

God's Will and Guidance

1. Why is it important for a Christian to learn about God's will and guidance?

- Because the Christian life and calling cannot be lived out without an understanding of the divine will, the power of God's Spirit, and the willing obedience and submission to His Lordship.

2. How important to the discipleship process is this topic?

Extremely – because without an understanding of God's will we are hopelessly lost in sin and destined for death, eternal separation from God. It is therefore vital to express the importance of this issue to a disciple.

God's Will –

God's Will of Decree – Because God is **providentially controlling** the circumstances of the universe, He therefore permits or prevents the circumstances of history according to His eternal plans and purposes. (Eph 1:11-12, Isaiah 46:11, Lam 3:37-38) His "Will of Decree" therefore is the circumstances of life which He either permits or prevents by His Providence.

Whatever comes to pass has been **eternally decreed by God**. Jonathon Edwards put it this way, "God decreed from all eternity all the evil that He ever does permit, because God's permitting is God's forbearing to act or to prevent. It can be made evident by reason that nothing can come to pass but what is the will and pleasure of God should come to pass." (Job 12:13-22, Eph 1:11-12, Prov 8:14-16, Isaiah 40, Acts 2:23, 4:28)

Daniel 4:35 - 35 "And all the inhabitants of the earth are accounted as nothing, But **He does according to His will in the host of heaven And among the inhabitants of earth**; And no one can ward off His hand Or say to Him, 'What hast Thou done?' NASB

God's Will of Command – Because God has given us commandments which are to be fully obeyed (Psalms 119:4, Duet 4:9), He has therefore revealed to us specifically what He desires for us to do and how we should speak, act, think and live. This is what he is "willing" that we should do, His "Will of Command."

This is **the will of God we can disobey and fail to do**. The *will of decree we do whether we believe in it or not*. The will of command we can fail to do.

For example, Jesus said, "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven" (Matthew 7:21). Not all do the will of his father. He says so. "Not everyone will enter the kingdom of heaven." Why? Because not all do the will of God.

Paul says in 1 Thessalonians 4:3, "This is the will of God, your sanctification: that you abstain from sexual immorality." Here we have a very specific instance of what God commands of us: holiness, sanctification, sexual purity. This is his will of command. But, oh, so many do not obey. Then Paul says in 1 Thessalonians 5:18, "Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." There again is a specific aspect of his will of command: give thanks in all circumstances. But many do not do this will of God.

Consequence – The **commanded will of God brings with it consequences** for our responses to it. For obedience it carries divine blessing and for disobedience divine discipline and even punishment or wrath. Over and over the bible holds out the promise of God's abundant blessing for faithful obedience and also God's threatenings for wicked rebellion against the commanded will of God. (**Duet 28-29, Josh 1:7, Prov 1:31, 12:21, 14:14**)

Psalms - 11:4-7 - 4 The LORD is in his holy temple; the LORD is on his heavenly throne. He observes the sons of men; his eyes examine them. 5 **The LORD examines the righteous, but the wicked and those who love violence his soul hates.** 6 On the wicked he will rain fiery coals and burning sulfur; a scorching wind will be their lot. 7 For the LORD is righteous, he loves justice; upright men will see his face. NIV

Guidance -

God's Guidance – Because we live in a fallen world in rebellion and sinful wickedness against God and His holiness and sovereignty, and because we are all sinful by nature and desperately wicked, we are therefore in great need of divine guidance in order to live in a manner which pleases God and results in our blessedness. God being Good therefore gives His guidance and counsel and wisdom to all who seek it and ask for it. In fact, God is more than willing to lead and to guide, to shepherd and protect, those who will submit to His Lordship and come under the blessing of His wisdom and counsel.

(Psalms 78:52-55, 119:105, 145:18, Rom 8:28, 10:12)

Application –

- 1. When discipling we must constantly stress the importance of the DAILY renewing of the mind. – Rom 12:2, Eph 4:2, Col 3:10**
- 2. When discipling we must constantly stress the importance of fellowship with other believers regularly, for the purpose of mutual edification through the work of the ministry of admonishment and encouragement. Col 1:28**

Q & A – Anyone?

**Recommended Reading:
The BIBLE!**

*This is an outline only and made to compliment the Fundamentals of the Faith manual.