

Living in the WILL OF GOD

Discovering God's plan and will for you

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All scriptures used are NKJV unless otherwise noted

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Summary: What is our Father's will for us? How do we know? How are we sure that we're doing His will? How important is it that we be doing HIS will and not our will? How do we discover his general will? How about specific decisions we have to make? How do we discover his will on those? This is a very, very important sermon and I hope each of you will get a lot out of it.

Note: I often refer to our heavenly father as "Abba", the Aramaic for "Daddy", just as Yeshua did. And I refer to our Messiah by his given name – Yeshua, Savior. And where our Bibles in OT say "the LORD", I often write out the original name written – YHVH, or Yahweh.

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Warm shalom to all of you from Orlando, Florida.

Wouldn't it be nice to know what God's will is for you? I don't mean just generally – that you accept Yeshua as your Savior and that you be saved – but I mean specifically. Wouldn't it be awesome to once in a while have an angel appear to you and tell you what God wants you to know? How about in our everyday struggles and decisions: do I stay in this job, or find another? Do I move across the country or stay here? Do I get this operation or just wait for complete healing from God? Which of these fine women should I marry (assuming they all would have you! Ha!)? Should we try for a child now or later? Should we have another child? We cry out, "Please Almighty – can you help us out with some answers?"

Don't you ever feel like that?

And for that matter, other than maybe easily saying – "I'll see you tomorrow night, *God willing*" – do we actively and consciously *seek* His will, His mind and His direction for our lives? Are you? I think we should be!

As usual this sermon started as my own corrective study to get me to be sure I'm consciously living in the will of my Maker as never before, going forward. What follows are a few of the things I've learned in my prayer and study on it. Even we who serve in ministry can struggle with the daily application of this concept.

Another question: Is God even really all that involved in the day to day details of our lives? Is He? Are you sure? I'll answer that one right now: YES, he is.

Our Savior Yeshua said, and I don't think he was kidding, that not even a sparrow can fall to the ground without Abba's permissive will first, and if he knows about the lives of every single little wild bird, do you not think he knows you're struggling with severe pain, or wondering why your house won't sell or wondering what you'll do now that you're laid off? Yes, he knows, and YES, he cares, and YES he would love to be involved in your life. And – if you are among those being called

today – Yahweh IS involved in your life, your thoughts, your hopes and dreams and your frustrations!

Some of you won't agree with me, but then how do you explain that verse about a sparrow falling to the ground only within the Father's will? I've heard sermons that dis the idea that God could care whether this or that happens in your life, or if your little boy does well at his at-bat in Little League, or if your little girl sings her solo real well at the talent show tonight. Well, I disagree. I think if things concern us, our awesome Father loves you and adores your children – yeah, even the older ones who have gotten themselves into big troubles – and does get involved in your and their lives.

So I start with the premise of Yeshua's words:

Matthew 10:29-31

“Are not two sparrows sold for a copper coin? And not one of them falls to the ground apart from your Father's will. But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Do not fear therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows.”

Did you hear that? You're more valuable than sparrows; little birds He seems to know all about. And he knows so much about you and me that he can instantly tell you how many hairs you have on your head. Now that's getting into the tiniest details of our lives, isn't it? In Matthew 6:26 the Son of God teaches us that our Father feeds the birds of the air and clothes the lilies of the field - and we are far more valuable – so why worry? We're in his will!

Remember all the verses about – for example – not muzzling an ox while it treads the grain? Do you ever feel like *you're* on a treadmill going nowhere, and barely able to feed yourself and family? Good news – if God cares enough to be sure food is provided for an ox, he does care for you too. But you've got to *see* Him in this and seek His will!

Another comment – and the reason I'm going thru this is to make sure you know that when you seek Abba's will, **God Most High himself wants to be involved and wants the best for you. He's not just delegating everything to angels. Otherwise, again, why would a spare fall only within the FATHER'S will?**

Now let's kick it up a notch!

YAHWEH Most High has a PLAN for His Children and YOU

If you have God's Holy Spirit, YOU are a child of the Highest. Think of the children of Prince Charles: his sons, imperfect as they have been at times, are going through a rigorous list of experiences to they are prepared to be captains of leadership as they get older. They've been taught the arts, the languages, how to play polo as they ride horses professionally, how to command in the military and fly attack helicopters. They were sent to Afghanistan to experience all that too... all as part of the grand plan of preparing them to someday be ready to rule on the throne of England.

