

***KNOWING AND DOING THE  
WILL OF GOD***

*Church of Christ*

*Maricamp Road*

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STAND PLEASE AND HOLD UP YOUR BIBLE,  
IPAD, IPHONE and Repeat After Me

THIS IS MY BIBLE

I AM WHAT IT SAYS I AM

I HAVE WHAT IT SAYS I HAVE

I CAN DO WHAT IT SAYS I CAN DO

TODAY I WILL BE TAUGHT THE WORD OF GOD.

I BOLDY CONFESS THAT MY MIND IS ALERT AND  
MY HEART IS RECEPTIVE.

I WILL NEVER BE THE SAME, IN JESUS NAME,  
AMEN!

He who knows not, and knows not  
he knows not, he is a fool—shun  
him;

he who knows not, and knows he  
knows not, he is simple—teach him;

he who knows, and knows not he  
knows, he is asleep—wake him;

he who knows, and knows he knows,  
he is wise—follow him. '—Arab  
Proverb.

# I Really Want To Know God and What Pleases Him!

- As I think about the WILL of God and what would please Him, sometimes I wish He would tell me throughout the day exactly what to do. If I know my heart, I WOULD DO IT. What about you?
- There are times when I don't know what to do, or say in certain situations. I ask God for wisdom and direction for each day and throughout the day. I know He knows my heart's desires. I want to know Him and Please Him. I'm sure you do also.

# OFTEN QUOTED

## “**YOUR WILL BE DONE**” SCRIPTURES

- <sup>9</sup> "This, then, is how you should pray: "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, <sup>10</sup> your kingdom come, ***your will be done***, on earth as it is in heaven. (Mat 6:9-10)
- "Going a little farther, he fell with his face to the ground and prayed, "My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. **Yet not as I will, but as you will.**" (Mat 26:39)
- <sup>13</sup> Now listen, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money."
- <sup>14</sup> Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes. Instead, you ought to say, "**If it is the Lord's will**, we will live and do this or that." (Jam 4:13 -15)

## “THE WILL OF GOD.”

What does this mean.

Words and their meaning  
in context are so  
important.

### 1. WILL defined.

Used to express:

desire, choice,  
consent, disposition,  
future, capability,  
probability,  
determination,  
insistence,  
persistence,  
inevitability,  
command, exhortation  
injunction

- Biblical usage of “The Will of God.”
- The first time this phrase is used in NIV NT

**John 7:17** Anyone who **chooses to do the will of God** will find out whether my **teaching** comes from God or whether I speak on my own.

Acts 20:27; Rom. 8:27; 1 Co. 1:1;  
2 Co. 8:5; Eph. 6:6; Col. 4:12; 2  
Tim. 1:1; 1 Pet. 4:2; 1 Jn. 2:17

# THE WILL OF GOD IS

What He desires,  
expects, and  
demands from us  
in the body of  
Christ and those in  
the world.

So we make it our  
aim/goal to please  
God, 2 Cor. 5:9.

- God's will for those in the world is that they all be saved and come to a knowledge of the truth, 1 Tim 2:4
- God's will for all of us who are in the Body of Christ is that we grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ. 2 Pet. 1:1-11; 3:18
- That we keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace, Eph. 4:1-3
- If we want eternal life we must **KNOW** and **DO** the **WILL OF GOD**.
- 1 Jn. 2:17

**Then he said to them all:**

“Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me.”

God’s will for us in the body of Christ is that we be REAL

Genuine Disciples of Jesus and that we disciple others, Luke 9:23, Matt.28:18-20

- **A Real Fire**



“A.W. Tozer remarked that his flame might be small but it was real.” It is important that the fire be authentic. One can start a forest fire with a single match, but can’t light a bonfire with a poster of a match, no matter how blazing the flame. A picture of a blowtorch remains a picture. The counterfeit life becomes old but the zeal of the dedicated life cannot be quenched.”



# Knowing the Will of God is to Know what the Scriptures Teach is His Will

- **WE KNOW - I John 5:13-15**
- In our world so full of uncertainties and fears, we want something solid and secure to hold to. We do not know what tomorrow will bring, but we know the big picture - the Eternal Purpose and Plan of God. (**Brief Review**)
- If you are trusting in Jesus as Savior and Lord, let your heart feed on these eternal certainties and be comforted.

