

## **Found: God's Will**

### Lesson 1

## Is God A Cosmic Killjoy?

How can a Christian Know the will of God for his or her life? Most of us are aware that God has a plan for our lives but have trouble finding just which way this plan goes at a particular juncture.

Some believe God's will is \_\_\_\_\_, sort of like playing hide and seek and they are busy trying to find it.

Some believe that God's will is to be discovered via a \_\_\_\_\_ experience. A voice from heaven or a vision in a dream has been accepted by some as \_\_\_\_\_ revelation. God can speak to us through any means He chooses, but many have been deceived into trying to take a \_\_\_\_\_ and bypass His commands.

Many, are actually \_\_\_\_\_ of the will of God. They believe that God will subject them to some undesirable circumstances and take away their most treasured \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_.

This mindset implies that God is a cosmic killjoy and He doesn't want anyone to have any \_\_\_\_\_ and that He enjoys stomping on everyone's parade.

Then there is the brass ring mentality. If you go for the brass and don't succeed, just \_\_\_\_\_ for the iron ring. In other words, be satisfied just to be in the race.

Here is an educated but not spiritual definition of the will of God: "*a fortuitous conjunction of circumstances and impulses*".

People have all types of theories about God's will. What is the will of God? Are there any concrete principals that may be simply stated, and actually put into practice? The answer is \_\_\_\_\_!

Can we actually know what \_\_\_\_\_ to seek, what \_\_\_\_\_ to attend, what girl or guy to \_\_\_\_\_, what \_\_\_\_\_ to make in any given situation? Yes. You no longer have to worry. The struggle is almost over.

If we believe that God has a will for our lives, He must want us to know what it is.

The God we serve wants to be \_\_\_\_\_ and He wants us to know His will for our lives. God's will is clearly \_\_\_\_\_ in the pages of His word.

### **2 Timothy 3:16-17**

*<sup>16</sup> All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for <sup>[a]</sup>instruction in righteousness, <sup>17</sup> that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.*

### **Hebrews 1:1-2**

*God, who <sup>[a]</sup>at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, <sup>2</sup> has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the <sup>[b]</sup>worlds;*

### **Psalms 119:105**

*"Your word is a lamp to my feet, and a light to my path."*

What anyone needs to know about the will of God is clearly revealed in the pages of His word. Let us journey together through this book and discover what God has to say to us about this important matter.

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### Lesson 2

#### The Crucial First Step

The Apostle Peter highlighted the concept of the will of God for us in **2 Peter 3:9**. *“The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward <sup>[a]</sup>us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.”*

Just because we don't see God invading the world in \_\_\_\_\_ doesn't mean that He can't. It does not mean that He made a promise, and He won't \_\_\_\_\_ it. His delay does not mean that He is either \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_ but that He is long-suffering, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to \_\_\_\_\_.

The first thing about God's will: He wants people to be \_\_\_\_\_. So much so that He delays His judgement.

**2 Timothy 2:3-4** states,

*For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, <sup>4</sup> who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.*

If you are stumbling around in life and tossing up some periodic prayers to God but have never come on your knees to the foot of the cross and met \_\_\_\_\_, then you are not even in the beginning of God's will.

God has no reason to reveal anything particular about your life because you have not met qualification number one:

\_\_\_\_\_.

Jesus said in **John 10:4**, His sheep follow Him, because they know His voice. Jesus made it clear who was \_\_\_\_\_ to Him in **Mark 3:31-35**.

Without Christ people are \_\_\_\_\_ to God. They are rebels against God, \_\_\_\_\_ in God's universe.

If you have never committed your life to Jesus Christ, you cannot expect anything at all from God. He owes you nothing. He is not obligated to you in the slightest sense.

In order to come to Christ for salvation we must \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ of our sin.

Salvation cannot be \_\_\_\_\_ or purchased. It is a gift received by \_\_\_\_\_ through God's grace.

God so desired that people be saved that He gave the one that He loved most, His Son, and sent Him to die on a cross. That shows how much He wills that people be saved.

Those of us who have been saved are the vehicles of the transportation of the gospel. We are a vital part of God's plan to save the world. That is His will!

