

“Can I Know God’s Will?”

“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 12:2

“All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works.” 2 Timothy 3:16, 17.

The Will Of God ~ Traditional View

Sovereign¹

Moral²

Individual³

- ¹ *Sovereign.* God’s plan & purpose that determines everything that happens in the universe.
 - a. To what extent?
 - b. What about free-will?

- ² *Moral.* God’s revealed instructions in the Bible for all people.
 - a. Is it enough?
 - b. How does it lead someone to make specific decisions in life?

- ³ *Individual.* God’s uniquely designed plan and purpose for each person in history.
 - a. How does someone know if they are in or out of God’s will?
 - b. Are believers consigned to play *Mastermind* with God?

All three “wills,” as commonly understood by tradition, contain flaws. Often Bible passages are misinterpreted, misapplied, or handled in an undispensational manner. There is no Biblical support for the “Individual Will” concept.

Guidelines:

1. Direct, supernatural guidance for specific decisions are the exception to the rule.
2. Given to people who played a strategic role in ministry.
3. Provided only at critical points in history or ministry.
4. Always communicated by means of supernatural revelation. (The Lord, Angels, Prophets, Animals, Visions, etc.)
5. Today, with a completed Bible, supernatural guidance or extra-Biblical guidance does not occur.

The Will Of God ~ Biblical View

Eternal Purpose¹

Moral²

Sonship³

- ¹*Eternal Purpose.* God has a plan & purpose, that will come to pass in spite of what may happen in the universe. Ephesians 1:8-10; 3:9-11.
- ²*Moral.* God has revealed His will in the Holy Scriptures, which is *fully sufficient* to guide a believer to know and to do **all** the will of God. 2 Timothy 3:16, 17; Colossians 4:12; 1:9-12, 28.
- ³*Sonship.* God has equipped the believer to exercise liberty, as Sons. Believers are free to operate or not to operate within the parameters of God's will. Galatians 4:1-7.

The Will Of God & The Believer

The traditional view maintains that God has a perfect plan uniquely designed for each and every person. However, **THERE IS NO BIBLE EVIDENCE TO SUPPORT THIS VIEW.**

Knowable

Based on doctrines learned

Universal

Available to all, equally

Objective

Excludes subjective elements

The Way Of Wisdom

1. The source of wisdom. Colossians 3:16; 2 Timothy 3:16, 17.
2. The spirit of wisdom. Ephesians 1:17, 18; Colossians 1:9-11, 28; 4:12.
3. The spirit of our mind. Ephesians 4:20-23; Rom 12:2; Col 3:10.
4. The proving of God's Will. Romans 12:2; 2:18; Philippians 1:9, 10; Ephesians 5:10.
5. The mind of Christ. 1 Corinthians 2:16, Rom 11:33-36; Eph 1:8-11.

The Way Of Sonship (As seen in Christ) Galatians 4:1-7

1. Free to choose. Gen 2:16, 17; Galatians 4:1-7; Romans 12:1; Galatians 5:13.
 - a. Christ. Philippians 2:5-8.
2. Free to learn. Romans 12:2 (Renewed thinking)
 - a. Christ. Isaiah 50:4-6; John 8:28, 29; 12:49, 50; Luke 2:40, 52.
3. Free to serve our "Abba, Father." Galatians 4:6; Romans 8:15
 - a. Christ. Mark 14:36; John 4:34; 5:19, 30; 6:38; Hebrews 10:7-10.
4. Free to live by faith. Galatians 2:20; 5:6; 2 Corinthians 5:7; 1 Corinthians 2:16.
 - a. Christ. Hebrews 5:7-9; 12:1-3; John 8:28, 29; Psalms 31:1-5.

