

# ***Understanding God's Will– God Desires What God Determined***

***By  
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I would like us to consider something that the Lord has shown me to be very important as we continue to grow in the knowledge of our New Life in Christ. And that is **GOD'S WILL**. We talk quite a lot about "God's Eternal Plan in Christ", and we should: but this all comes out of His Will. And this is something that we must take very seriously because **Ephesians 1:11** says, *"(He) worketh all things after the counsel of His Own Will."* He works out everything in agreement with the wisdom and the design of His Own Will: of His Purpose, of what He has Eternally determined. And God's Will has a power, a force to it: this is what HE determined, what HE decreed, what HE regards and does as good – for HIS purpose. His Will is His gracious disposition towards something: what God does of His Own Pleasure: this is what pleases Him. So God's Will not only means designing something and decreeing something, but there is an activity to it: a pressing on to action. This thought is given voice in **Luke 11:2** when Jesus taught the disciples to pray. *"Thy kingdom (rule, authority) come, thy will be done, as in heaven, so in earth. "*

So God's Will is not passive or static: it is not just something He thinks and wants but does nothing about. His Will will be done: accomplished and made known. And His Will is inherent in His Word. It is by His Word that His Will is made known. The Hebrew word, Strong's #1697 for "word" means not only to

speak: but to appoint, command, declare, promise: and it implies an act. We see this in **Isaiah 55:8**: *"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD. 9: For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts. 10: For as the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater: 11: So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it."* God's Word will accomplish His Will! And this is all fulfilled in the Lord Jesus who, Being The Word, came to earth to fulfill all of The Father's Word: all according to His Will. **John 1:1**: *"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God."* **John 1:14**: *"And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth."* **John 1:18**: *"No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him."*

And the Greek word, Strong's #3056, translated "Word" in these Scriptures means the thought of God: implying His reasoning and motive. This is The Divine Expression of God's Heart, Mind and Will, only made known in The Person of Jesus Christ. He not only is The Will of God, but He came to do only The Father's Will, and to make God's Will known to man. Consider these truths that Jesus said:

- **John 5:30**: *"I can of mine own self do nothing: as I hear, I judge: and my judgment is just; because I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me."*
- **John 6:38**: *"For I came down from heaven, not to do mine*

*own will, but the will of him that sent me.”*

- **Mark 14:36:** *“And he said, Abba, Father, all things are possible unto thee; take away this cup from me: nevertheless not what I will, but what thou wilt.”*
- **Hebrews 10:7:** *Then said I, Lo, I come (in the volume of the book it is written of me,) to do thy will, O God...9: Then said he, Lo, I come to do thy will, O God. He taketh away the first, that he may establish the second.10: By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all. “*

And it is essential that we understand right at the beginning that God's Will is summed up and made known to us in THE CROSS: the Death, Burial and Resurrection of Jesus Christ. This is God's Will that He came to DO. And make no mistake about this: the ugly, bloody Cross was God's Plan, what He determined even before there was a world and a man to sin! And when the Word became flesh and came to the earth in the form of a man – Jesus (in a flesh body so that He could die The Death of The Cross): He came to fully ACCOMPLISH The Will of God regarding mankind and to make The Will of God known to man. This is why we cannot understand God's Will unless we come to a true God-given Revelation of Christ and His Cross. And if we are going to allow the Lord's Will to be done in us, it will also be by a continual working of The Cross of Christ in us.

So it is important for us to understand that God had Eternally determined what He desired, and He always works according to what He has willed to have. This is all fixed: it is settled Eternally, in the Spirit, in the Godhead, in the Heavens, and this will never change. God's Plan supersedes time and space, and is not dictated by situations and circumstances or anything in the natural world. This is not only what God designed, but what He requires. We see this beautifully expressed in

**Ecclesiastes 3:14:** *"I know that, whatsoever God doeth, it shall be for ever: nothing can be put to it, nor any thing taken from it: and God doeth it, that men should fear before him. 15: That which hath been is now; and that which is to be hath already been; and God requireth that which is past."* This is the Eternalness of God's Will and we do need to consider this as we consider God's dealings with us. Because even though His Will is fixed and operational "in Heaven": it is His Will that must be done – operational - here in the earth; and that means His Will being done not in trees and animals, but IN US.