How much MORE would you think GOD'S children --you and I -- are being put thru – to be prepared to grow up, to grow into the image of God, and to be ready to rule with Yeshua the King of Kings? But before we can reign with our Messiah, we have to be humbled, prepared, refined and toughened up in areas and made more mellow and kinder in other areas.

Here's an example: You know the Bible speaks often of the spiritual implications of **wine and bread**. Yeshua was both – HE was the wine and HE is the bread. You don't get wine without brutally crushing the grapes first. Similarly we don't get bread without first crushing the wheat and barley first – removing the hull and the chaff, and then pulverizing the “meat” of the wheat until it becomes flour. Christ went through all that.

Now we are IN Christ. I have a series of sermons on what it means to be “In Him”; it's quite the concept. We have to go through a lot too before we'll have been refined as fine gold and pure silver, as fine wine or great bread. But everything happening to you is a part of His awesome plan, or if we have veered off for a while, HE can make it right and still make all of that a part of your growing experience.

David said something so profound about this:

Psalms 139:13-16

For You formed my inward parts; You covered me in my mother's womb.
14 I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made;
Marvelous are Your works, And that my soul knows very well.
15 My frame was not hidden from You, When I was made in secret,
And skillfully wrought in the lowest parts of the earth.
16 Your eyes saw my substance, being yet unformed.
**And in Your book they all were written, The days fashioned for me,
When as yet there were none of them.**

We can't leave our Abba's awareness! Like parents of a newborn baby, who monitor his/her room, our Abba is doing much more.

Psalms 139:1-12

“YHVH, You have searched me and known me. [Yahweh knows all about you.]
2 You know my sitting down and my rising up; You understand my thought afar off.
3 You comprehend my path and my lying down, And are acquainted with all my ways.
4 For there is not a word on my tongue, But behold, YHVH, You know it altogether.
5 You have hedged me behind and before, And laid Your hand upon me.
6 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; It is high, I cannot attain it.

7 Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence?
8 If I ascend into heaven, You are there; If I make my bed in hell [THE GRAVE], behold,
You are there.
9 If I take the wings of the morning, And dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,
10 Even there Your hand shall lead me, And Your right hand shall hold me.
11 If I say, "Surely the darkness shall fall on me," Even the night shall be light about me;
12 Indeed, the darkness shall not hide from You, But the night shines as the day;
The darkness and the light are both alike to You.”

Children of God, when there are dark days, or “night-times in your life”, when you feel all alone far out at sea, as it were – GOD knows, and you're in HIS plan. *The hard part is for us to accept that He who has so much power makes us go through so much when He could make our life so much easier.* But then we won't grow in the direction He needs us to.

Even a **butterfly** emerging from its cocoon needs to be allowed to struggle – to toughen it up. If you help it out of its cocoon, I understand that it will never fly. Our Abba does so much for us, but He also lets us struggle, for our good. In the struggling we also develop more faith and trust in Him and learn to look to Him for his answers.

Yes, God has a PLAN for you, a WILL for you as His child -- but it's up to us to get in synch with Him and His will for us. *But instead, we often ask him to please accomplish what WE want so badly.* “May *our* will be what you make come to pass” we pray, instead of “THY will be done, on earth, as it is in heaven.”

Surely Abba has a plan for the Bride of Yeshua

If you are among the first fruit being called and sealed with the Holy Spirit, you are even being groomed to be part of the Bride of the Messiah, the Wife of the Son of God.

So just as our Father has plans (call it his “will”) for His children, in the same way He has a will/plans – for the Bride of His Son. My point is: don't think God's plan/will for you is just general. If you are part of his family, and part of the Bride of Christ, He is preparing you and me for something our mind can barely conceive. And it will be very specific.

Think: how much thought and fore-planning goes into the wedding? ANY wedding? How about the grandest wedding the universe will have ever seen? If you're to be in it, you're in His detailed and intimate plans for His Son's wedding.

If you're like me, we lost sight of this too often. But we've got to start remembering this.