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### Lesson 3

## The Fizzies Principal

As believers- people in God's family – if we do not know God's will, we are \_\_\_\_\_  
**Ephesians 5:17** - <sup>17</sup> *Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is.*

This is a command. God would not command us to do something that we are not capable of doing. This is the solution to being foolish - **Ephesians 5:18** – *“And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with **the Spirit.**”*

God commands us to be Spirit filled. That is the teaching of God's word.

There are many Christians who are not Spirit-filled who are asking God, “why haven't you \_\_\_\_\_ to me whom I am to marry, or what job to take, what business deal I should enter into or what I ought to do about a specific problem?”

Why should God give any further revelation about His will when we are not doing what He has clearly \_\_\_\_\_ in His word?

What does it mean to be Spirit filled? When you were saved, the moment you received Jesus Christ the Holy Spirit came to live within you. There is no Christian who does not \_\_\_\_\_ the Holy Spirit (**Romans 8:9, 1 Corinthians 6:19-20**).

The Holy Spirit is a person and should not be referred to as \_\_\_\_\_. In the Old Testament we see the Spirit acting upon God's people like Samson and David. In the New Testament God, the Holy Spirit \_\_\_\_\_ in us! We often pray for what we already possess:

- God, give me more \_\_\_\_\_ for so and so (**Romans 5:5**)
- God, I need more \_\_\_\_\_ (**2 Corinthians 12:9**)
- God, give me more \_\_\_\_\_ (**Philippians 4:13**)
- God, give me more \_\_\_\_\_ (**Acts 1:8**)

We do not lack anything that we need to accomplish our mission (**2 Peter 1:3**). What should we be asking for? **James 1:5**- \_\_\_\_\_.

A Christian not \_\_\_\_\_ to the Spirit does not manifest the Christ life. The Spirit of God has to permeate a life, If that life is to radiate Him. Sort of like a \_\_\_\_\_.

Fizzies are small tablets that came about around 1960 used to make soft drinks. It came in a packet in a powder form and was to be mixed with water. When it was stirred

into the water the flavor selected (ex. Grape) would mix with the water and reveal the selected flavor. If it was not \_\_\_\_\_ it would simply remain in the bottom of the container.

In a measure, that pictures how the Spirit of God operates in a human life. He is in the Christian all the time as a compact, concentrated, \_\_\_\_\_, and personal force of divine energy. The question is, has he ever been able to release that power, to fill your life so that you become what He is?

The Spirit- filled life yields every \_\_\_\_\_ to the control of the Spirit.

Let us consider Peter for an example. When he was near Jesus, he displayed miraculous \_\_\_\_\_ (**Matthew 14:22-23**). He was able to receive divine \_\_\_\_\_ (**Matthew 16:13-17**), and he displayed supernatural \_\_\_\_\_ in the Garden of Gethsemane (**John 18:10-11**).

When Peter was 100 feet away from Jesus, he \_\_\_\_\_ Him 3 times and had no power. He ran away and wept bitterly.

After receiving the Holy Spirit Peter became a different person in (**Acts 2:14-17**).

In **Colossians 3:16-17**, the Apostle Paul describes being filled with the Spirit as having the word of \_\_\_\_\_ dwell in you richly. This can only happen by spending time in God's word. We must expose ourselves to God's word regularly, in order to \_\_\_\_\_ with God's Spirit that dwells in us.

King David said, *"I hide thy word in my heart that I might not sin against thee."*

We should take advantage of every opportunity to take in God's word. It is the sword of God's Spirit. Consider your own learning style and make deposits accordingly.

- \_\_\_\_\_ – scripture, movies, television, computer
- \_\_\_\_\_ – CD's, radio, ipod
- \_\_\_\_\_ – Crossword puzzles, books, board games

To be Spirit-filled is to live a Christ conscious life. God has and is fully pursuing us through Christ. He wants us to \_\_\_\_\_ Him through Christ with passion.

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### Lesson 4

## The Priority of Purity

It is God's will that His children be \_\_\_\_\_.

**I Thessalonians 4:3-7.** We are set apart for divine purposes and we are to practice practical purity.

1. Abstain from \_\_\_\_\_ – Stay away from sexual sin. Paul did not say stay away from sex, he said stay away from sexual sin. Sex is a gift from God given exclusively for those who enter \_\_\_\_\_. Within this holy union there is to be:

- a. Consummation – Making the marital union complete
- b. Procreation – producing children
- c. Recreation – ministry of pleasure.

