FUNDAMENTALS OF THE FAITH

God’s Will & Guidance

LESSON 13

FUNDAMENTALS OF THE FAITH

Memory Verse

Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is.

EPHESIANS 5:17

GOD'S WILL & GUIDANCE

1. God's Will

1. GOD'S WILL

A. God's Sovereign Will

- ✓ God accomplishes all that He purposes (Isaiah 14:24; 46:9–10)

The Lord of hosts has sworn: “As I have planned, so shall it be, and as I have purposed, so shall it stand,”

ISAIAH 14:24

9 remember the former things of old; for I am God, and
there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me,
10 declaring the end from the beginning and from ancient
times things not yet done, saying, ‘My counsel shall
stand, and I will accomplish all my purpose,’

ISAIAH 46:9–10

1. GOD'S WILL

A. God's Sovereign Will

- ✓ God accomplishes all that He purposes (Isaiah 14:24; 46:9–10)
- ✓ Christ's going to the cross was predetermined (Acts 2:22–23)

22 “Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a
man attested to you by God with mighty works and
wonders and signs that God did through him in your
midst, as you yourselves know— 23 this Jesus, delivered up
according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God,
you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men.

ACTS 2:22–23

1. GOD'S WILL

A. God's Sovereign Will

- ✓ God accomplishes all that He purposes (Isaiah 14:24; 46:9–10)
- ✓ Christ's going to the cross was predetermined (Acts 2:22–23)
- ✓ Even governments are established by God, and their rulers only serve at His pleasure (Romans 13:1; Proverbs 21:1)

Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God.

ROMANS 13:1

The king's heart is a stream of water in the hand of the Lord; he turns it wherever he will.

PROVERBS 21:1

1. GOD'S WILL

A. God's Sovereign Will

- ✓ God accomplishes all that He purposes (Isaiah 14:24; 46:9–10)
- ✓ Christ's going to the cross was predetermined (Acts 2:22–23)
- ✓ Even governments are established by God, and their rulers only serve at His pleasure (Romans 13:1; Proverbs 21:1)
- ✓ But can I *know* God's sovereign will?

GOD'S WILL & GUIDANCE

Distinguishing God's "Wills"

Sovereign Will	**Commanded Will**
Secret Will	Revealed Will
Decretive Will	Preceptive Will

“The secret things belong to the Lord our God, but the things that are revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law.”

DEUTERONOMY 29:29

He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority.”

ACTS 1:7

GOD'S WILL & GUIDANCE

Distinguishing God's "Wills"

Sovereign Will	**Commanded Will**
Secret Will	Revealed Will
Decretive Will	Preceptive Will

1. GOD'S WILL

B. God's Commanded Will

- ✓ This is the will of God as revealed to us by Scripture in laws of principles.
- ✓ We can know the commanded will of God.

And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding,

COLOSSIANS 1:9

“Having the knowledge of God’s Word control our minds is the key to righteous living. What controls your thoughts will control your behavior. Self-control is a result of mind-control, which is dependent on knowledge. Knowledge of God’s Word will lead to all spiritual wisdom and understanding.”

JOHN MACARTHUR, *THE MACARTHUR NEW TESTAMENT COMMENTARY: COLOSSIANS AND PHILEMON* (MOODY PUBLISHERS:1992)

GOD'S WILL & GUIDANCE

The Nature of God's Will

Sovereign Will	Commanded Will
Secret; known only to God except as revealed through history or revelation	Revealed in the Bible
Cannot be resisted or thwarted	Can be resisted or disobeyed
Ecompasses both good and evil (sin)	Involves only that which is good and holy
Comprehensive; controls all aspects of life, time, and history	Specific; provides principles for living
The believer is not commanded to know or discover what God has not revealed	Believers are exhorted to know, understand, and obey all that God has revealed

1. GOD'S WILL

C. Our Response to God's Will

- ✓ The times when we are most eager to peer into God's sovereign will are when we are facing trials.
- ✓ God has not revealed these things to us for a purpose.
- ✓ Our response to God's sovereign will: **Trust**



The Lord tests the righteous, but his soul hates the wicked
and the one who loves violence.

PSALM 11:5

And you shall remember the whole way that the Lord your God has led you these forty years in the wilderness, that he might humble you, testing you to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep his commandments or not.

DEUTERONOMY 8:2

Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you.

1 PETER 4:12

1. GOD'S WILL

C. Our Response to God's Sovereign Will

- ✓ The times when we are most eager to peer into God's sovereign will are when we are facing trials.
- ✓ God has not revealed these things to us for a purpose.
- ✓ Our response to God's sovereign will: **Trust**

Therefore let those who suffer according to God's will entrust their souls to a faithful Creator while doing good.

1 PETER 4:19

1. GOD'S WILL

D. Our Response to God's Commanded Will

- ✓ Know it (through the Scriptures)
- ✓ Obey it
- ✓ Pray in accordance with it

FUNDAMENTALS OF THE FAITH

Memory Verse

Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is.

EPHESIANS 5:17

1. GOD'S WILL

D. Our Response to God's Commanded Will

- ✓ Know it (through the Scriptures)
- ✓ Obey it
- ✓ Pray in accordance with it

“You shall therefore love the Lord your God and keep his charge, his statutes, his rules, and his commandments always.”

DEUTERONOMY 11:1

1. GOD'S WILL

D. Our Response to God's Commanded Will

- ✓ Know it (through the Scriptures)
- ✓ Obey it
- ✓ Pray in accordance with it

And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us.

1 JOHN 5:14

1. GOD'S WILL

E. Guidlines for Discerning God's Will

- ✓ But still the question remains… "How can I know the right choice to make when it comes to big decisions?"
- ✓ The simple answer:
  - ✓ Be faithful to what God has revealed in the Bible
  - ✓ Then do what you want (Psalm 37:4)

Delight yourself in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart.

PSALM 37:4

E. GUIDLINES FOR DISCERNING GOD'S WILL

Delighting Yourself in the Lord

- ✓ Be saved – 1 Timothy 2:4
- ✓ Be Spirit filled – Ephesians 5:18
- ✓ Be submissive to authorities – 1 Peter 2:13–15
- ✓ Be willing to suffer for His sake – 1 Peter 3:17–18
- ✓ Be sanctified – 1 Thessalonians 4:3
- ✓ Be self-sacrificing – Romans 12:1–2

1. GOD'S WILL

E. Guidlines for Discerning God's Will

- ✓ But still the question remains… "How can I know the right choice to make when it comes to big decisions?"
- ✓ The simple answer:
  - ✓ Be faithful to what God has revealed in the Bible
  - ✓ Then do what you want (Psalm 37:4)
  - ✓ And trust God for the outcome (Proverbs 3:5–6)

5 Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on
your own understanding. 6 In all your ways acknowledge
him, and he will make straight your paths.

PROVERBS 3:5–6

GOD'S WILL & GUIDANCE

2. Guidance

2. GUIDANCE

The Nature of Guidance

Direct Guidance	Indirect Guidance
Spoken revelation from God	God’s Word
Visions	Conscience or conviction
Dreams	Providence
Prophet/apostle speaking for God	Wisdom and counsel

1. GUIDANCE

The Nature of Guidance

- ✓ Guidance through God’s Word (Psalm 119:105)
- ✓ Guidance through conviction (Acts 17:16)
- ✓ Guidance through God’s providence (Romans 8:28)
- ✓ Guidance through God-given wisdom (Proverbs 2:1–11)
- ✓ Guidance through godly counsel (Proverbs 13:10)

GOD'S WILL & GUIDANCE

3. Application