How much thought did you put towards your fiancée before you got married? Are you getting the point? You wanted to be very aware of your sweetheart's joys and frustrations and you had great plans! *The difference between our plans for our marriage, and God's plans for His Son's marriage, is that He has the power and resources to make His plans come true!*

We have a **new puppy English Springer** spaniel. She's only 11 weeks old as I record this, but here's this little dog and I'm watching her constantly. OK, granted, it's partly so I know she isn't going to leave “doggy land mines” in the house... but it's also because I'm concerned about what she's about to chew on, or what trouble she can get into. Surely, surely, YOU – and I – are more prized than a mere lap dog by our Maker, as he prepares you to marry His Son, the king of kings! Surely YOU are on His mind a lot. That's the point. He has a plan for you.

So – big point: KNOW you are in the Almighty's thoughts, know that you matter to Him, know that He cares deeply for you and wants to be involved in your life. You and I should constantly be inviting Him ever more into our lives. We should be praying – “Abba, dear Father, please reveal to me your will in all areas of my life. Show yourself strong in my life. Please be actively involved with my children, with our marriage, with our job, with our finances. Please dear Abba, our great Father, teach me to be living in your plans for me, in your will, and not ours.”

Frankly everything in Satan's world mitigates against this. We are told things like:

- **“If it’s to be, it’s up to me.”** Totally wrong for God’s children. No, if it’s to be, it’s with God’s blessing and in his will – and yes, we also will have to do our part, but only after we start by inviting God Most High to reign in our lives.
- **“If I can dream it, I can achieve it.”** There’s some truth to that, but again, the focus with that statement is on ourselves, rather than on Yahweh.

And in doing so, we leave Father out! I believe Abba in heaven has a very deep and personal and wonderful PLAN for us. It’s called His WILL for us and our lives. But He also lets us have free choice. So the children of God can choose to be living in his will or out of his will. If you want more verification of that, check out my blog on “Is God’s will always done on earth?” Why pray “thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven” – if His will is what we always see happening around us?

Isaiah 48:17-19

Thus says YHVH, your Redeemer, The Holy One of Israel:

"I am YHWH your Elohim (God),

Who teaches you to profit,

Who leads you by the way you should go.

18 Oh, that you had heeded My commandments! [they obviously didn't.]

Then your peace would have been like a river,

And your righteousness like the waves of the sea.

19 Your descendants also would have been like the sand,

And the offspring of your body like the grains of sand;

His name would not have been cut off, nor destroyed from before Me."

Sometimes Yahweh does allow people to resist his will; other times he is absolutely resolute that nothing and nobody will withstand him. Here’s an example:

Luke 7:30

“But the Pharisees and lawyers *rejected the will of God for themselves*, not having been baptized by him” (John the Baptist).

There are other examples:

- Yeshua cried over Jerusalem saying he wanted to protect them as a mother hen does her chicks, “but you were not willing” – Matthew 23:34-35.
- He was not able to do but a few healings in Nazareth – healings Yeshua wanted to do – because of *their* unbelief. Mark 6:5-6; Matthew 13:57-58.

So God’s perfect will can never be withstood. But his permissive will – is what he allows us to do outside of what would have been a better way.

This sermon is about getting in line with the Way and the Plan that Father would love you to have.... If you’d just be willing to submit and let him prepare you.

The Almighty has predestined certain ones to be called now. The others are not predestined to hell fire, as some Reformers taught, but rather will have their time of being called later – as is revealed in God’s holy days. Those being called now are being called to discover God’s will for their lives. But He is so loving, that even when we veer off his plan, He can still work things out for good for those who love him, and who are called according to His PURPOSE (**Romans 8:28**).

He has a PURPOSE and a WILL laid out for you if you are among the “elect” – the called out, chosen ones today. Sometimes we kick against his goading – as Paul (Saul) originally did. Remember what Yeshua said to him on the road to Damascus? “Saul, Saul, why do you kick against the pricks?”. In other words, “Why do you keep resisting my goading I’ve been putting you through”? I’ve been giving you.” **Acts 10:3-6.**

But Yeshua will FINISH what He started in you (Philippians 1:6) unless you become absolutely reprobate and permanently resist the working of God’s spirit in you (Hebrews 6:4-6).

Commit your plans to *GOD’S WILL*

So what do we do? We write down our goals, make plans, prepare the steps to achieve our goals – and those are fine as far as they go, but don’t keep God out of your plans. Start your planning and goal-setting by first beseeching God to guide you as your put goals and dreams into writing.

James 4:13-16

Come now, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a city, spend a year there, buy and sell, and make a profit"; 14 whereas you do not know what will happen tomorrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away. **15 Instead you ought to say, "If the Lord wills, we shall live and do this or that."** 16 But now you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil.”