Sex outside of the marriage bed leads to \_\_\_\_\_ (*unwanted pregnancy, abortion, children without parents, sexually transmitted diseases, divorce, cramped court rooms, broken families, and broken hearts*). God invented sex, and He said it was \_\_\_\_\_. He never intended for it to be used outside of marriage.

- 1 Corinthians 6:12** – We can be blessed by God only so long as we are \_\_\_\_\_ what we do for His honor. When lust controls us, we have crossed the line. It is a simple principle. The Holy Spirit is always there for believers to \_\_\_\_\_ us when we are about to cross the line.
2. Control your \_\_\_\_\_ – **1 Thessalonians 4:4.** We are to keep our bodies in subjection to ensure that we are honoring God.
  - a. Underdressing or overdressing to attract attention to ourselves.
  - b. Gluttony – obsession with eating that can overtax the body
  - c. Anorexia – eating disorder caused by fear of being overweight

- d. Bulimia – overeating accompanied by self- induced vomiting
- e. Drugs and alcohol abuse

**3.** Subdue your \_\_\_\_\_ **1Thessalonians 4:5** - We are not to live our lives like the world, pursuing lustful passions. Eat, drink and be merry is not a Christian philosophy. **Romans 12:1-2.**

- 4.** Treat others \_\_\_\_\_ – **1Thessalonians 4:6-8** – We are not to take advantage of people.
- In business matters
  - In church
  - In families
  - In relationships

If you mistreat people, you really mistreat and despise God. (**Psalms 24:1**). We all belong to Him. (**1Timothy 2:21-22**).

It is God's will that we be sanctified by abstaining from fornication, controlling our bodies, subduing our passions and treating others fairly.

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### Lesson 5

## Silencing the Critics

Every creature that God created has been placed under \_\_\_\_\_. God is the ultimate authority, He is \_\_\_\_\_. He gave mankind dominion over the mineral, vegetable, and animal kingdoms. In Christ, \_\_\_\_\_ are subject unto us. He expects us to be in submission to one another, \_\_\_\_\_ according to the roles He ordains, decrees, in which He permits us to serve (**2 Peter 2:13-15**)

*<sup>13</sup> Therefore submit yourselves to every <sup>[a]</sup>ordinance of man for the Lord's sake, whether to the king as supreme, <sup>14</sup> or to governors, as to those who are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers and for the praise of those who do good. <sup>15</sup> For this is the will of God, that by doing good you may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men—*

**Hebrews 13:17** says,

*<sup>17</sup> "Obey those who <sup>[a]</sup>rule over you, and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account. Let them do so with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you."*

It is the will of God that we \_\_\_\_\_ to every authority showing us to be the best:

- Husbands and wives
- Parents
- Children
- Employees
- Community leaders
- Church members
- Law enforcement

Our cooperation provides a witness that may attract others to enquire about the gospel that we speak of.

Submission to authority will make us the best possible \_\_\_\_\_ in the society in which we live. When there is injustice and evil, we must \_\_\_\_\_ the individuals or the system in ways that honor God. We are admonished in scripture to be "*wise as serpents, and harmless as doves.*" **Matthew 10:16**

The world is looking to find fault in our lives as believers, we don't want to give them ammunition to weaken nor destroy our \_\_\_\_\_.

Our proper responses \_\_\_\_\_ the ignorance of foolish people (**1 Peter 3:15-17**)

But <sup>[a]</sup>sanctify <sup>[b]</sup>the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear; <sup>16</sup> having a good conscience, that when they defame you as evildoers, those who revile your good conduct in Christ may be ashamed. <sup>17</sup> For it is better, if it is the will of God, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil.

The Christian strives to be the best person he or she can possibly be and make the best \_\_\_\_\_ to society possible within the bounds of the law.

We are not to \_\_\_\_\_ our freedom (**1Peter 2:16-18**)

<sup>15</sup> For this is the will of God, that by doing good you may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men— <sup>16</sup> as free, yet not using liberty as a cloak for <sup>[d]</sup>vice, but as bondservants of God. <sup>17</sup> Honor all people. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the king. <sup>18</sup> Servants, be submissive to your masters with all fear, not only to the good and gentle, but also to the harsh.

\_\_\_\_\_ the traffic laws and let your bumper sticker match your driving behavior on the road.

