

WILL OF GOD

If you want to be successful in life, then you must discover what God wants you to accomplish and then fulfill it. The true measure of success is not your social status, financial stability, influence, or fame: it is in the simple obedience to the will of God in your life.

The key word of this lesson is:

CONFORMITY

The key question this lesson answers:

How do I find God's will for my life?

The key purpose of this lesson:

To reveal the will of God from the word of God, so that you can effectively conform your life to God's will.

The key point of this lesson:

You must be in conformity to the will of God before he will direct you in the specifics of your life.

MEMORY VERSES

*"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God." – **Romans 12:1-2***

*"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."
– **2 Peter 3:9***

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN GOD'S WILL, GOD'S PLAN, AND GOD'S PURPOSE FOR YOUR LIFE?

A. God's Will

1. The will of God concerns who you are in Christ, and it is the same for everyone. It involves your relationship with God, and is never dictated by a set of rules, a geographical location, or a specific ministry.

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2. You should be motivated to make the most of the limited time you have remaining to serve him as you continue to discover and understand the will of God.

"See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is." – **Ephesians 5:15-17**

B. God's Plan

1. The plan of God concerns what you do in Christ, and it is not the same for everyone. It involves the specific direction that God will give you as you encounter the different circumstances of your life.

"And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose." – **Romans 8:28**

2. God desires that you fulfill His will as you carry out the plan he has for you. The individual circumstances of your life should lead you to accomplish the entire will of God.

"Epaphras, who is one of you, a servant of Christ, saluteth you, always laboring fervently for you in prayers, that ye may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God." – **Colossians 4:12**

C. God's Purpose

1. God created mankind for the purpose of glorifying him.

"Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created."
– **Revelation 4:11**

2. God is glorified as you accomplish his will through the life you live before him.

“I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do.” – John 17:4

WHAT IS GOD’S WILL FOR YOUR LIFE?

It is God’s will for every believer to be conformed to the image of Jesus Christ.

“For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.” – Romans 8:29

A. It is God’s will for you to be SAVED.

It is your responsibility to share the gospel with the lost because it is God’s will for all people to be saved. Anyone who is not saved is not in the will of God.

2 Peter 3:9

B. It is God’s will for you to be SANCTIFIED.

You are to live a life that is separated unto God in holiness.

1 Thessalonians 4:3-7

C. It is God’s will for you to SHOW GRATITUDE.

God desires that you give him thanks in every circumstance of your life.

1 Thessalonians 5:18

D. It is God’s will for you to SERVE.

You are to serve those in authority over you as if you are serving Jesus Christ.

Ephesians 6:5-7

E. It is God’s will for you to be SUBMITTED.

You are to be submitted to every law of man as a testimony to the lost world. However, your submission to authority is balanced by a higher standard to please the Lord first.

1 Peter 2:13-15

F. It is God’s will for you to SUFFER.

You will experience suffering if you follow Jesus Christ. The suffering we endure must be the result of well doing and not of evil doing.

1 Peter 3:17; 1 Peter 2:19-21

The will of God can be summarized and understood in three words:

1. SALVATION *1 Timothy 2:3-4*
2. SANCTIFICATION *1 Peter 4:1-2*
3. GLORIFICATION *Ephesians 1:3-5*

DISCUSSION:

Are you laboring to see the lost come to salvation?

Are you living your life to fulfill the will of God, or the will of your flesh?

Are you prepared to be presented blameless and holy before the Lord?

WHAT IS GOD'S PLAN FOR YOUR LIFE?

THE KEY POINT OF THIS LESSON!

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 your life. Your priority should be to fulfill the will of God in your daily life now, and then trust him to guide you in the detailed plan, step by step.

Jeremiah 10:23; Proverbs 3:5-6

A. God reveals his direction for your life by the three resources he has provided.

1. God has given you the Holy Spirit to guide and direct you as he dwells inside you.

Galatians 5:25; John 16:13

2. God has given you the word of God to be your absolute authority in every detail of your life. You must learn to saturate your mind with God's thoughts. God's plan for your life will never violate the bible.

Psalms 119:105; 1 Thessalonians 2:13

3. God has given you the local church to equip you for life and ministry. God provides wise counsel through other believers who surround you.

Ephesians 4:11-12; Acts 13:1-4

B. God will use the events and circumstances of your life to direct you.

As different circumstances arise, God will also confirm His plan through the bible, the leading of the Holy Spirit, and your local church.

Romans 8:28; Psalm 37:23

C. God is more interested in who you are than in what you do for him.

Knowing what God wants you to do is not as important as being who God wants you to be. As you grow into the image of God, he will reveal what he desires you to do.

Philippians 2:13

BASIC QUESTIONS YOU MAY BE ASKING

A. Why does God choose not to reveal all the details of his plan for me now?

"I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now." – John 16:12

1. Knowing the entire plan of God for you at one moment would overwhelm you.
2. You may not be equipped to handle it now. God will reveal what you can handle as you are able.
3. You may not be walking in obedience to what God has already revealed to you.
4. As you mature physically and spiritually, your interests, talents, and desires change. God wants you to be patient as he works in your life spiritually.

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

1. God will allow suffering in your life to perfect you. The difficult times in your life will draw you into a deeper understanding of who God is and who you are.

1 Peter 1:6-9; 1 Peter 5:10

2. There are always consequences to the decisions that God allows you to make. God has given you a free will and he will not force you to make biblical decisions. There may be times when you suffer as a result of the decisions you make.

Galatians 6:7-8

DISCUSSION:

Do you have an example of how God has given you direction in his plan for your life?

Do you know what God's plan is for your life today?

REVIEW AND DISCUSSION

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

2. List the five specific things that God wills for your life.

- A. _____
- B. _____
- C. _____
- D. _____
- E. _____

3. Use scripture to summarize the will of God for a Christian.

4. What are the resources that God has given you to reveal his plan for you?

5. What should be the priority in your life?

6. What is the key purpose of this lesson, and what has it taught you?

PERSONAL BIBLE STUDY

Read *1 Kings 17:1-9* and describe how God's plan was revealed to Elijah.

According to *1 Peter 5:10*, God allows Christians to go through suffering so that they might be more...

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

How was God's plan for the gospel to go into Europe revealed to the apostle Paul in *Acts 16:1-13*?

Write down a testimony of a past example of how God revealed his plan to you.