How often do we proclaim what we will do, or will to do – without submitting it first and always to the will of our Father in Heaven and to our Lord and Master Yeshua, or Jesus the Christ. We announce to ourselves and others that we are going to buy this or that house, or move to this or that city, or get this or that job, or marry this or that person --all while forgetting to turn the decision over to Abba to show us HIS will. So we should add, “...if God wills it.”

Living in God’s will also means we will be striving to live by His revealed WAY of life, called “the WAY” throughout Scripture (Acts 9:2; 18:25-26, etc). And instantly we also know, that if we are actively seeking our Father’s will – we won’t be casually moving into one sin after another. When we live like that, we certainly are living OUTSIDE the will of Yahweh Most High.

Are we regularly, diligently, seeking GOD’s will?

So we pray for His will to be shown. ***But what do most of us do – if we’re honest with ourselves?*** We have a really good opportunity – maybe a great job, a great house we’re looking to buy, or a major family move, maybe a chance for a promotion at work or we’re hoping this really wonderful lady you’ve met will end up being your wife (assuming you’re single!), – and so we pray...how? We pray “Father, this opportunity has opened up. I’m sure it must be from you. Please make it happen.”

In effect, instead of saying “Thy will be done”, we’re saying, “Please give me MY heart’s desire and please make this good thing happen”.

Am I wrong? Isn’t that what we do? Think now... can’t you think of many instances where that’s exactly what you and I do? And I tell you, when we pray like that, we’re not seeking God’s will, but begging the Almighty to bring to pass what WE want.

Am I wrong? Don't we often pray "this is what *I'd* LOVE to see happen. Please make it happen." Come on, you know we all do! Rather than praying, "I trust you, I love you and I submit to your will. If you want this to happen, then so be it. If you have something else in mind, help me joyfully submit my will to yours. I want what you want in my life, to be what happens."

But when we pray the wrong way, and what we prayed for doesn't happen, then we feel like we must have sinned, or God doesn't like us or hear our prayers, or that somehow we're outside the will of God. And we get depressed.

Instead of all that negativity (and I'm still trying to learn this), we have to learn that as Romans 8:28 says, ALL things are working together for GOOD for those who are the called and who love God. Are you called? Do you love God? Then everything will work together for good... sometimes it takes years to see it, but you'll see it someday.

Think of the peace of mind and joy we would be experiencing to just had faith that no matter what we see happening around us – God is working out His plan and His will in our lives. Even if there is continued pain and suffering, He wants us to trust Him.

So we need to learn to ACCEPT, and RELAX, and SUBMIT to the will of God in our lives when we have: INVITED him in, asked for his direction, fasted and prayed about Him showing HIS will, and thanking and praising him in ADVANCE of seeing the answers.

Let me give an example: We used to live in the state of Washington. About 6-7 years ago, we put our home up for sale because there were 3 problems we saw looming that would not be problems if we could just sell the house. Well, the house didn't sell. We didn't even get a real "nibble". And guess what? None of the problems we foresaw ever materialized. Our Abba knew better and so the house didn't move. In fact, our realtor died! No kidding. How's that for a shut door!?

Then 2-1/2 years ago, for various reasons we thought it was clear God wanted us to move to FL, but I didn't hear any voice of an angel, so we committed it to God. We prayed that if Abba didn't want us to move, that he would slam shut any doors and it would not go smoothly; that the house wouldn't sell and it would be clear we were *not* to move. But we also prayed if HE wanted us to move, that He would make it so clear by letting the house sell quickly. Even though the average cycle for a house to sell in our neighborhood was 5-6 months at the time, *ours sold in 9 days*. In FL it repeated itself: though we had looked at many homes on the internet, within days of arriving in FL we found an affordable dream home – a great home for the money; within days!

Seek God's will by fasting and prayer

If we're really seeking God's will in our lives, we not only will invite him to show us his will, but we will lay things out in intensive prayer and fasting. Especially in those times of severe trial – like your life is at stake, or a job on the line, or a serious health issue that could end in death or trauma... those are times to seek Him with intense prayer and fasting. But again, not telling him what WE want, but inviting him to work something way beyond we could even imagine!

- The early church sought God's will by fasting – and God's spirit revealed they were to send Saul (Paul) and Barnabas into the mission field **Acts 13:1-3**.