And we as Believers have not only been predestinated according to His Will, but as the Holy Spirit operates in us, the Mystery, the Truth of God's Plan, God's Will is revealed to us. **Ephesians 1:8:** *"Wherein he hath abounded toward us in all wisdom and prudence; 9: Having made known unto us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure which he hath purposed in himself:"* Notice "having made known": this is something that has been done, and continues to be done. This is not a future promise, but the statement of the fact that God's Will: that had been hidden in The Old Covenant has been revealed and made known in the very Person of Jesus Christ The Lord and The Cross. And this is all according to God's Pleasure, which He has purposed in Himself. And we as The Church – members of The Body of The Risen Christ here in the earth are the vessel to make His Will known in the earth. But I want to caution us: we must make His Will known in the earth AS it is in Heaven: not as we religiously conceive or imagine it to be! And I just want to remind us that this is all for HIS Pleasure: what pleases Him – all according to His good, and all for His Glory. **Ephesians 1:12:** gives us our Purpose: *"That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ."*

So we must come to a God-given understanding of God's Will. And the Lord has challenged me here, because very often we will hear a Believer say, "What is God's Will for me?" And I know generally the question is sincere and comes from a heart that honestly wants to please God, but the emphasis in this question is too often on "for ME". It is as if God has a special thing that He not only desires but has determined "just for you". And I am not saying there are not individual dealings of the Lord in us: a functioning for ministry or special Gifts; but we must focus on God's Will for HIMSELF and not just on "for ME". What did He Plan for Himself: what does He want and desire to please Himself? So I am saying that God's Will "for us" must be found in God's Will for Himself: what He determined to have Eternally, and what He has accomplished and we have been made partakers of because of our Relationship in Christ Jesus.

And I believe that understanding God's Will from His Eternal Standpoint will help us to understand not only "God's Will for me" on a daily basis; but we will see how God is working, and why. And I believe this not only will change our prayer life: in what we ask God for, but will also give us a peaceful assurance and rest because we can trust Him to deal with US according to what pleases HIM. And we will learn to truly be content with that. I know many of us may say with our mouths, "Father, let Your Will be done", but somehow our own "wills" are still operational, and we struggle and often strive against the Lord because of this. My prayer is that even through this sharing our hearts may be enlightened as to His Will – the Love, Grace and Mercy of it and desire truly that His Will be done in us with our whole heart: knowing that it will not be "my will and my life" – but being content with HIS.

So let us look at what the Scriptures declare to be God's Will: what He determined: what He predestinated: what He marked out in advance and appointed before hand. And I want to stress that this is important because God always works in accordance with what He determined: what He predestinated to have. And remember God's Word does not return to Him void: but does accomplish everything that His Will desired.

- **God has appointed the times and a Day of Judgment.**

**Acts 17:26:** *"And hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation...31: Because **he hath appointed a day**, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by **that man whom he hath ordained**; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead."*

Notice He appointed a day in which the world will be judged in righteousness. That word, "Righteousness", Strong's #1343 means conformity to all that God commands: submitting to God's Right upon man as a higher authority. This "day" is not a 24 hour literal day, but a time of God's Light, making known His Will on all mankind. And this "day", as He has willed it has been established to stand, abide, continue. And God's "judgment" as He has ordained it continues and remains: it is not affected by man's "morals" or religions.

Now this "day" and this "judgment" is defined by **THAT MAN whom He ordained**. All judgment (coming to a decision; separating the Living from the dead) has been by One specific Man –The Son of God, Jesus Christ, The Son of Man. **John 5:22:** *"For the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the Son... 27: And hath given him authority to execute judgment also, because he is the Son*

*of man.” And we know this is speaking of Christ and The Cross because God raising HIM from the dead (out from the realm and control of death: The Only One who ever was!), was planned and executed to be the assurance to mankind that HE is The One! This is not a day of future judgment: but the day we are now living in, and the judgment that Jesus wrought by The Cross. It has all been accomplished in the day and The Man that God appointed.*

And let me just add here something about the “appointed time” of The Old Covenant. It was given of God, and served a Purpose, but was never to remain past its time: and that “time” came to its END when Jesus Christ came. **Galatians 4:4:** *“But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law: 5: To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons.”* The Old Covenant Law NEVER fulfilled God’s Will and Plan, so when the fulfillment came in the Person of Jesus Christ, the Law would be done away with. **Hebrews 7:18:** *“For there is verily a disannulling of the commandment going before for the weakness and unprofitableness thereof. 19: For the law made nothing perfect, but the bringing in of a better hope did; by the which we draw nigh unto God... 8:13: In that he saith, A new covenant, he hath made the first old. Now that which decayeth and waxeth old is ready to vanish away.”* The Purpose of the Old Covenant was to keep a people until Faith came in the Person of Christ, and then that Covenant was no longer necessary. **Galatians 3:23:** *“But before faith came, we were kept under the law, shut up unto the faith which should afterwards be revealed. 24: Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith. 25: But after that faith is come, we are no longer under a schoolmaster.”* And Believers today must

honor the “time” we are living in – under The Law of the Spirit of Life in Christ Jesus, and NOT attempt to go back to a “time” that God has finished with – under The Law of Sin and Death.

