



Title: What Does the Bible Say about God's Will for Our Lives?

Text: Romans 12:1-2

*"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. **2** 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."*

Introduction: To understand God's will, we need to look to the Scriptures. When we do, we find that God's will is not a tightrope walk, or a secret code to be deciphered, but rather it is a life of faith and obedience to be lived every day of our lives.

I. God's Will Defined

A. God's Decreed Will

- God knows the end from the beginning, and He is in control.

Isaiah 46:9-10 *"Remember the former things of old: for I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like me, **10** Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure:"*

- God's will will be done, and we even see in Scripture many examples of God using specific people and circumstances to accomplish His will, and to bring glory to Himself.
- The Bible also teaches that we are personally responsible for our choices, that our choices have consequences, and that ultimately we will be held personally accountable to God for the way we live our lives.

B. God's Desired Will

- God has revealed to us what He wants us to do, and how He wants us to live our lives.

Deuteronomy 29:29 *"The secret things belong unto the Lord our God: but those things which are revealed belong unto us and to our children for ever, that we may do all the words of this law."*

- There are ways that God is working that are not known to us and that we don't always understand. There is also so much about God and what He wants us to do that He has revealed to us, and we are responsible to do what God has told us He wants us to do!

Hebrews 13:20-21 *"Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, **21** Make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is wellpleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen."*

1 John 2:15-17 *"Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. **16** For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. **17** And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth forever."*

C. The Specific Will of God

- When it comes to the unique circumstances of our lives, how can I know that I am doing what God wants me to do?
- When it comes to some of the big questions you are facing right now, there is not a chapter or verse that you can turn to and get the answer. Rather, the truths of Scripture are meant to serve as a guiding light that reveals the path one step at a time.

Psalms 119:105 *"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path."*

- By prioritizing the Word of God, I position myself to make wise choices when it comes to unique circumstances of my life.
- While the Bible tells us stories of God directing specific people in specific ways, we recognize this to be the special working of God at a particular time in history for a particular purpose.
- God speaks to us today through the Bible, with the indwelling Holy Spirit working to bring understanding and point to Jesus Christ.

2 Peter 1:16-21 *“For we have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of his majesty. 17 For he received from God the Father honour and glory, when there came such a voice to him from the excellent glory, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. 18 And this voice which came from heaven we heard, when we were with him in the holy mount. 19 We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts: 20 Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. 21 For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.”*

Hebrews 1:1-2 *“God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, 2 Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds;”*

In Scripture we have a sure and sufficient Word from God. If you want to know what God desires for your life, look to the Word of God!

II. God’s Will Realized

- God’s will is not a mystery to be solved, but rather a life of faithfulness and obedience to be lived out every day until we reach eternity!

A. Surrender Your Life to God

Romans 12:1-2 *“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. 2 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.”*

- The most reasonable response to God's love and mercy is to present the whole of ourselves to Him.
- This metaphorical self-sacrifice happens over and over in the life of the believer.

Luke 9:23 *“And he said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me.”*

- Through surrender to God, we experience the progressive renewing of our mind, which enables us to better understand or discern His desires for us.
- The closer you get to God, the more you want what He wants for you.

B. Seek the Kingdom of God

Matthew 6:25-34 *“Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment? 26 Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they? 27 Which of you by taking thought can add one cubit unto his stature? 28 And why take ye thought for raiment? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin: 29 And yet I say unto you, That even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. 30 Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which to day is, and to morrow is cast into the oven, shall he not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith? 31 Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed? 32 (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things. 33 But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you. 34 Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof.”*

- Trust God in the present and with the future.
- The phrase *“take no thought”* is not meant to be understood as promoting passiveness.
- The instruction to *“seek first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness.”* is all about directing our priorities, and passions.

C. Do the Will of God

- God has made His will known to us. Obedience is God's will for our lives.

I Peter 4:1-2 *“Forasmuch then as Christ hath suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves likewise with the same mind: for he that hath suffered in the flesh hath ceased from sin; 2 That he no longer should live the rest of his time in the flesh to the lusts of men, but to the will of God.”*

Ephesians 2:1-10 *“And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins; 2 Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: 3 Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others. 4 But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, 5 Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)6 And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus:7 That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus. 8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:9 Not of works, lest any man should boast. 10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.”*

1. Holiness and Sanctification

I Thessalonians 4:1-8 *“Furthermore then we beseech you, brethren, and exhort you by the Lord Jesus, that as ye have received of us how ye ought to walk and to please God, so ye would abound more and more. 2 For ye know what commandments we gave you by the Lord Jesus. 3 For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication: 4 That every one of you should know how to possess his vessel in sanctification and honour; 5 Not in the lust of concupiscence, even as the Gentiles which know not God: 6 That no man go beyond and defraud his brother in any matter: because that the Lord is the avenger of all such, as we also have forewarned you and testified. 7 For God hath not called us unto uncleanness, but unto holiness. He therefore that despiseth, despiseth not man, but God, who hath also given unto us his holy Spirit.”*

2. Rejoice, Pray and Give Thanks

I Thessalonians 5:16-18 *“Rejoice evermore. 17 Pray without ceasing. 18 In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.”*

3. Steward Our Time

Ephesians 5:15-17 *“See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, 16 Redeeming the time, because the days are evil. 17 Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is.”*

4. The Salvation of Sinners

2 Peter 3:9 *“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.”*

Conclusion:

1. God has revealed His will to us in His Word. (Hebrews 13:20-21, 1 John 2:15-17)
2. The Bible does not provide specific answers to the big questions in our lives, but rather principles that can help guide our decision making. (Psalm 119:105)
3. God’s will is not a secret that we are responsible for uncovering, but rather a life of faith and obedience to live out every day! (1 Peter 4:1-2, I Thessalonians 4:1-8, 5:16-18)