

TRUTH B-P CHURCH
Adult Sunday School

THE SEVENFOLD WILL OF GOD

LESSON THREE: THE DIRECTIVE WILL

I. INTRODUCTION

The directive will of God refers to God's revealed commands, instructions, and principles found in His Word. Unlike God's decretive will, which cannot be changed, God's directive will requires our willing obedience.

God's directive will is His revealed will in Scripture that guides His children in the way they should live. Proverbs 3:1–6 presents six foundational principles for knowing and following God's directive will.

Proverbs 3:1-6, “¹ My son, forget not my law; but let thine heart keep my commandments: ² For length of days, and long life, and peace, shall they add to thee. ³ Let not mercy and truth forsake thee: bind them about thy neck; write them upon the table of thine heart: ⁴ So shalt thou find favour and good understanding in the sight of God and man. ⁵ Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. ⁶ In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.”

II. THE DIRECTIVE WILL OF GOD IS REVEALED THROUGH HIS WORD

Verse 1: My son, forget not my law; but let thine heart keep my commandments.

We are not left to go our own way after we receive salvation by God’s grace and mercy. God directs our life journey through His directive will as revealed through His Word. Instruction and direction from His Word only have value when it is retained, followed and put into application. To hear and forget is a terrible waste, and God will hold us responsible, if we squander the precious privilege of hearing God’s Word. We must remember what we are taught; we must not forget it.

Keeping our heart is a priority, for out of it comes our conduct in life. Our heart follows the direction for our life. And this direction is revealed and provided for us by God. We have no excuse not to know which direction to go. We must keep God’s commandments in our heart to direct our daily affections and choices. The word “keep” is the word means to guard. We guard something that is important and precious to us. The failure to guard will reveal how we are careless and how we are not taking God’s direction for us seriously. Let us make sure we follow God’s direction by keeping His commandment faithfully.

III. THE DIRECTIVE WILL OF GOD LEADS TO OUR GOOD

Verse 2: For length of days, and long life, and peace, shall they add to thee.

It might sound “charismatic” here. Because this verse clearly says our life can be lengthened and prolonged. And we can expect that. We must understand that long life is not found in a health food store, an exercise program, or a new medical research. It is found in God and Him alone.

Length of life: refers to the total number of life we live on this earth. It is talking about the quantity. It is more time, or more years of opportunity to live. As compared to death, once death comes, everything stops as far as this life is concerned.

Long life: refers to age. In other words, we are in the process of aging. We all grow old. From baby to toddler, to child, to youth, to young adult, to adult and to senior. Not all went through all the way to senior. Some ends as baby. Some end as adult.

Peace: refers to the quality of life. It is in contrast to a life full of unrest and troubles. Not because of the faith or the gospel, but because of human problems.

These three blessings are found in righteous living, which requires humility and diligence to obey God's direction in terms of correction and instruction. Peace, a very precious commodity for a pleasant life, is found the same way – living a righteous life. Sinful living ages the body and brings early death.

IV. THE DIRECTIVE WILL OF GOD SHAPES GODLY CHARACTER

Verse 3: Let not mercy and truth forsake thee: bind them about thy neck; write them upon the table of thine heart:

Mercy and truth mark perfection. They lead to favor and good understanding with God and men. By neglect and sin, they are lost, and therefore, they must be carefully guarded and obeyed. Let mercy and truth rule our life.

We cannot literally bind mercy and truth around our neck. They are character traits of wisdom and the Holy Spirit and cannot be linked to string, rope, or chains. The metaphor describes tight attachment to a person's outward life. Neither can we literally write them on the table of our heart. This metaphor describes committing them to our affection and memory. Wise men are dedicated to mercy and truth on their inside and their outside.

Mercy and truth appear to be opposites, but it is their combination that makes a man perfect. Mercy is that gentle, forgiving, gracious, and overlooking trait of noble men, who gladly take personal injury rather than fight or hurt someone in their power. Truth is the firm and unwavering commitment to whatever is honest and right, regardless of cost. Together they balance each other gloriously, resulting in the gentle and honest life of a true saint.

Mercy and truth are essential components of wisdom. The rule of wisdom here is to love and remember these two pillars of godly conduct in all situations. Almost every sin can be identified as violating either mercy or truth. Beware!

V. THE DIRECTIVE WILL OF GOD WINS GOD'S AND MAN'S APPROVAL

Verse 4: So shalt thou find favour and good understanding in the sight of God and man.

Can a believer achieve this level of success in life? The answer is Yes! It is a privilege to be taught how to obtain this divine favor and honor. This is the highest measure and standard for a person's life. We can learn right now how to achieve God's approval.

The proverb describes being blessed and preferred by God and men and having the reputation for wisdom and discretion. These are great goals and direction for us, and the book of Proverbs teaches us how to obtain them.

Some think that having a good reputation or loving favor from man is not important at all, as long as God approves of them. But God inspired Solomon to write otherwise. A good reputation and loving favor from man are equally important. This is the profoundness of God's directive will. We are to win man's approval as well in our obedience to God's directive will.

VI. THE DIRECTIVE WILL OF GOD REQUIRES COMPLETE TRUST

Verse 5: Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.

The foundation for wisdom is to trust God completely, with our whole heart, for all aspects of our life. It believes every verse of Scripture as the absolute and only source of truth, regardless of what subject it addresses. And it also believes the circumstances of life are carefully orchestrated by an all-wise and all-powerful Potter expecting our total submission.

We were born in sin and that explains why our understanding was absolutely corrupted. Because of that, our understanding is dangerous. It seduces us away from truth and wisdom and resists any change toward them. In order to succeed, we must reject our understanding. To progress spiritually, we cannot lean toward our own understanding. We must remove it all, and learn to trust in the LORD with all our heart!

VII. THE DIRECTIVE WILL OF GOD DIRECTS EVERY AREA OF LIFE

Verse 6: In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.

We face dilemmas, sometimes difficult, each day of our life. The right answers are easy to find, if only we humble ourselves before God and trust Him at all times. But proud men resist or reject this simple solution. They are arrogant to admit their ignorance. They are fearful of men, and they believe they can figure out a workable solution.

The previous verse teaches total trust in the LORD and total rejection of our understanding. We must not even lean toward our thoughts on a matter. We will find the right direction for our paths if we acknowledge the LORD in all our ways. Acknowledging the LORD is admitting He is infinitely wise, and we should obey Him with no holding back at all.

We would have only one direction for our paths at every decision. We should pray for a single heart that acknowledges God only. For certain, the Bible is God's will for our life. If we cannot find its answers to our questions, it is our fault, not God's fault. The answers are there; we just need to find them. May we cry, Lord, help!

VIII. SUMMARY

Proverbs 3:1–6 teaches that God's directive will is not hidden or mysterious. It is revealed through His Word and experienced through obedient faith. Those who desire God's guidance must cultivate these six biblical principles.

The directive will of God is discovered not by searching for secret signs, but by walking faithfully according to the revealed Scriptures. As we treasure God's Word, trust His wisdom, and acknowledge Him in every area of life, He faithfully directs our paths according to His directive will. May God help us. Amen.