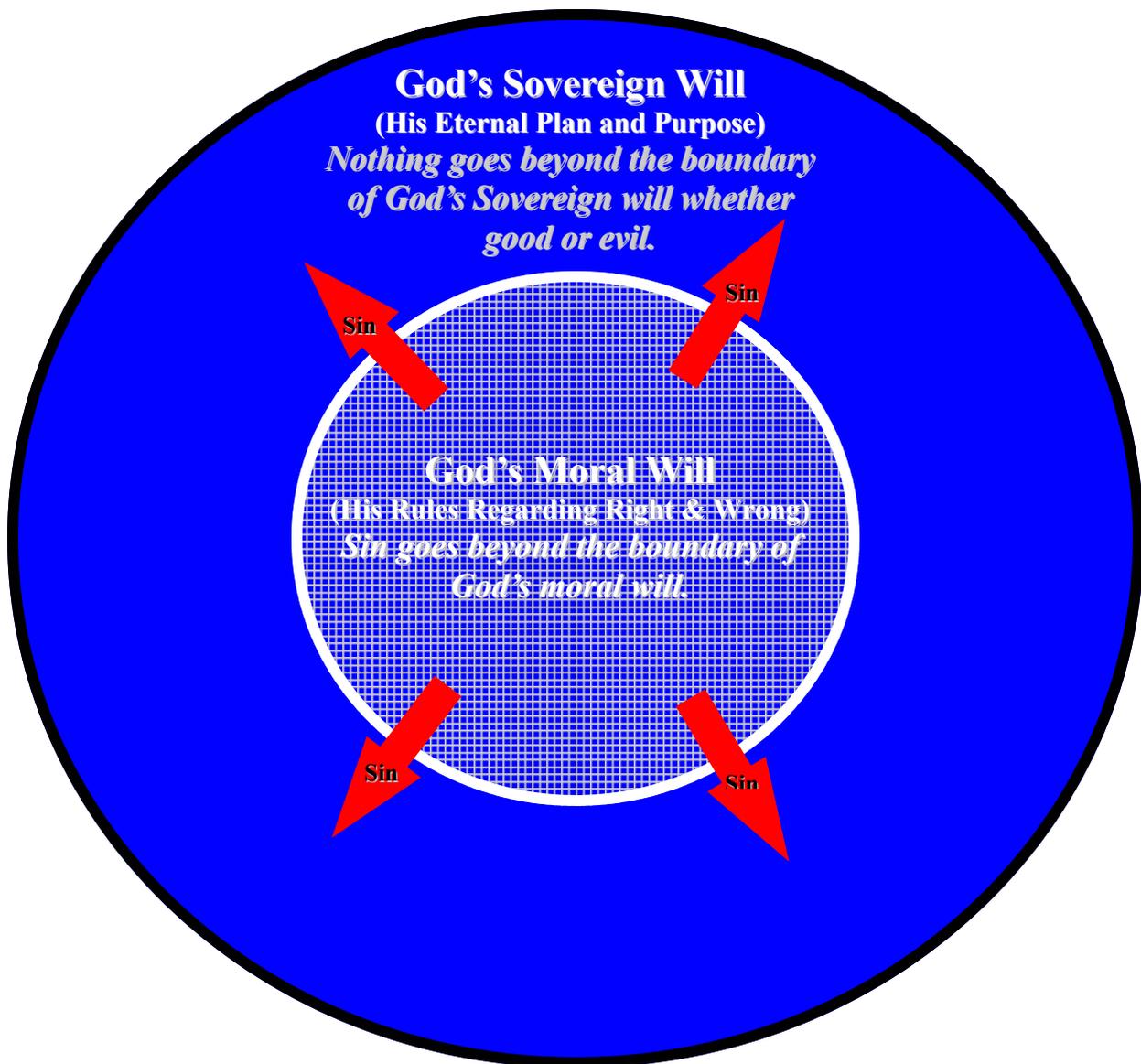


God's Sovereign Will & God's Moral Will



1. **God's Sovereign Will** - God has a plan which has determined everything that will happen in His world and includes both good and evil.