- **God predetermined The Death of The Cross.**

His death on The Cross was not contrived by the Government of Rome or jealous Jews. Historically at His death, they were simply working out God’s Plan according to His Will! **Acts 2:22:** *“Ye men of Israel, hear these words; Jesus of Nazareth, a man approved of God among you by miracles and wonders and signs, which God did by him in the midst of you, as ye yourselves also know: 23: Him, being **delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God**, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain: 24: Whom God hath raised up, having loosed the pains of death: because it was not possible that he should be holden of it.”* Jesus always walked in the understanding that His Death on The Cross was Eternally marked out, decreed, ordained because this was The Will of His Father. And this was “The Will” that He came to do. Jesus spoke of this as He entered Jerusalem for the last time: as the corn of wheat that would die to bring forth much fruit. **John 12:27:** *“Now is my soul troubled; and what shall I say? Father, save me from this hour: **but for this cause came I unto this hour...31: Now is the judgment of this world: now shall the prince of this world be cast out. 32: And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me. 33: This he said, signifying what death he should die.”***

And when He stood before Pilate waiting to go to The Cross (even though Pilate found no fault in Him – John 18:38) He said these words. **John 18:37,” ... To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should**



*bear witness unto the truth. Every one that is of the truth heareth my voice.” This was His Purpose in coming into the world: The Death of The Cross. And it was this Death that the Old Covenant prophets testified of beforehand. I Peter 1:10: “Of which salvation the prophets have enquired and searched diligently, who prophesied of the grace that should come unto you: 11: Searching what, or what manner of time the Spirit of Christ which was in them did signify, when it testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ, and the glory that should follow.” To the Old Covenant Prophets God was setting forth His Will concerning The One that was to come: and Jesus came, and by The Cross fulfilled all of the Scriptures, (The Word) concerning Himself. And after His Resurrection He appeared on the road to Emmaus so His disciples would understand that. Luke 24:25: “Then he said unto them, O fools, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken: 26: Ought not Christ to have suffered these things, and to enter into his glory? 27: And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself.”*

- **God foreordained His Son to be The Perfect Sacrifice** that would fulfill God’s righteous demands under The Law and please Him. **Hebrews 10:4:** *“For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins. 5: Wherefore when he cometh into the world, he saith, Sacrifice and offering thou wouldest not, but a body hast thou prepared me: 6: In burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin thou hast had no pleasure. 7: Then said I, Lo, I come (in the volume of the book it is written of me,) to do thy will, O God. 8: Above when he said, Sacrifice and offering and burnt offerings and offering for sin thou wouldest not, neither hadst pleasure therein; which are offered by the law; 9: Then*

said he, *Lo, I come to do thy will, O God. He taketh away the first, that he may establish the second.*" And He remains as the ONLY Sacrifice acceptable to God for sin, for Salvation and New Life. **I Peter 1:18:** *"Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; 19: But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot: 20: Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you,"* He is The Perfect Lamb without spot or blemish, of which all those millions of animal sacrifices spoke of. But only HE satisfied the Heart of God. And HE continues to be the Only One that pleases The Father: not us, not our works and our sacrifices – but HIM.

- **God Preordained a FINISHED WORK.**

God not only planned Salvation and Redemption by The Cross of Christ according to His Will, but the Work of The Cross is a Finished Work. God is fully satisfied with that Work, and He wants us to enter into HIS REST: into a completed Work that satisfies Him fully. **Hebrews 4:3:** *"For we which have believed do enter into rest, as he said, As I have sworn in my wrath, if they shall enter into my rest: although the works were finished from the foundation of the world."* And we need to honor the FACT that The Work is Finished by what Christ did at The Cross. **John 17:4:** *"I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do."* **John 19:30:** *"When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, It is finished: and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost."* And God NOW deals with us in the REALITY of this Finished Work, and wants us to come to this same comprehension.

Now those are very briefly some things that God appointed and ordained that JESUS would be, and we know that everything that God planned was faithfully and perfectly executed by Him. In Jesus Christ by The Cross the Will of God was done, and fully made known to mankind. But God also has established His Plan, His Will for us as BELIEVERS: those who are joined to Him with His Life; and it is much greater than what we generally think. We think that God wants us “to be good people” and “to go to Heaven when we die.” But God’s Will is much greater than that!

