

The Journey of Faith

Session 7

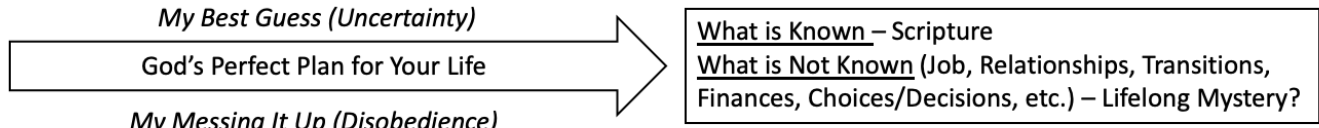


Will of God

Teaching Chart

WHICH WAY DO I GO?

SESSION 7: WILL OF GOD



"And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship him. Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect." (Romans 12:1-2, NLT)

Give Yourself to God + Reject the World's Ways + Transform Your Mind Through God's Word = Learn God's Will for Your Life

General Will of God (Same for Everyone)

Salvation (1 Timothy 2:3-4; 2 Peter 3:9)
Spirit-Filled (Ephesians 5:17-18)
Set-Apart (1 Thessalonians 4:3-7)
Submissive (1 Peter 2:13-15; Hebrews 13:17)
Suffering (1 Peter 3:17)

Specific Will of God (Different for Everyone)

Find Principles from God's Word (Psalm 119:105)
Seek Wisdom through Prayer (James 1:5)
Find Peace through the Holy Spirit (Philippians 4:6-7)
Learn to Discern God's Answers

"Delight yourself in the Lord,
and he will give you the desires of your heart." (Psalm 37:4, ESV)

Lesson

- Overview:** What do I do after salvation? Many people ask this question because they are curious as to the meaning and purpose of the Christian life. After salvation, every believer should commit his or her life to not only finding God's will, but also following God's will. However, many Christians do not know how to find God's will and even if they found it, they would not understand how to follow it. Accomplishing God's purpose and plans for our lives is the most important path to follow after salvation and should be the passion of every Christian.
- Purpose:** To teach the believer how to find and follow God's will
- Verses:** **Ephesians 5:15 (ESV)** Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, **16** making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. **17** Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is.

Important Note: Many of the following concepts were taken from the book Found: God's Will, by John MacArthur, Jr.

- I. What does the term “God’s will” or “will of God” mean?
 - A. This term means God’s specific plans for the life of a believer.
 - B. This term implies that God wills (wants or desires) us to do certain things and wills (wants or desires) us not to do certain things.
- II. What does God want me to know about His will?
 - A. God has a will for every person on the earth.
(Psalms 37:23-24)
 - B. God’s will is always perfect.
(2 Samuel 22:31)
(Isaiah 55:8-9)
 - C. God’s will can be known.
(Ephesians 5:15-17)
 - D. God’s will always brings joy and happiness.
(Psalms 40:8)
- III. How can I follow God’s will for my life?
 - A. Search for guidance through the Word of God.
(Psalms 119:105)
 - B. Ask for wisdom through prayer.
(James 1:5)
 - C. Seek for peace through the inner witness of the Holy Spirit
(Philippians 4:6-7)
- IV. What is God’s will for my life?
 - A. God has a general will for the life of every believer (recorded in the Word of God).

“If God gives you a watch, are you honoring Him more by asking Him what time it is or by simply consulting the watch?” – A.W. Tozer

- 1. God’s will is for you to be saved.
(2 Peter 3:9)
 - a. God wants every person who lives on earth to be saved.
(1 Timothy 2:3-4)
 - b. The journey of God’s will begins at salvation.
 - c. In order to do God’s will, you must be properly related to Him (father/son relationship).
(Mark 3:31-35)
- 2. God’s will is for you to be spirit-filled.
(Ephesians 5:17-18)
 - a. Every person who is saved has the Holy Spirit living within him.