When was the last time you sought God's will – not telling him what *you* would like, but asking him to reveal *his* will—when was the last time, in prayer and fasting? God's will has been revealed many

times after periods of fasting. It was while **Cornelius** was fasting that an angel told him God had heard and was revealing His will -- to call for Peter. In the "old days", ministers weren't even selected or ordained until they had first fasted over the issue (Acts 14:23). Do we still do this today? Just asking.

- King **David** fasted for his sick child (**2 Samuel 12:16-23**) and when God allowed the child to die, he graciously accepted it! He began to eat and then worshipped! And look what happened as a result (more on that later).
- **Ezra** and his group fasted on their way back to Israel "that we might humble ourselves before our Elohim, *to seek from Him the right WAY for us* and our little ones and all our possessions." (Ezra 8:21-23).
- **Esther** fasted and prayed – and submitted the results to the Almighty (Esther 4:16), with her famous line, "And if I die, I die." She accepted God's will could be something other than what she might have picked.

One more thing: Even though this is Satan's world, YOU are God's child. Satan can't do ANYTHING to you without permission from God. And yes, sometimes He does grant that permission – as in the story of **Job**. Or even in the story of Balaam: God allowed him to go to Moab and King Balak but told him he could not curse Israel. So God put parameters on him.

Time and Chance?

There IS time and chance – **Ecclesiastes 9:11** – but *when it comes to God's children*, I personally find it hard to believe that major things happening in our lives are just time and chance. How would that square with the statement about how not a single sparrow falls outside of Father's will or awareness? Is it possible your child could be hit by a car -- outside of God's will, but a sparrow can't fall outside of God's will?

I personally believe that God does allow "time and chance" to happen to those He is not yet working closely with. But when it comes to the Bride of His Son and to His children, it's impossible for me to see that God is ever caught off guard by anything that happens to us. Abba's children are predestined, according to the counsel of His will (Ephesians 1:11). When Yahweh wants to do something, nothing and nobody can stop him (Daniel 4:35; Lamentations 3:37-38). On your own read a very fascinating passage in 1 Samuel 2:3-10, a powerful PRAYER from the strong woman Hannah, mother of Samuel. Be sure to read it.

******Here's an example: Our first son died 33 years ago.** Another minister told me "Time and chance happens to all, Philip". But when I read **Romans 8:28** – that for the called according to God's purpose, ALL THINGS work together for good – I couldn't accept that God turned his head for an instant and then was surprised that our son had died. No sir, I can't believe that. God knew it was going to happen, God allowed it, God was in it, God may have even caused it – but it doesn't matter: God was in it. *Otherwise the statement about the sparrows makes no sense! How could he know the number of hairs I have – and yet not have been aware that my son needed to breathe?*

I'm a child of God. You and I are being groomed to be the Bride of the Son of the Highest. HE knows everything about me BEFORE it happens, AS it happens, and AFTER it happens. EVERYTHING. That's what scripture says. And He promises He will NEVER EVER forsake us or

leave us. No, NEVER, not EVER (Hebrews 13:5). So in all the things we go through, we can have the perfect peace of knowing He is there in the fire of trial WITH us! He will never forsake us.

Come to KNOW God's perfect will for you

Romans 12:1-2

"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. 2 And do not be conformed to this world, but **be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.**"

As we seek God's word, as we pray diligently, as we transform from what we once were to what God has called us to be – God's will becomes clearer and clearer to us.

Where I'm personally trying to go with all this is to be a seeker of God's will – first thing every day. No, I'm not there yet. But I'm finding that if I pray and commit myself to HIS will, and ask our dear Abba to show me HIS will for me, I find myself being less tempted. I don't give in to sin so easily. Why? Because someone living in God's will is going to want to be submissive, obedient, and faithful to everything in His Word, as we live The Way of God.

The life we now live becomes a new way for us. It's "THE Way", and called that all through the book of Acts especially (Acts 9:2; Acts 18:25-26; 24:14, 22). And remember Yeshua says HE is The Way (John 14:6). So as we submit to Him, He'll show us the Way to live. His Way.

How important is it to live in God's will for you?

1. YAH IS SEEKING PEOPLE WHO WILL SUBMIT TO HIM TO DO HIS WILL.

ONLY those who seek the will of God the Father in their lives will even be in the kingdom of heaven.

