

UNDERSTANDING AND DOING GOD'S WILL
KNOWING GOD'S WILL
EPHESIANS 5:15-17

Introduction

If I were to ask you tonight, “*What is GOD’S WILL for your life?*”
What would your response be? (Well preacher, that’s a tough question!)
Also, if you **KNOW** what **GOD’S WILL** for your life is, are you **DOING IT**
or at least **PURSUING IT**?

Many folks are scared to think about **GOD’S WILL** because they envision
it as something they don’t want any part of! (They fear that **GOD** might
call them to **GO SOMEWHERE** they don’t want to **GO** or to **DO**
SOMETHING that they don’t want to **DO**!) (*I call it the Jonah Complex*)

There may be some who **WANT** to **KNOW GOD’S WILL**, but they consider
it to be something that is **TOO DIFFICULT** or maybe **TOO ELUSIVE!** So,
THEY NEVER PUT FORTH ANY EFFORT toward trying to discern it!

There may be others who **believe the WILL OF GOD** to be clouded with
such **MYSTERY** that to **TRULY KNOW** it is **RARE**, if not impossible.

Then there are some folks who go about to determine the **WILL OF GOD** by
means of **SIGNS!** (*e.g. Like Gideon putting out the fleece in Judges 6:36-40*)

For others, they go about it as if it is a matter of CHANCE!

Like the fellow who wanted to know **GOD’S WILL** for his life, so he closed
his eyes, opened his **BIBLE** and pointed to a place in the **SCRIPTURE** to
find **GOD’S WILL**. When he opened his eyes he began reading where his
finger was pointing:

*2 Samuel 17:23—“And when Ahithophel saw that his counsel was not
followed, he saddled his ass, and arose, and gat him home to his house, to
his city, and put his household in order, and hanged himself, and died, and
was buried in the sepulchre of his father.”*

He closed his eyes again and opened the **BIBLE** to a new place and pointed on
the page. When he opened his eyes this time, the place he was pointing to said
this: *Luke 10:37—“Then said Jesus unto him, Go, and do thou likewise.”*

Obviously that method has some problems associated with it!

UNDERSTANDING AND DOING GOD'S WILL
KNOWING GOD'S WILL
EPHESIANS 5:15-17

Doesn’t it make sense that our **GOD— WHO** has shown such **PRECISION**
and **ORDER** in **HIS CREATION** and such **CLARITY** and **DETAIL** in **HIS**
WRITTEN REVELATION— would be capable of communicating clearly to
HIS CHILDREN what **HIS WILL** is?

So tonight I want us to consider the matter of **KNOWING GOD’S WILL:**

I. FIRST LET’S CONSIDER THE GENERAL WILL OF GOD.

The **GENERAL WILL OF GOD** is that which is **GOD’S WILL IN**
GENERAL! (Duh!)

The **GENERAL WILL OF GOD** is that which is clearly revealed to
us in **GOD’S WORD!**

A. There Is The GENERAL WILL OF GOD For Everyone—
REPENT And BELIEVE ON CHRIST FOR SALVATION!
*Acts 17:30—“And the times of this ignorance God winked at;
but now commandeth all men every where to repent:”*

*2 Peter 3:9—“The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as
some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not
willing that any should perish, but that all should come to
repentance.”*

*1 Timothy 2:4—“Who will have all men to be saved, and to
come unto the knowledge of the truth.”*

B. There Is The GENERAL WILL OF GOD For Every
BELIEVER!

1. God Wants Every Believer To Be Baptized!

*Matthew 28:19-20—“Go ye therefore, and teach all
nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and
of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: 20 Teaching them
to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded
you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of
the world. Amen.”*

2. God Wants Every Believer Involved In The Great
Commission. Matthew 28:18-20. (Above)

UNDERSTANDING AND DOING GOD'S WILL
KNOWING GOD'S WILL
EPHESIANS 5:15-17

Acts 1:8—“...ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.”

3. **God Wants Every Believer To Be An Active Member Of His Body, The Church. (Acts 2:41-47)**

Hebrews 10:25—“Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.”

