

Living God's Will in a Self-Centered World

*"Be very careful, then, how you live — not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand **what the Lord's will is**. Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit. Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ."* - Ephesians 5:15-21

God's Will is Divided into Two Parts:

1. His Determined Will (His "Will of Purpose") — Eph. 1:3-12
2. His Desired Will (His "Will of Passion") — Eph. 5:15-21

God's Determined Will

1. Predestined
2. Comprehensive/Eternal
3. It will occur
4. Cannot be frustrated

Emphasis: God's sovereignty

Purpose: To glorify God

God's Desired Will

1. Calls for our cooperation
2. Limited/Temporal
3. It may or may not happen
4. Can be resisted

Emphasis: Our responsibility

Purpose: To glorify God

How does God make His will known?

All we have to do is **stop**, **look**, and **listen**.

STOP at the Scriptures!

The better we know His Word, the better we know His will!

The Bible Includes...

1. Precepts — Black and white, no guess work. (cf. 2 Timothy 3:16)
 - Teaching — "What's right"
 - Rebuking — "What's not right"
 - Correcting — "How to get right"
 - Training — "How to stay right"
2. Principles — General guidelines

LOOK Around and Within

"Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed — not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence — continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to His good purpose." - Philippians 2:12-13

Three observations:

1. I need a willingness to obey.

"Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed — not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence..." - Philippians 2:12
2. I need to do my part.

"...continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling..." - Phil. 2:12
3. God promises to do His part!

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LISTEN to the Counsel of "Qualified People"

- Qualified? — one who is spiritually mature and uninvolved.
- Proverbs 20:5, 25:5; 27:17,19, Titus 2:3,4, Exodus 18

How can I know that I'm in God's will?

1. Peace — "inner peace" (cf. Romans 14 "being fully convinced")

"Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts" - Colossians 3:15
2. Satisfaction — "inner joy"

Common Questions Concerning God's Will

1. "What if I know God's will but deliberately don't do it?"
2. "Can't I rely on my feelings?"
3. "Can I be in the will of God and not know it?" (1 John 1:7)

*Obey God in what you know —
Trust God in what you don't know.*

How to Experience the PEACE of God's will:

- P — Present yourself completely to Him. (Romans 12:1,2)
- E — Examine your motives before Him.
- A — Accept all of your direction from Him.
- C — Choose continually to obey Him.
- E — Experience the joy of walking with Him.

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