

DISCOVERING GOD'S WILL FOR YOUR LIFE**#1: UNDERSTANDING GOD'S WILL**

Intro: *Serious Christians desperately want to know God's will for their lives. What is God's will?*

God's Will is God's path, the destination, and the light for the path on our journey of life.

I. We Often Have Misunderstandings About God's Guidance

- God's will is always _____.
- God's will is always _____.
- God is a cosmic _____.
- Everything that happens is _____ by God.

II. We Need to Understand the Different Ways to God's Will

We use God's will in several different, yet correct ways:

- ***God's Perfect Will***

- 1) ***God's Sovereign Will*** – This complex and often secret plan will occur no matter what the _____ action or response.

Jesus of Nazareth was a man accredited by God to you...this Man was handed over to you by God's set purpose and foreknowledge: and you, with the help of wicked men put Him to death by nailing Him on the cross. But God raised Him from the dead... *Acts 2:22-24*

- 2) ***God's Permissive Will*** – God's guiding will which can be disobeyed because of our _____, but with consequences.

And the Lord God commanded the man...you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die. *Gen. 2:16-17*

When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate.

Gen. 3:6-7

- ***God's Moral Will*** – God's revealed commands in the Bible for belief and conduct. This is God's _____ and _____. This is often all that is needed for major decision making.

The Lord will again delight in you and make you prosperous, just as He delighted in your fathers, if you obey the Lord your God and keep His commands and decrees that are written in the book of the law and turn to the Lord your God with all your heart and all your soul. *Deut. 30:9-10*

- ***God's Individual Will*** – God's detailed life-plan _____-designed for your life. It's a _____ fit for you.

When they (Paul, Silas and Timothy) came to the border of Mysia, they tried to enter Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus would not allow them to do so. Acts 16:7

III. Counterpoint: An Alternative View – The Wisdom Way*

- Some Christians believe God does not have an individual will _____ plan for what you should do in your life.

The wisdom way believers believe:

- Whenever the Bible mentions God’s will, it means God’s moral will _____.
- We are _____ to choose as long as we evaluate our circumstances by biblical principles and wisdom. This is called the wisdom way.
- As long as your decision is within God’s _____ moral will, He approves and will bless you.

Russ’ Balanced View: God has some specific plans, missions or instructions for you, but still leaves many decisions to your _____ (within His moral will and wisdom). The mix of specific plans and freedom will vary from person to person.

Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is – His good, pleasing and perfect will. Romans 12:2

IV. How We Prepare to Discover God’s Will

- _____ the world’s guidance philosophies.
- _____ God’s ways and Will.
- Be willing to do _____ God wills. This often will require a “crisis of belief” and change.
- Have a _____ position and relationship to God.
- Understand and embrace that God’s will is not only for our benefit, but also God’s _____.

Answers: I. Illogical; logical; killjoy; willed. II. Human; free will; right, wrong; custom; perfect. III. Detailed; only; free; general; freedom. IV. Reject; accept; whatever; proper; glory.

* The wisdom way is explained in the book, Decision Making and the Will of God, by Gary Friesen; Multnomah Press 1980.