## Looking at the past, in *faith*,

- **we know** the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, who became poor that we might be made rich (2 Cor. 8:9). **We know** that we were redeemed by Christ's precious blood, not by destructible, earthly money (1 Pet. 1:18). **We know** that we have come to know God (1 John 2:3). **We know** that we are in the beloved Son of God (1 John 2:5). **We know** that the apostolic testimony about Jesus is true (3 John 12), for **we know** that the Son of God has come, and has given us understanding (1 John 5:20).

# Looking to the present, in *love*,

- **we know** that we have passed from death to life (1 John 3:14). **We know** that we are of the truth (1 John 3:19), that we are of God (1 John 6:19) and that we abide in God (1 John 4:13). **We know** that we have eternal life (1 John 5:13). **We know** that God hears our prayers (1 John 5:15). **We know** that no one who is born of God practices sin (1 John 5:18), and **we know** that no immoral person has any part in the kingdom of God (Eph. 5:5; 1 Cor. 6:9-11).

# Looking to the future, in *hope*,

- **we know** that it is the last time (1 John 2:18), and that creation waits in hope for the consummation of God's final redemption (Rom. 8:22). From eternity to eternity, **we know** that God works everything together for good for those who love him, who are the called according to his purpose (Rom. 8:28). **We know** that our labor is not in vain in the Lord (1 Cor. 15:58). **We know** that if our earthly tabernacle is dissolved, we have a building from God, eternal in the heavens (2 Cor. 5:1). **We know** that, when Jesus appears, we shall be like him (1 John 3:2).

WHAT DO YOU HEAR THIS  
TREE SAYING REETA?



# Discerning God's WILL – How do we know what it is?

- The art of knowing God's will regarding life issues comes with experience as we live in communion with the Father. One mark of the new covenant is that God's people "know" him (Jer. 31:31-34). Followers of Jesus Christ are personally and individually taught by God, who gives a spirit of wisdom and of revelation and enlightens the eyes of our hearts (John 6:44-45; Eph. 1:17-18).

# WILL – Discerning God’s – cont’d

## How do we know what it is?

- We also learn from Jesus himself as we accept his invitation to come to him for rest (Matt. 11:27-30). The Spirit of God leads God’s children (Rom. 8:14). The Spirit is an “anointing” that teaches truth to those who abide in Jesus (1 John 2:20, 27). Believers in Jesus can be filled with the knowledge of God’s will in order to live lives that are fruitful and please God (Col. 1:9-11).
- Contrasts between what God wills and what He does not will can be seen in texts like these – Let’s Read – Col. 3:1-17

# **STUDYING THE BIBLE IS AN IMPORTANT PART OF THE PROCESS OF KNOWING GOD'S WILL**

- God the Holy Spirit lives in us. He transforms our minds. He enables us to think the thoughts of God. He helps us to have the mind of Christ, and to gradually see things the way God sees them, Phil. 3:15-16.
- As we live in union with Christ, as disciples of Jesus, asking God for such discernment and wisdom, giving ourselves to the study of Scripture God gives us spiritual illumination and moral discernment, I Cor. 2:12-16.

**“This happens progressively, cumulatively and steadily as we live the Christian life.**

- By ongoing practice, our spiritual sensitivities are gradually trained to discern instinctively what is good and what is bad (Heb. 5:14). We learn to test situations and to discern God’s good and perfect will in all circumstances (Rom. 12:1-2).

## **“This happens progressively, cumulatively and steadily as we live the Christian life, cont’d.**

- This common Christian discernment — “common” in the sense that the whole believing community enjoys it, not that it is less than supernatural — has to do, I think, with living our individual lives in the community of God’s people and in our relationships within the larger world. It is not a matter of having a checklist or a formula. It is part of real life. Not everyone needs the same discernment at the same time.”

# HAVE THIS MIND IN YOU

## Philippians 2:1-5

- “From time to time, God will give you opportunity to minister wisdom and discernment to others in the form of well-timed words which are spoken in humility and in love. As you pray and watch, he will let you know when such times are present. Then, in a way that serves his kingdom purposes and glorifies the Father himself, you can speak — often very few words, sometimes more — and God will speak through you to accomplish his purpose.

# Our Sovereign Father God is in Control

Some Christians do not realize it, but there is no cause for panic despite the shifting circumstances of life on earth. God is in no hurry and he is not threatened. He knows all the details of every event, including those that have not yet arisen.