- **God has chosen a people to be in Christ.**

God determined even before the world was made that **CHRIST** is the place of God’s choosing: the realm where He has put those who He has called unto Himself, and where He has all Spiritual blessings. **Ephesians 1:3:** *“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ: 4: According as **he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world**, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love:”* God’s Salvation and everything that God has prepared for a people have been given IN CHRIST. And when we are Born Again our New State of Being is “IN CHRIST”. This is the Spiritual Realm where we now live. **II Timothy 1:9:** *“Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which **was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began,**”*

This is speaking of the Relationship of Life, of Oneness that we as Believers are brought into when we believe on Jesus Christ and The Cross. This is where God desires all men to be: and IN HIM we have been made holy and live without

blame before God, experiencing His Love. I want us to understand that it is not that God chooses some people and does not choose others. The “place” that God has chosen for His People (those who have come to Him by His Son) is in Christ: not in a religion but a Relationship of Life. But in order for us to come to this Relationship, this Life, all Spiritual Blessings, we must choose CHRIST. Because to God there is no other place where He has a Relationship with us. But we are not just there as a location, but in a Relationship: a Relationship that God predestinated us for.

**Ephesians 1:5:** *“Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, **according to the good pleasure of his will.**”* God planned that we who have come to Him by Jesus Christ would come to the adoption of children: that those who are Born Again would come to a SON Relationship (adoption = recognition of son) with The Father: Oneness – of One Life and Name, Will, Purpose. Notice it was planned that we are brought to HIM and this Relationship (not just that we live forever in Heaven in our house – down the street from Jesus). And this is all according to what pleases Him. And in Christ God has made us accepted to Himself! He has bestowed His Grace upon us in The Person of Christ so that we could magnify His goodness to us, and make Him known in the earth. **I Peter 2:9:** *“But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; **that ye should shew forth the praises of him** who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light: **10:** Which in time past were not a people, but are now the people of God: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy.”* All that was written of Old Covenant Israel, and all of God’s dealings with them are now fulfilled in The Church today – all for His Glory! And this is how and why God continues to work

in us as Believers. **Ephesians 1:12:** *"That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ." We are predestinated to bring Glory to Him.* This is why we must understand that God's dealing in us and with us are always for HIS Glory – and not ours! **2 Thessalonians 1:10** says, *"...He shall come to be glorified IN HIS SAINTS, and to be admired in all them that believe (because our testimony among you was believed) in that day."*

- **God predestinated a people to be conformed to His Son.** God didn't just call a people out of the world unto Himself in His Son and bring them into this Son Relationship so that we could live unto ourselves. God desired an expression of HIS SON in the earth: not more religious people; but that The Life of His Son, which we have received as our Salvation might be seen in the earth. And this is how God continues to work in us. **Romans 8:28:** *"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.** 29: 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. 30: Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified."* Notice we are to be conformed to the "image of His Son". That means His likeness – in Nature, Character, Life. This is not us trying to imitate Jesus or trying to do what we think He would do. This is the "training" and "correction" spoken of in **Hebrews 12:** God dealing with us AS SONS – for HIS Purpose. **Hebrews 12:7:** *"If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not? ... 9: Furthermore we have had fathers of our flesh which corrected us, and we gave them reverence: shall we not much rather be in subjection*

unto the Father of spirits, and live? **10:** For they verily for a few days chastened us after their own pleasure; but he for our profit, **that we might be partakers of his holiness.**"

So God continually works – IN US - renewing our minds and transforming our souls so that we would be an expression of His Will: His Son. **Romans 12:1:** *"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.**"* And because the Apostle Paul understood that The Will of God was His Son, he travailed for us: that God's Will would be done in Believers. **Galatians 4:19:** *"My little children, of whom I travail in birth again until Christ be formed in you,"* And that is until Christ be fully formed – in all His Fulness and Glory – in us. And it is HIS Working that works in us mightily: Christ in you. God's Plan was to place us in Christ, and place Christ in us so that we would be the expression of HIM in the earth. And because Christ is in us, and as we abide in Him, there will come forth an increase of His Life in the earth – through us. **John 15:4:** *"Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me. 5: I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing...8: **Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples.**"* The "fruit" is not more of us, but HIM: His Life that we bear and make known. And remember this is all for God's Glory.

I want to leave you with an overlying thought: a governing

decree that God had established, to which He has always been faithful, and according to which He continues to work. **Ephesians 1:10:** *“That in the dispensation of the fulness of times **he might gather together in one all things in Christ,** both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in him:”* **Colossians 3:11:** *“Where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcision nor uncircumcision, Barbarian, Scythian, bond nor free: but **Christ is all, and in all.**”* His Will, His Eternal Plan, His Pleasure was always to sum up and make known all things – of Himself, of His Eternal Salvation, of Eternal Life – **IN HIS SON.** And if we are putting anything or anyone above His Son, then we are going against God’s Will and what pleases Him. This is not a future time that we are waiting for: but the administration of The Holy Spirit who has NOW come to lead us into all Truth. Since all of the “times past” – of types and shadows are fulfilled by Christ and The Cross, God speaks now only and fully **IN HIS SON!** **Hebrews 1:1:** *“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;”* This is God’s Will. This is what His Son accomplished. Let His Will be done in you!

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