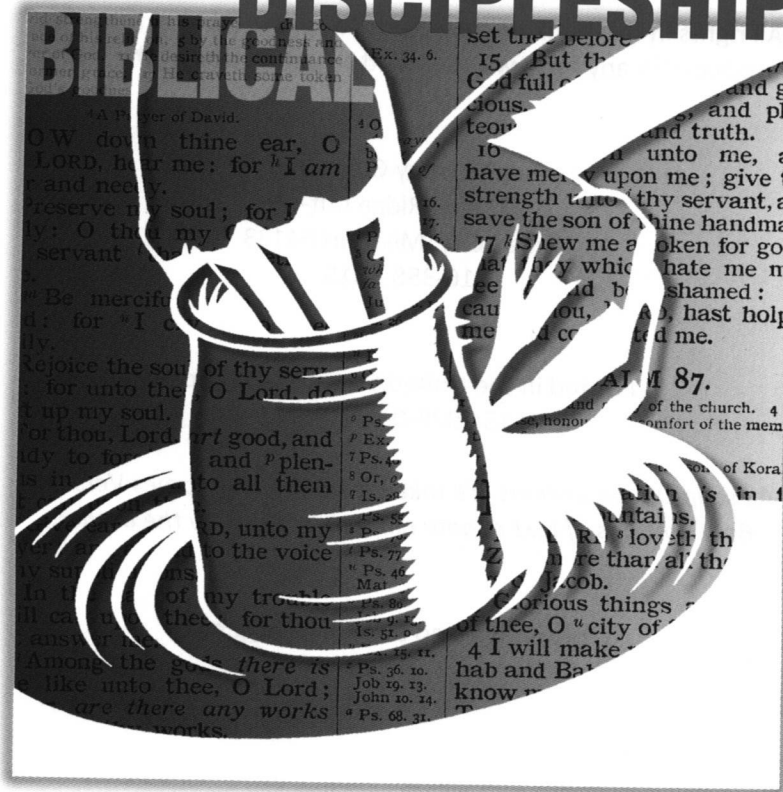


THE WILL OF GOD

7

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LESSON 7: THE WILL OF GOD

“How Do I Find God's Will For My Life?”

A famous preacher once said a successful man is a man who finds out what God wants him to accomplish with his life and then fulfills it. This is a very profound statement. The true measure of a person's success is not social status, a bank account, influence, or fame. It is simply doing what God wants.

The purpose of this lesson is to give you a clear understanding of what the will of God is, as revealed in the Bible, so you can begin to accomplish those things that are important to Him.

I. Understand the difference between God's will and God's plan.

A. The will of God concerns our spiritual development.

It is **never** connected with a set of rules, a geographical location, or a specific ministry.

B. The plan of God concerns our spiritual deployment.

God has a specific **plan** for you as an individual. This plan is the specific direction God will give in the circumstances of **your** life.

II. Understand the biblical dimension of God's will.

A. God wills specific things for your life.

1. *I Thessalonians 4:3-7* – We are to live holy lives. God desires our sanctification.
2. *II Peter 3:9* – We are to be witnesses as we understand God is not willing that any should perish. **All** lost people are out of the will of God regardless of what else they may do.
3. *I Thessalonians 5:18* – We are to give thanks in everything.
4. *I Peter 2:13-15* – We are to submit to every ordinance of man. However this must be balanced by the next point.
5. *Romans 12:1-2* – We are not to be conformed to this world but transformed by the renewing of our minds. (Submission to the ordinances of man is to maintain a proper testimony to lead others to Christ. At the same time, your life is to be transformed to live by a higher standard to please God.)
6. *Ephesians 6:5-8* – We are to serve those in authority from the heart, with pure motives, as if we are serving Jesus Christ.

7. *Ephesians 5:15-17* – We are to redeem the time. Quit wasting time! Make use of the small amount God has given you.

B. God's will for every believer is to be conformed to the image of the Lord Jesus Christ and can be summarized as follows:

1. *I Timothy 2:3-4* SALVATION

2. *I Peter 4:1-2* SANCTIFICATION

3. *Ephesians 1:3-5* GLORIFICATION

III. Understand God's direction in your life by the three resources He has provided.

A. He has given you the Holy Spirit to indwell you and direct your life.

Galatians 5:25; John 16:13; I Corinthians 2:9-10

B. He has given you the Word of God as your absolute authority in every detail of life. You must learn to saturate your mind with God's thoughts.