Matthew 7:21

"Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven."

God's will is revealed in His Word. Those who confess Christ but continue the sinful way of life, won't be in the kingdom (verses 22-23). Our Messiah will say, "I never knew you, you workers of iniquity (lawlessness)".

ONLY those who seek God's will shall live forever.

1 John 2:15-17

"Do not love the world or the things in the world. [we are to love the PEOPLE while despising the ways of this world.] If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16 For ALL that is in the world — the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life — is not of the Father but is of the world. 17 And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever."

It's more than just knowing God's will. We keep reading that it's those who DO the will of the Father in heaven who will enter the kingdom of heaven and live forever.

Psalms 143:10

“Teach me to do YOUR will, FOR You are my God; Your Spirit is good. Lead me in the land of uprightness.”

David is saying that if we understand what it means for Yahweh to be our GOD, our Elohim, we will always be wanting to please HIM, to do HIS will -- and TRUST his will.

Abba, our heavenly father/daddy, is seeking children to offer eternal life to. If you want eternal life, you will be doing God's will now. Many grew up in “the ME generation”, and the “If it feels good, do it” mentality. Today's world is all about “what I want”, not what anyone else or even God wants. We believers must not be a part of that mentality. But I'm saying we've probably absorbed far more of that than we want to admit.

Acts 13:22

And when He had removed him, He raised up for them David as king, to whom also He gave testimony and said, 'I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after My own heart, who will do all MY will.'

You are being raised up to be a king and priest under Yeshua the Messiah, and under King David in the coming Millennial reign. The criteria for being a king in God's kingdom is the same: someone who seeks and does God's will.

Look at what David says:

Psalms 40:8

I delight to do YOUR will, O my God, and Your law is within my heart."

Father's will for us is not a secret. He wants us to find it out in our lives.

Ephesians 5:17

“Therefore do not be unwise, but UNDERSTAND what the will of the Lord is.”

Hebrews 13:20-21

Now may the God of peace who brought up our Lord Jesus from the dead, that great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, **21 make you complete in every good work to do HIS will, (repeat) working in you what is well pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ,** to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.

2. WE ARE TO FOLLOW Christ, WHO PERFECTLY DID GOD'S WILL

David didn't actually always do God's will perfectly, did he? Remember the adultery with Bathsheba, the murder of her husband Uriah, the numbering of Israel against God's will, and other examples we could find. But Yeshua is coming to sit on the throne of David to set up the kingdom of God as a part of the ROOT and STEM of Jesse. Yeshua does do the will of the Father perfectly. Yeshua certainly set us the high-bar example of always seeking Father's will:

John 4:34

Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to finish His work.

John 5:30

“I can of Myself do nothing. As I hear, I judge; and My judgment is righteous, because I do not seek My own will but the will of the Father who sent Me.”

John 6:38-40

For I have come down from heaven, **not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me.** 39 This is the will of the Father who sent Me, that of all He has given Me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up at the last day. 40 And this is the will of Him who sent Me, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in Him may have everlasting life; and I will raise him up at the last day."

When faced with the actual prospect of being brutally beaten and scourged and then impaled on a tree or pole in crucifixion's horrors, even Yeshua wondered if there was some other way – but always still submitted.

Luke 22:41-42

And He was withdrawn from them about a stone's throw, and He knelt down and prayed, 42 saying, "Father, if it is Your will, take this cup away from Me; nevertheless not My will, but Yours, be done."

Lesson: *Even God's perfect will for us may NOT be what WE want in any given moment.* We may not want a child to die, but maybe – like David's son conceived in sin – it was God's will that he die. ***So don't get the idea that God's will for us will always be pleasant. It often times won't be! Every single one of the apostles except John were martyred brutally, for example, as was also God's own son. All within the will of Abba, God Most High.***

JOSEPH in Genesis – says, after being sold by his own brothers into slavery, and then be falsely accused and imprisoned for years – that everything he went thru was by Yahweh's design! You can read that in **Genesis 50:17-21**. "You meant it for evil, but Elohim meant it for GOOD." Wow, that's even seeing in retrospect that God's will may be playing out even in the midst of evil plots.

Now, back to Yeshua: everything that happened to Yeshua was foreordained and decreed to happen. He HAD to die for us. He was the Lamb of God His father. The Head of the house was the one who offers up the lamb for the household. God the Father ultimately was the one who killed Christ – because Christ was the LAMB OF GOD, and the head of house had to be the one to slay the lamb.