Ephesians 4:11-12

4. **God Wants Every Believer To Gain Understanding Of The Scripture And Grow In The Lord.**

1 Peter 2:2—“As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:”

2 Peter 3:18—“But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.”

2 Timothy 2:15—“Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”

5. **God Wants Every Believer To Be Holy!**

Peter tells us in the first chapter of his first epistle that we are to be obedient children, not fashioning ourselves according to the former lusts in our ignorance:

1 Peter 1:15-16— 15 “But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; 16 Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.”

THE GENERAL WILL OF GOD!

UNDERSTANDING AND DOING GOD'S WILL
KNOWING GOD'S WILL
EPHESIANS 5:15-17

II. **NEXT LET'S CONSIDER THE SURRENDERED WILL TO GOD!**

A. **God Wants Us To Be In A State Of Obedience (Surrender) Regarding His Will!**

God is not under any obligation to reveal His special will in our lives until there is a submission to His general will!

B. **God Even Wants Us To Be Surrendered To Do His Will Before He Reveals It To Us!**

Can you trust God that much in your life?

That shows trust! That shows faith!

C. **The Presentation Of Ourselves To God. (Romans 12:1-2)**

1. **We Are To Present Ourselves “A Living Sacrifice!”**

1 Peter 2:5—“Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.”

Galatians 2:20—“I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.”

2. **We Are To Present Ourselves “Holy And Acceptable Unto God!”**

a. **That Is, We Are To Present Ourselves In A Condition God Can Use. (2 Timothy 2:20-21)**

Psalms 19:14—“Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O LORD, my strength, and my redeemer.”

b. **We Are To Present Ourselves Available To God For His Use.**

“As a living sacrifice. . .unto God.”

UNDERSTANDING AND DOING GOD'S WILL
KNOWING GOD'S WILL
EPHESIANS 5:15-17

3. **We Are Not To Be Conformed To The World, But We Are To Be Transformed By The Word!**
 - a. Not pressed into the mold of this world!
 - b. But rather molded and changed into something special by the **renewing of our minds by the Word of God!**
4. **That We May Prove What Is That:**
 - a. **Good** Will Of God.
 - b. **Acceptable** Will Of God. (*fully agreeable*)
 - c. **Perfect** Will Of God. (*complete*)

THE GENERAL WILL OF GOD!
THE SURRENDERED WILL TO GOD!

III. **LASTLY LET'S CONSIDER THE SPECIAL WILL OF GOD!**
This is that looking to the **LORD** as SAUL did on the Damascus Road and asked in *Acts 9:6*—“*...Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?*”

When we have **surrendered our lives to do God's will** and we are **being obedient to God's general will for our lives**, then we are in a **better position to understand and know God's special will for our lives!**

- A. **God Leads Us By (Or Through) His Word!**
Psalms 119:105—“*Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.*”

Understand, **God will never lead us contrary to His Word!**
So, it is important for us to know what is **not** God's will while we are in the process of discerning what **is** His will!

- B. **God Leads Us By (Or Through) His Indwelling Holy Spirit!**
Acts 8:29—“*Then the Spirit said unto Philip, Go near, and join thyself to his chariot.*”
(*Speaking of the Ethiopian Eunuch*)

UNDERSTANDING AND DOING GOD'S WILL
KNOWING GOD'S WILL
EPHESIANS 5:15-17

Acts 13:1-4 (The account of the Church at Antioch choosing of the first foreign missionaries.)
“The Holy Ghost said, separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work I have called them to do.”

We see there the clear leading of the **Holy Spirit!**
In the life of the **Church** as well as in the lives of the **Barnabas and Saul!**

If the **Holy Spirit** does not confirm it, then don't consider it!
Colossians 3:15—“*And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful.*”

Word...Spirit...

- C. **God Can Lead Through Circumstances!**
Circumstances must not be the primary consideration, only a secondary confirmation.
Negative circumstances do not necessarily mean it's not **God's will!**

1 Corinthians 16:9—“*For a great door and effectual is opened unto me, and there are many adversaries.*”

Conclusion

God's will is not to be so much a mystery as it is to be a mastery!
(Letting God be the Master or Lord of our lives! Following His leadership!)

The question is, **are you doing what you know to be His will today?**

If not, why not?