If you are told to do something that is \_\_\_\_\_ to God's clear revelation and command, we are not to go along with it. This is the only exception to the Biblical command to submit to all authority (**Acts 4:18-20**)

<sup>18</sup> So they called them and commanded them not to speak at all nor teach in the name of Jesus. <sup>19</sup> But Peter and John answered and said to them, "Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you more than to God, you judge. <sup>20</sup> For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard."

God ordained and instituted the \_\_\_\_\_, then the \_\_\_\_\_ and thirdly, the \_\_\_\_\_. He has used all three of these institutions in His plan of redemption. What would our world be like if all children submitted to their parents? What would happen if all citizens obeyed the law and paid their taxes? What if all church members supported their leaders and consistently gave tithes and offerings from the heart?

Jesus left us here to be the salt of the Earth and the light of the world. Submission, is a very important part of our obedience to Him (**Matthew 5:13-16**).

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### Lesson 6

## Facing the Flak

Many would be followers of Jesus come to Him with dreams of greatness, which are good in their place. Jesus explained to His disciples that true greatness centers in being of \_\_\_\_\_ to others (**Mark 9:33-35**).

In the will of God, greatness follows along behind \_\_\_\_\_. We must understand this fact, or we may be greatly discouraged and give up early in our journey. Jesus informing a would be follower of what to expect told him, *"The foxes have holes and the birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay His head."* (**Luke 9:57-58**)

Suffering is par for the course for Christians (**1 Peter 5:10, 1 Peter 4:19, 1 Peter 3:17**). If you are a Christian living a \_\_\_\_\_ life in an ungodly world, you will suffer according to 2 Tim.3:12 <sup>12</sup> *"Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution."* You may say, I am not suffering any persecution. Perhaps you are not living a godly life in the face of the world. Maybe you are a secret Christian or maybe you are not aware of the various methods of \_\_\_\_\_ the world can impose upon you.

If you do suffer for Christ, know that it is a \_\_\_\_\_ thing. The Spirit of grace and glory rest upon you (1 Peter 4:14).

Facing the world through evangelism is not just the preacher's job and the evangelism team, it is for \_\_\_\_\_ believers. Evangelism involves living a godly life in the face of an ungodly world. And that will bring persecution because the world does not like Jesus.

Consider the words of Paul as recorded in **Philippians 1:29** – *"For to you it has been granted on behalf of Christ, not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake."* Suffering is linked with \_\_\_\_\_. The Bible never shows a Christian at any time who doesn't suffer- because anybody who lives a godly life in the world will get the \_\_\_\_\_ that the world throws back.

The Bible shows how we can live a godly life in an ungodly world with \_\_\_\_\_ (Acts 4:3).

Five thousand men were saved as a result of Peter's message. That did not include women and children in the count.

Peter and John were thrown into prison. The next morning, they were asked to explain who they represented. Persecution provided another opportunity to \_\_\_\_\_. Because of persistent persecution Peter and John had an opportunity to share the gospel with the Sanhedrin (the top leaders of Israel).

Satan \_\_\_\_\_ himself up all the time.

- He had Paul thrown in the Philippian jail, the jailer and his family got \_\_\_\_\_
- He put Jesus on a cross and Jesus is \_\_\_\_\_ the world
- What has he put you through? What is the result?

Peter and John did not fight, hassle, kick or scream. They moved ahead in their persecution with \_\_\_\_\_ that this was God's opportunity.

**Acts 4:29-32** reveals their attitude, actions, and \_\_\_\_\_ *“Now, Lord, look on their threats, and grant to Your servants that with all boldness they may speak Your word,<sup>30</sup> by stretching out Your hand to heal, and that signs and wonders may be done through the name of Your holy Servant Jesus.<sup>31</sup> And when they had prayed, the place where they were assembled together was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke the word of God with boldness.”*

They \_\_\_\_\_ the world head on with the claims of Christ. God gave them boldness and they received opportunities they would never have experienced. They submitted themselves to suffering, they did not \_\_\_\_\_ nor did they back down.

If God requires us to lose our lives, we should be \_\_\_\_\_ to lose it for His sake.

A Christian is expendable. You may not get physical flak but may suffer intellectual persecution instead. You may be quietly ostracized from society. You may be politely shunned at the water cooler. People may take a “there goes the wierdo” attitude which causes a deflated ego problem. Every person wants so much to be accepted. But you cannot be accepted by the world and be \_\_\_\_\_ for the Lord.