All of that is clearly described in Isaiah 53.

Isaiah 53:4 – "... Smitten by God and afflicted."

v. 6 "...and YHVH has laid on Him the iniquity of us all."

v.10- "Yet it pleased YHVH to bruise Him; HE has put Him to grief. When you make his soul an offering for sin..."

In Acts 2:23 – in Peter's sermon on the day of Pentecost, Peter says about Yeshua's crucifixion, "HIM, *being delivered by the determined purpose and foreknowledge of God,* YOU have taken by lawless hands and have crucified..." That was fore-ordained from the foundation of the world (1 Peter 1:20).

Acts 4:27-28

"For truly against Your holy Servant Jesus, whom You anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles and the people of Israel, were gathered together 28 ***to do whatever Your hand and Your purpose determined before to be done.***"

When we put ourselves into God's hands, and into God's will, we should be at greater peace knowing that whatever is happening – even the bad stuff – will work out for good, is in God's control, is for HIS purpose – and submit to it. So Paul was able to say that he could do all things through Christ who strengthened him. He could say that he could be at peace whether in want or in plenty. And Paul taught us to Rejoice and praise in and during and even FOR the trials we have. (See/hear my sermon on "Praising God before we see His answers").

God will reveal more of His personal will for you if we submit to the revealed will first

Here's an example: Look at what's happening in society today: there is a growing hatred of authority. There are bumper stickers "Question authority". We see kids and teenagers willing to assault their teachers in school, or fight and disobey and disregard orders from police. Everyone is protesting everything, every time we look around – or so it seems sometimes.

When was the last time you heard a good strong sermon about submitting yourself to authority? Or to submit to Christ as your head? Or when did you last hear a good strong sermon about wives submitting to their husbands, just as the church is supposed to submit to Christ as their head? You probably haven't heard a sermon on that recently because it's not politically correct to say a godly wife is to submit to her husband. Well, I'm saying it! And of course we husbands are to give of ourselves and love our wife like Yeshua gave of himself and loves his wife, the church, forgiving her, dying for her, serving her, and looking out for her! We husbands have to submit to our orders too: LOVE that wife of yours, just as Christ gave himself for his bride, the church – period.

I'm preaching at myself, first and foremost, as I sometimes find this very hard to do. But scripture is clear what God's word is on this matter, what his will is.

Seeking God's will is not just a platitude, but a SUBMITTING of yourself to HIM. When we claim Jesus (Yeshua) is our LORD and Master – IS he? Is HE REALLY your LORD and master in all aspects of your life? Are you really submitted to him? Do we really submit all facets of our lives to him?

HUSBANDS, what about it? Wives, what about it? Are we all going to submit to our orders? The fact is, ONE reason divorce runs so high, even in the church, is that we are NOT willing to submit to God's will or God's orders. God says he HATES divorce (Malachi 2:16) and putting away a spouse, except for sexual sin – but how many people give up too soon on their marriage instead of submitting to God's will on it?

Malachi 2:13-16

And this is the second thing you do:

You cover the altar of YHVH with tears, With weeping and crying;

So He does not regard the offering anymore, Nor receive it with goodwill from your hands.

14 Yet you say, "For what reason?"

Because YHVH has been witness **Between you and the wife of your youth,**

With whom you have dealt treacherously;

Yet she is your companion And your wife by covenant.

15 But did He not make them one, Having a remnant of the Spirit?

And why one? He seeks godly offspring.

Therefore take heed to your spirit,

And let none deal treacherously with the wife of his youth.

16 "For YHVH God of Israel says that He hates divorce,

For it covers one's garment with violence," says YHVH of hosts.

"Therefore take heed to your spirit, That you do not deal treacherously."

3. **ONLY those seeking the Father's will shall be considered brothers/sisters of Yeshua. ALL God's children are seeking Father's desires, in other words.**

Mark 3:33-35

But He answered them, saying, "Who is My mother, or My brothers?" 34 And He looked around in a circle at those who sat about Him, and said, "Here are My mother and My brothers! 35 For **whoever does the will of God is My brother and My sister and mother.**"

4. **We receive the promises ONLY AFTER we've done God's will.**

Hebrews 10:35-36

Therefore do not cast away your confidence, which has great reward. 36 For you have need of endurance, **so that after you have done the will of God, you may receive the promise.**" [Then he goes on to say we must live by faith even if it looks like He is delaying.]