He knows how he has gifted each one of us, and how he intends to use us in his saving purpose. It is our privilege to watch and pray, to prepare ourselves, to abide in him, to abstain from whatever hinders the flow of his Spirit through our lives.” (Edward Fudge)

## **Father God be My Teacher in Jesus Christ through The Holy Spirit. Amen**

- I am speaking ideally here, not that I always live up to these noble goals myself. As a believer in Jesus, you can begin by simply asking God to be your teacher.
- There is an old hymn which includes the prayer: “Spirit of God, my teacher be; showing the things of Christ to me.” You can depend on God to do just that.

## WE NEED TO PRAY THAT OUR EYES WILL BE OPENED TO KNOW GOD'S WILL AND OUR HEARTS WILLING TO OBEY HIS WILL

- <sup>17</sup> I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better.
- <sup>18</sup> I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people, Eph. 1:17-18
- <sup>2</sup> Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.
- <sup>3</sup> For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God.
- <sup>4</sup> When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. Col. 3:2-4

# IT IS OUR CHOICE TO LEARN FROM SCRIPTURE WHAT IS THE WILL OF GOD AND PUT IT INTO PRACTICE.

## **NOT THE WILL OF GOD**

<sup>5</sup> Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry.

<sup>6</sup> Because of these, the wrath of God is coming.

<sup>7</sup> You used to walk in these ways, in the life you once lived.

<sup>8</sup> But now you must also rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips.

<sup>9</sup> Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices (Col 3:5-9)

## **THE WILL OF GOD**

<sup>12</sup> Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.

<sup>13</sup> Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.

<sup>14</sup> And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

(Col 3:12-14)

# LORD YOUR WILL BE DONE NOT MINE

1 Pet. 4:2 – It is the will of God that we who are in Christ be done with sin. Evil human desires exchanged for the will of God. What is God's will? The will of God is contrasted with sinful human desires which are debauchery, lust, drunkenness, orgies, carousing and detestable idolatry, v. 3.

Contrasts – vv. 8, 9 Above all, love each other deeply. Offer hospitality. Use your gifts to serve one another faithfully administering God's Grace in its various forms. So that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ.

**PEACE and GRATITUDE**

PEACE = In Christ

EUCHARISTEO -

εὐχαριστοῦντες

**Luke 17:11-19**

To be Thankful

Charis = Grace

Chara = Joy

**So when we receive  
a grace gift from God  
it is God's Will that  
we be THANKFUL.**

**Where are the nine?**

<sup>15</sup> Let the **peace** of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be **thankful**. (εὐχαριστοῦντες / from εὐχαριστέω)

<sup>16</sup> Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with **gratitude** (grace) in your hearts.

<sup>17</sup> And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving **thanks** to God the Father through him. (Col 3:15-17)

THE WILL OF GOD CAN  
ONLY BE KNOWN BY  
REVELATION FROM GOD.

<sup>11</sup> I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that the gospel I preached is not of human origin.

<sup>12</sup> I did not receive it from any man, nor was I taught it; rather, I received it by revelation from Jesus Christ. (Gal 1:11-12)

**Ephesians 3:1** For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles--

<sup>2</sup> Surely you have heard about the administration of God's grace that was given to me for you,

<sup>3</sup> that is, the mystery made known to me by revelation, as I have already written briefly.

<sup>4</sup> **In reading this, then, you will be able to understand my insight into the mystery of Christ, (Eph. 3:1-4)**

# KNOWING AND DOING THE WILL OF GOD

**IT IS ONE THING TO KNOW!**

<sup>26</sup> Those who consider themselves religious and yet do not keep a tight rein on their tongues deceive themselves, and their religion is worthless.

<sup>27</sup> Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world. (Jas. 1:26-27)

**IT IS ANOTHER THING TO DO!**

<sup>22</sup> Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.

<sup>25</sup> But whoever looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues in it-- not forgetting what they have heard, but doing it-- they will be blessed in what they do. (Jas. 1:22-25)

## JESUS AND THE WILL OF THE FATHER

1. Jesus' purpose is to DO the WILL of the one who sent Him , v. 38

2. THIS IS The WILL of the FATHER, v. 39

3. The Father's WILL is to give ETERNAL LIFE to all who BELIEVE in Jesus His SON, v. 40

4. Resurrection on the Last Day is the PROMISED WILL of the Father for all who have Believed in Jesus, v. 40b

<sup>38</sup> For I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me.