- (Romans 8:9)
- b. Being spirit-filled is allowing every thought, word, and action to be controlled by the Holy Spirit.
 - 1) You must fill your mind with the Word of God.
(Colossians 3:16)
 - 2) You must pray for direction.
 - c. You must live every moment of your life remembering that God is always present with you.
 - d. The spirit-filled life will produce visible results:
 - 1) You will have a song in your heart.
(Ephesians 5:19)
 - 2) You will be thankful.
(Ephesians 5:20)
 - 3) You will submit.
(Ephesians 5:21)
 - a) Wives will submit to their husbands (5:22-24).
 - b) Husbands will love their wives (5:25-33).
 - c) Children will obey their parents (6:1-3).
 - d) Fathers will love their children (6:4).
 - e) Employees will obey their employers (6:5-8).
 - f) Employers will respect their employees (6:9).
3. God's will is for you to be sanctified (set apart from sin and to God).
(1 Thessalonians 4:7)
- a. Stay away from sexual sin.
(1 Thessalonians 4:3)
 - b. Control your body.
(1 Thessalonians 4:4)
 - 1) Control the way you dress.
 - 2) Control the way you eat.
 - c. Do not express your passions like the world (especially in sexual things).
(1 Thessalonians 4:5)
 - d. Do not take advantage of others.
(1 Thessalonians 4:6)
4. God's will is for you to be submissive.
(1 Peter 2:13-15)
- a. You must submit to governmental laws in order to live as an outstanding citizen in the world.
 - 1) This includes national government.
 - 2) This includes state government.
 - 3) This includes the police.
 - 4) This includes the court system.
 - b. You must be living so that the world can recognize a difference between them and you.
5. God's will is for you to be suffering.
(1 Peter 3:17)
- a. This suffering should be a result of doing right, not for doing wrong.
 - b. When you live godly in an ungodly world, you will suffer.
(Matthew 5:10-12)
(Matthew 5:16)

B. God has a specific will for the life of every believer.

1. God's specific will is defined as things that are not specifically written and found in God's Word.
 - a. What occupation should I pursue?
 - b. Who should I marry?
 - c. Where should I live?
 - d. Should I buy this car? House? Boat? Furniture?
 - e. Where should I attend college?
 - f. Who should I date?
2. God's specific will is not the same for every believer.
(1 Corinthians 12:4-6)
3. God's will never contradicts what is already written in His Word.
4. You must be living the general principles of God's will before you can know God's specific will.
 - a. If you are following God's general will for your life, make the decision you want to make about His specific will.
"The man or woman who is wholly or joyously surrendered to Christ can't make a wrong choice – any choice will be the right choice." – A.W. Tozer
 - b. If you are following God's general will for your life, God will match His desires with your desires.
(Psalms 37:4)

V. What happens if I do not follow God's will?

- A. Confess your failure to follow God's will as sin.
(1 John 1:9)
- B. Go back to the place where you stopped following God's will and start over again.
(Proverbs 28:13)

VI. Will "bad" things happen even though I am following God's will?

- A. Bad things may appear bad to us, but God has a purpose in mind.
 1. God allows suffering in order to draw us closer to Him.
(1 Peter 5:10)
 2. All bad things will eventually work out for our best.
(Romans 8:28)
- B. Just because something bad happens to you does not necessarily mean that you are out of God's will.
(Isaiah 55:8-9)

Review

1. What does the term “God’s will” or “will of God” mean?
2. List four facts about God’s will.
3. What three elements can assist you in following God’s will?
4. Where is God’s general will for the life of every believer contained?
5. What five things are God’s will for every believer (give scriptural support for each)?
6. How do you find God’s specific will for your life (give scriptural support)?
7. Is God’s specific will the same for every believer?
8. If you are following God’s _____ will for your life, God will _____ His _____ with your desires.
9. Can bad things happen even when a person is following the will of God? Explain why or why not?
10. Briefly describe the purpose of this lesson.

False Teachings

Some churches, organizations, or groups are promoting the following false teachings:

- God’s will cannot be found.
- Problems are a result of being out of God’s will.
- A believer cannot be happy and also in the will of God.