

God's Will and Guidance

Lesson 13



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Lesson Outline

God's Will

- God's sovereign will
- God's will of desire
- God's commanded will

Our Response to God's Will

Guidelines to Discerning God's Will in Everyday Decisions Application

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God's Sovereign Will

- God's will of purpose - whatever He purposes to do will happen
[Isaiah 14:24](#)
[Isaiah 46:9-10](#)
- Everything will happen exactly as God planned - according to His foreknowledge
- Salvation - predestination - [Romans 8:29-30](#)
- Predetermined plan of salvation - [Acts 2:22-23](#)
- Governments - set up by God - [Romans 13:1](#)
- Do we live our lives with the view that all that happens in history has already been written by God?

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God's Will of Desire



- Jesus desired Jerusalem to be saved
- But what actually happened?
[Matthew 23:37](#)
- The response of the people - [John 1:11](#)
- God desires all men to be saved - [1 Timothy 2:3-4](#)
- Christ desired everyone to come to Him
[Matthew 11:28-29](#)

Key Point - God calls, but people are unwilling to come

Note: God's will of desire is consistent with His sovereign will - but not always fulfilled.

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God's Commanded Will



- Seen in God's commands - throughout the whole *New Testament*
- It is a standard for man's behavior
- It is seen in Lesson 12 - Obedience
- It is summed up in [Matthew 22:37-40](#)
- Can we know God's commanded will?
[Colossians 1:9](#)

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God's Commanded Will



- "Having the knowledge of God's Word control our minds is the key to righteous living. What controls your thoughts will control your behavior. Self-control is a result of mind-control, which is dependent on knowledge. Knowledge of God's Word will lead to all spiritual wisdom and understanding."
- John MacArthur

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The Nature of God's Will

God's sovereign will and commanded will are better understood in light of their respective characteristics.



Sovereign Will	Commanded Will
1. Secret; known only to God except as revealed through history or revelation.	1. Revealed in the Bible.
2. Cannot be resisted or thwarted.	2. Can be resisted or disobeyed.
3. Encompasses both good and evil (sin).	3. Involves only that which is good; holy.
4. Comprehensive; controls all aspects of life, time and history.	4. Specific; provides principles for living.
5. The believer is not commanded to know or discover what God has not revealed.	5. Believers are exhorted to know, understand, and obey all that God has revealed.

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Our Response to God's Will

To God's Sovereign Will

The Lord tests the righteous – [Ps 11:5](#)

- Testing reveals your true heart – [Deuteronomy 8:2](#)
- Don't be surprised when you are tested [1 Peter 4:12-13](#)
- Our response need to be one of trust in God – [1 Peter 4:19](#)



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Our Response to God's Will

To God's Commanded Will

- We need to know and obey God's commanded will –
- [Eph 5:17](#)
- [Deuteronomy 11:1; 29:29](#)




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- “Being obedient to all that God has revealed in His Word is the beginning of aligning our will with His will. However this implies that we have immersed ourselves into the Scriptures to determine what the will of the Lord is.”

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Guidelines to Discerning God’s Will in Everyday Decisions

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- Be Saved – [1 Tim 2:3-4](#) (lesson 5 and 6)
 - Be Spirit Filled – [Eph 5:18](#) (lesson 7)
 - Be submissive to authorities – [1 Peter 2:13-15](#) (lesson 13)
 - Be willing to suffer for His sake – [1 Peter 3:17-18](#) (lesson 13)
 - Be sanctified – [1 Thes 4:3](#) (lesson 7 & 12)
 - Be self sacrificing – [Rom 12:1-2](#) (lesson 9)

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“To be filled with the Spirit “is to be under His total domination and control.”

“To be filled with the Spirit involves confession of sin, surrender of will, intellect, body, time, talent, and desires. It requires the death of selfishness and the slaying of self-will.”

“To be filled with God’s Spirit is to be filled with His Word. And as we are filled with God’s Word, it controls our thinking and action.” *John MacArthur*

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Application



- If you are;
- Saved
- Spirit filled
- Submissive to authorities
- Willing to Suffer for His sake
- Sanctified
- Self-sacrificing
- Then follow the desires of your heart
- Psalm 37:4
- Proverbs 3:4-5

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Application



- Therefore when making decisions, pray for wisdom, seek Godly counsel, and trust the Lord to direct you in all your decisions.

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