Philippians 2:5; Romans 12:1-2; Isaiah 55:6-11

C. He has given you the local church which is organized to equip you for life and ministry. Through other believers He provides you wise counsel.

Ephesians 4:11-12

IV. Understand God's priority in the details of your life.

* A. Obedience to God's will is more important than the discovery of God's plan.

You must be in conformity to the **will** of God before He will direct you in the specifics of life. Your priority should be to fulfill the will of God in your daily life and then trust Him to guide you in the detailed plan, step by step.

B. God is more interested in what you are than in what you do.

He is infinitely more interested in your **being** the type of person He wants you to be rather than your **doing** "mighty works" for Him. Be what He wants you to be and He will show you what to do.

Philippians 2:13

V. Basic questions.

A. Why doesn't God reveal all the details of His direction for me now?

1. It would overwhelm you before you got started.
2. You may not be equipped to handle it now. God will reveal what you can handle when you are ready.
3. You may not **be** the type of person God wants you to be yet.
4. God wants you to be patient as He works in your life spiritually. As time goes on and you begin to grow in your Christian walk, your interests, talents and desires will grow and change. This is illustrated by the old question asked of children, "What do you want to be when you grow up?" If all the five-year olds in America were surveyed on this question, then forced to stick with their answer, in 20 years there would be nothing but firemen, policemen, and nurses. Be patient and consistent in fulfilling God's will for your life. He will be faithful to guide you.

B. Why does God allow seemingly "bad" things to happen in my life?

1. Occasionally things happen in a Christian's life which do not appear to be good.

a. God will allow suffering in the lives of His children to perfect them, although He would prefer they did not have to suffer.

I Peter 3:15-18, 5:10;

II Corinthians 12:6-10

b. From Lesson 1, we learned our Heavenly Father will never make a mistake as He deals with His children.

Matthew 7:11; Romans 8:28

2. God allows all of us to make our own choices in life – both good and bad.

a. We have a free will.

Revelation 22:17

b. God will not force anyone to do anything. God offers salvation and lays down the principles for a godly life. However, if we exercise our free will and reject salvation, the result is suffering the consequences.

Galatians 6:7-8

NOTES

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Lesson 7

What is the difference between God's will and God's plan?

God's will is what He desires for all people to do, while His plan is what He has determined to do.

God's will is always good, but His plan is not always good. For example, God's will is that all people should be saved, but His plan is to save those who believe in Him.

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NOTES

THE WILL OF GOD

Lesson #7

1. What is the difference between God's will and God's plan?

2. God also has a specific _____ for your life,
which involves his _____.

3. What did God give you that allows you to make decisions,
both good and bad? _____

4. God has given everyone a free will, therefore He will not
force you to do anything. But when you reject God's
salvation or direction, what is the result?

5. God has a will for mankind. List seven things God specifically wills.
- A.
 - B.
 - C.
 - D.
 - E.
 - F.
 - G.
6. Summarize God's will for your life as a Christian. Give scripture references to support your answer.

Discipleship – Lesson 7

7. What must be active in your life as a believer to fulfill God's will and receive His direction in life?

A.

B.

C.

8. Before God will give His direction in your life what must take place?

9. According to *I Peter 5:10*, God allows Christians to go through suffering so they might be more:

A.

B.

Key memory verses:
Romans 12:1-2; 1 Peter 3:17

C.

11 Peter 3:9

D.

10. Briefly explain the primary purpose of this lesson.

Key memory verses:
Romans 12:1-2; I Peter 3:17;
II Peter 3:9

NOTE: There is much confusion today about the will of God. Some popular beliefs are:

1. The will of God is different for every individual.
2. The will of God has to do with specific, physical matters.
3. God has predetermined what will happen (fate) and our free will has no bearing on the matter.
4. Problems in a Christian's life are always the result of sin in our life.

From the Bible principles taught in this lesson, you should understand these beliefs are false and why.

→ Write any questions you may have concerning the subjects in this lesson.

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