Proverbs 16:4 *"The Lord works out **everything for his own ends**--even the wicked for a day of disaster."*

Proverbs 16:9 *"In his heart a man plans his course, but **the Lord determines his steps.**"*

Ecclesiastes 7:14 *"When times are good, be happy; but when times are bad, consider: **God has made the one as well as the other.**"*

Isaiah 45:7 *"I form the light and create darkness, I bring prosperity **and create disaster; I, the Lord, do all these things.**"*

Isaiah 46:9-11 *"Remember the former things, those of long ago; I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me. I make known the end from the beginning, from ancient times, what is still to come. I say: **My purpose will stand, and I will do all that I please.** From the east I summon a bird of prey; from a far-off land, a man to fulfill **my purpose.***

***What I have said, that will I bring about; what I have planned, that will I do.**"*

Lamentations 3:38 *"Is it not from the mouth of the Most High that **both calamities and good things come?**"*

Matthew 26:23&24 *"²³ Jesus replied, "The one who has dipped his hand into the bowl with me will betray me. ²⁴ The Son of Man will go **just as it is written about him.** But woe to that man who betrays the Son of Man! It would be better for him if he had not been born."*

Acts 2:23-24 *"²³ This man was handed over to you **by God's set purpose and foreknowledge**; and you, with the help of wicked men, put him to death by nailing him to the cross. ²⁴ But God raised him from the dead, freeing him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on him."*

Acts 4:27-28 *"²⁷ Indeed Herod and Pontius Pilate met together with the Gentiles and the people of Israel in this city to conspire against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed. ²⁸ **They did what your power and will had decided beforehand should happen.**"*

Romans 9:19-20 *"¹⁹ One of you will say to me: "Then why does God still blame us? **For who resists his will?**" [This rhetorical question implies a negative response – "No one!"] ²⁰ But who are you, O man, to talk back to God? "Shall what is formed say to him who formed it, 'Why did you make me like this?'"*

Ephesians 1:11 *"In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who **works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will...**"*

- Nothing can thwart God's sovereign will. He will even use everything that happens, including evil, for His ultimate glory because He has indeed planned it all.

2. **God's Moral Will** - Those things which violate God's desires and standards for right and wrong are clearly given in Scripture.

- Here we have the clear teaching of the Word of God and the conviction of the Holy Spirit.

- Our thoughts, attitudes, motives, and actions are all to be governed by the moral standards of God's Word.

God has not sanctioned a free-for-all, but gives commands, rules and instructions to govern life and behavior.

These commands, rules and instructions are many times referred to as God's will.

Psalms 40:8 *"⁸ I desire to do **your will**, O my God; **your law** is within my heart."*

Ephesians 6:6 *"⁶ Obey them not only to win their favor when their eye is on you, but like slaves of Christ, **doing the will of God from your heart.**"*

Hebrews 10:35-36 *"³⁵ So do not throw away your confidence; it will be richly rewarded. ³⁶ You need to persevere so that **when you have done the will of God, you will receive what he has promised.**"*

1 Peter 4:1-2 *"Therefore, since Christ suffered in his body, arm yourselves also with the same attitude, because he who has suffered in his body is done with sin. ² As a result, he does not live the rest of his earthly life for evil human desires, but rather **for the will of God.**"*

1 John 2:15-17 *"¹⁵ Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. ¹⁶ For everything in the world – the cravings of sinful man, the lust of his eyes and the boasting of what he has and does – comes not from the Father but from the world. ¹⁷ The world and its desires pass away, but **the man who does the will of God lives forever.**"*

- Never forget, bad decisions have sad consequences (Lot's decision for Sodom; David's poor parenting and the death of Absalom; Rehoboam's decision to increase the taxes of Israel; Ananias & Sapphira; etc.).