Don't ever water down the \_\_\_\_\_. We don't take pleasure in being abused or mistreated. If the truth offends let it offend. People have been living their whole lives in offense to God. Let them be offended for a while.

**In Colossians 1:24** the Apostle Paul writes, *“I now rejoice in my sufferings for you, and fill up in my flesh what is lacking in the afflictions of Christ, for the sake of His body, which is the church.”*

The world would like to get at Jesus. They do not persecute Christians because they do not like them; they persecute Christians because they do not like **Jesus**. They can't get at Him because He is in heaven, so they get at you and me.

Are we willing to face the flak coming from the world because we represent Jesus?

## Found God's Will

### Lesson 7

## You're It!

God's will is that we be \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_. God's word makes it crystal clear. But how do we determine the other critical decisions we have to make like which school I should attend or who I should marry?

If you are doing all five of those basic things do you know what the next principal of God's word is? \_\_\_\_\_ . If those five elements are operating in your life, who is running your wants? \_\_\_\_\_ is!

**Psalms 34:7** says, "*Delight yourself in the Lord; and He will give you the desires of your heart.*" If you are living a godly life, **He** will give you the right \_\_\_\_\_. What has God placed on your heart to do? What is it that really bothers you in this world?

Once we get \_\_\_\_\_, God can steer our lives. Becoming the right person and following your God given desires leads us to fulfill our \_\_\_\_\_ and our destiny.

**Acts 9:32-35** tells us about Peter being on the move.

<sup>32</sup> Now it came to pass, as Peter **went through** all parts of the country, that he also came down to the saints who dwelt in Lydda. <sup>33</sup> There he found a certain man named Aeneas, who had been bedridden eight years and was paralyzed. <sup>34</sup> And Peter said to him, "Aeneas, Jesus the Christ heals you. Arise and make your bed." Then he arose immediately. <sup>35</sup> So all who dwelt at Lydda and Sharon saw him and turned to the Lord.

God has His richest ministries for His busiest saints. The disciples Jesus chose were \_\_\_\_\_ doing something when He called them. Peter had a fishing business. Matthew was a tax collector.

We find in Genesis a fascinating illustration of the same truth: the servant of Abraham was sent to find a wife for Isaac. He didn't even know who or what he was looking for. But he was involved in \_\_\_\_\_ and the Lord took it from there. He said, "*Blessed be the LORD God of my master Abraham, who has not forsaken His mercy and His truth toward my master. As for me, being on the way, the LORD led me to the house of my master's brethren.*"

Get into the mainstream of what God is doing and let Him lead you to that perfect will. God opens and closes doors as we are \_\_\_\_\_.

In **Acts 16:6-7** we see the Spirit guiding the Apostle Paul who is on the move for God.

*<sup>6</sup> Now when they had gone through Phrygia and the region of Galatia, they were forbidden by the Holy Spirit to preach the word in <sup>[a]</sup>Asia. <sup>7</sup> After they had come to Mysia, they tried to go into Bithynia, but the <sup>[b]</sup>Spirit did not permit them. <sup>8</sup> So passing by Mysia, they came down to Troas. <sup>9</sup> And a vision appeared to Paul in the night. A man of Macedonia stood and pleaded with him, saying, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." <sup>10</sup> Now after he had seen the vision, immediately we sought to go to Macedonia, concluding that the Lord had called us to preach the gospel to them.*

God wanted them in Macedonia all the time. But He never told them till they had proved their \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, and couldn't take another step. We need to be on the move and God will steer us in the right direction. Paul responded immediately and that is the only reaction when a persistent heart meets an open door.

God wants to meet us in ministry passion to passion. He gives us His best and He wants us to give our \_\_\_\_\_.

You see, the will of God is not primarily a place. The will of God is not, first of all, for you to go there or work here. The will of God concerns you as a \_\_\_\_\_. If you are the right you, you can follow your desires and you will fulfill His will (**Romans 12:1-2**).

And whatever happens in your life, all along the way give thanks, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus (1Thessalonians 5:18). He is using the experiences in your life to \_\_\_\_\_ you into His will.

To be saved, Spirit-filled, sanctified, submissive, suffering and saying thanks is to be in the \_\_\_\_\_ of God's will.