<sup>39</sup> And this is the will of him who sent me, that I shall lose none of all those he has given me, but raise them up at the last day.

<sup>40</sup> For my Father's will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life, and I will raise them up at the last day.” (Jn. 6:38-40)

# CONCLUSION

## I. First, check the Bible and PRAY for Wisdom

**There are three first steps** we can learn from Solomon's wisdom in Proverbs that apply to any kind of major decision you need to make. How do you get started?

Before you get anybody else's perspective on what you're going to do, you need to go to the Word, and you need to get God's perspective. The Bible says in Proverbs 2:6-7, *"It is the LORD who gives wisdom; from him come knowledge and understanding. He provides help and protection for those who are righteous and honest"* (TEV). **Stop listening for a voice, and start looking for a verse.**

## II. GET THE FACTS

- Proverbs 18:13 says, *“What a shame — yes, how stupid! — to decide before knowing the facts!”* (TLB)
- If you are looking for God’s wisdom and will, then get the facts about whatever you do in word and deed.
- Job
- Marriage
- Mission
- Move to a new location
- Spiritual growth and maturity

# III. Then, ask for advice

- “You need to talk to people who’ve made a similar decision and also people who know your shape. Ask them, “Am I really shaped to do this or not? Is this me or is it not me?” Proverbs 15:22 says, “*Without advice plans go wrong, but with many advisers they succeed*” (GW).
- “One of the reasons we don’t want to ask for advice is we don’t want to admit that we don’t know all the answers. But humility and wisdom go together. When you are prideful and think you know it all, you are more likely to fail. To make a wise decision and be successful, you need to first check the Bible, then research the facts, and finally ask advice from people who have experience and know your shape.” R. Warren

KNOW, CHOOSE and DO!

- **John 7:17** Anyone who **chooses to do the will of God** will find out whether my **teaching** comes from God or whether I speak on my own.

A man once went to a minister for counseling.

“I’ve lost everything,” he told the minister.

“Oh I’m so sorry to hear you’ve lost your faith,” the minister responded.

“No,” the man corrected him, “I haven’t lost my faith.”

“Well, then I’m sad to hear you’ve lost your character.”

“I didn’t say that,” the man corrected. “I still have my character.”

“I’m so sorry you’ve lost your salvation,” said the minister.

“That’s not what I said,” the man objected.

**“You have your faith, your character, and your salvation. Seems to me,” the minister observed, “that you’ve lost none of the things that really matter.”**

You and I could pray like the Puritan. He sat down to a meal of bread and water. He bowed his head and declared, “All this and Jesus, too?”

What will you gain with contentment? You may gain joy—and the faith to say, “The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want!” From

[Traveling Light](#) – Max Lucado

## Dear Brethren I leave You With These Words

<sup>12</sup> 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,

<sup>13</sup> for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose.

# Dear Brethren I leave You With These Words, cont'd

<sup>14</sup> Do everything without grumbling or arguing,  
<sup>15</sup> so that you may become blameless and pure,  
"children of God without fault in a warped and  
crooked generation." Then you will shine among  
them like stars in the sky

<sup>16</sup> as you hold firmly to the word of life. And  
then I will be able to boast on the day of Christ  
that I did not run or labor in vain. (Phi 2:12-16).  
See - Jn. 1:4, 9; 5:39-40; 6:63,68

May I meddle for a moment? What's the one thing separating you from joy? How do you fill in this blank: "I will be happy when \_\_\_\_\_?" When I'm healed...when I'm promoted...when I'm married...when I'm single...when I'm rich? With your answer firmly in mind, answer this. If your dream never comes true, if the situation never changes, would you be happy? If not, then you're sleeping in the cold cell of discontent. (Romans 8:28-39 - GOD'S WILL)

You need to know what you have in your Shepherd. You have a God who hears you, the power of love behind you, the Holy Spirit within you, and all of heaven ahead of you. If you have the Shepherd, you have grace for every sin, direction for every turn, a candle for every corner, and an anchor for every storm. You have everything you need!

From [\*Traveling Light\*](#) – *Max Lucado*

**THE END**