

THE WILL OF GOD (Part #2)

Request: would you please teach a lesson on the will of God so that I could understand how to apply it to my everyday life?

There are two Greek verbs used primarily to describe the will of God: thelo and boulomai.

Thelo (thelema/ suffice of results) emphasizes the motive of desire behind the will. Boulomai (boule) emphasizes the mental thinking aspects of the will. Homer taught that boulomai arose out of conscious consideration free from emotion.

These two words are used in our lesson text.

- Mystery of His will (tou thelema) (1:9)
- Counsel (ten boule) of His will (tou thelema) (1:11)

These two are found in Luke's account of Jesus' Gethsemane prayer. "Father, if (1cc) Thou *art willing (boulomai)/* plan of God), remove this cup from Me; yet not *My will (to thelema/ desire to submit to boule)*, but Thine be done." (Luke 22:42)

**This lesson will study SIX aspect of the WILL OF GOD so that we can say in our daily choices
"not my will (thelema) but Thine (boule) be done."**

1. **"In our day, the word *will* is limited to the faculty of self-determination and the determinations themselves. Without the power of rational self-determination, we would be a mere force like electricity or magnetism or the principle of vegetable life."(Charles Hodge, pg.146-147)**

"His point is man's *free will*. His consciousness of being able to make free choices is unique to man. Even if there are external circumstances which influence decisions of the will, the fact remains that we are not conscious of any compulsion which forces us to chose against our will." (Charles Baker, pg.257)

There are some theologians who teach that man does not have freedom of will, especially with God that all is choices and decisions have been predetermined.

However, if choices were predetermined and man could not have done otherwise, why should anyone feel remorse?

"Then when Judas, who had betrayed Him, saw that He had been condemned, *he felt remorse* and returned the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders." (Matt.27:3)

Our legal system is based on the concept of freedom of choice. Otherwise punishment would be cruel and unjust.

In fact, those who deny free will should never argue with anyone who disagrees since he must believe that the one who believes in free will was predetermined by some influence over which he had no power to believe in free will.

2. **There are three spheres of WILL on earth: God's Will, Satan's Will and Human Will.**

God's Will: "God's will is the ultimate ground of moral obligation for all rational creatures because it is the expression of His infinite perfection." (Charles Hodge, pg.148)

Mankind was created in the image and likeness of God. Therefore, since He has will, we also have will
(1 Cor.11:7; Jas.3:9; Gen.1:26-27). "For whoever does the will of God, he is My brother and sister and mother." (Mark 3:35)

Satan's Will: Satan's will has stood in opposition to God's will since eternity past (Isa.14:12-15). Note the 5 "I wills" of Satan: "And they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, having been held captive by him to do his will." (2 Tim.2:26)

Human Will: Mankind created in the image of God has volition (free will). The other two spheres influence human will (Luke 12:27; 2 Pet.1:21/ Adam and Eve). “And he released the man they were asking for who had been thrown into prison for insurrection and murder, but he delivered Jesus to their will.” (Luke 23:25)

3. The humanity of Jesus Christ had free will to submit or reject the will of God (Luke 22:42).

Angels were created perfect, with volition and Satan rejected the will of God (Isa.14:12-15; Ezek.28:11-17).

Adam and Eve were created perfect in their humanity, with volition but they rejected the will of God (Gen.3; Rom.5:12).

Jesus was born perfect in His humanity (minus an OSN and AOS) but with volition (Luke 2:41-52; John 5:30; 6:38-40) submitted to the will of God (Luke 22:42; Heb.10:5-9; Phil.2:8).

4. There is a formula in the plan of God for the function of the will of God: the word of God leads to the will of God that leads to the work of God.

The believer has to know the word of God to do the will of God in order to complete the work of God. “My food is to do (poieo) the will (thelema) of Him who sent Me and to accomplish (teleuo/ complete) His work.” (John 4:34)

This formula is accomplished by the faith cycle. “You see that faith was working with his works, and as a result of the works, faith was completed.” (Jas.2:22)

“My teaching is not mine, but His who sent Me. If (3cc - maybe will be, maybe won't be) any man is willing (thelo) to do (poieo) His will (to thelema), he shall know of the teaching, whether it is of God, or whether I speak from Myself.” (John 7:16-17)

5. There are three categories of the will of God that are essential in the plan of God: geographical will; operational will; and the mental will.

- **Geographical will of God** establishes where God desires the believer to do His will. (Matt.6:10; Jonah 4:1-2).
- **Operational will of God** establishes what God desires the believer to do in the geographical will. (Jas.4:14-15; Jonah 4:2; 1 Thess.5:12-22/ count them!).
- **Mental will of God** establishes what God desires the believer to think doctrinally regarding the geographical and operational wills of God (Jonah 3:1-4; 4:2; Luke 22:42).

These three must always line –up with every decision regarding God’s will.

6. There are three classifications of the will of God in the plan of God: directive will; permissive will; and over-ruling will.

These three must never be in conflict with each other (apply these three to Jonah).

- **The directive will of God** is His revealed choices for the believer’s life (Heb.11:11-19; John 13:34-35; 1 John 3:23).
- **The permissive will of God** allows free will to chose against the directive will but not without consequences (Gen.2:16-17; 3:11-19; Jonah). God may permit what He forbids because of the permissive will of God, i.e. personal sin (Jas.3:13-15). God doesn’t decree the believer to commit personal sin but He does decree confession. (1 John 1:9).
- **The over-ruling will of God** supercedes all other categories and classifications of divine wills (Abraham - Gen.22; Heb.11:17-19; Jas.2:21-24) (Cain kills the heir to Messiah and God doesn’t prevent it or over-rule it – why? Omniscience has Seth in mind (Luke 3:38). That is why it is called GOD’S PLAN (2 Pet.1:20-21).

However God doesn’t permit anyone to directly interfere with the outcome of the plan of God (Acts 5:1-10; 1 John 5:16) (Abraham – Gen.12:10-20).