GOD'S WILL for you REVEALED; first some general points

Would you like to know what God's will is? First in general terms – he actually tells us in His Word. Actually, in a nutshell, God's will is revealed by his word! He tells us what he is like, what he thinks like, what is good and what is bad in his eyes, and how he works. He says quite a lot, really. So we should be studying his word so we can glean the mind of God and his will via this study.

I'm afraid, though, that many of you hearing this – and many more who aren't hearing this – spend far more time in Face Book than in God's word. How about you? What does that say about what is most important to us? Just saying...

But generally God's word tells us what his priorities are. We know the 10 commandments show us how to love God and how to love man. So for starters, following God's word, is in general terms, walking in his will.

For example, **1 Thess 4:3** says, **"This is the will of God, even your sanctification, that you should abstain from sexual immorality."**

But today there are endless movies aimed at our youth about how to lose your virginity, and how wonderful fornication is! And countless more about adultery, lust, aberrant sex – everything except what God says! When we watch THOSE kinds of movies, what are we saying to our Maker?

1 Peter 4:1-4

Therefore, since Christ suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same mind, for he who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin, **2 that he no longer should live the rest of his time in the flesh for the lusts of men, but for the will of God.** 3 For we have spent enough of our past lifetime in doing the will of the Gentiles — when we walked in lewdness, lusts, drunkenness, revelries, drinking parties, and abominable idolatries.

- **HE WANTS to grant everlasting life to as many as will accept Yeshua.**
John 6:39-40

This is the will of the Father who sent Me, that of all He has given Me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up at the last day. 40 And this is the will of Him who sent Me, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in Him may have everlasting life; and I will raise him up at the last day."

Yes, it's Father's will that you accept His Son and be saved. He is more concerned that you be with Him for eternity, than He is that we have a smooth ride in this life.

- **No matter what is happening to us by society, His will is for us to be doing good.**
1 Peter 2:15-17

“For this is the will of God, that by doing good you may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men — as free, yet not using liberty as a cloak for vice, but as bondservants of God. Honor all people. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the king.”

- **Generally, God's will is that we be in good health and prosper.**
3 John 2 —“...that you may prosper in all things and be in health...”

Claim that verse in prayer and ask Him to heal a lingering illness. When a leper told Yeshua he believed Yeshua could cleanse his leprosy and make him whole, Yeshua's answer was “I AM willing” (**Matthew 8:1-2**). God is still generally willing to heal you and prosper you if you commit yourself in faith fully to him. There will be specific times and cases where His will is going to be that you be allowed this trial (as in Paul's “thorn in the flesh” he had to bear).

- **Abba's will is for us to learn to be grateful and express thanks no matter what He's allowing.**
1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, **in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.**

- **TRUE apostles and ministers are there by God's will. But there are imposters too!**
Ephesians 1:1 —“Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus **by the will of God**....”

Take heart. Maybe you look at your life up until now, as I often do myself, and wonder why I've not been more responsive to God's will in my life. IF you're still breathing, there's time to repent, time to get in line with God's will.

- **Sometimes God's will is that we suffer for him. God's will is not always pleasant.**
1 Peter 3:17

“For it is better, if it is the will of God, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil.’ (That's repeated in 1 Peter 4:17-19).

In the very last days, it's going to be far, far worse, and it won't be confined “over there” in Iraq and Syria where so many Christians are being killed for their faith. It will come to you and to me and we will have to be willing to suffer for being a Christian or for our beliefs as well. It IS coming. Are you ready for that?

- **God's will is what is directing the overall flow of events of world history – even though this is Satan's age and world.** We don't always understand it, but God says in the end He is shaping things – even calamities – especially the big events that are affecting world history.

Job 42:2

"I know that you can do all things, and that no purpose of Yours can be thwarted."

When we are children of God, we can have peace that he IS aware of everything happening to us, and about to happen. I can have peace with that. Even the "bad stuff" that happens in our lives, if we live in the will of God, we have to have faith that in the end, all things DO work together for good, as Romans 8:28 says. Remember, the just shall live by faith. When it's tough and rough, that's when our faith is most strongly tested.

Isaiah 45:7

"I form the light and create darkness, **I make peace and create calamity; I, YHVH, do all these things.'**

Remember that it's in the tough times that we are building faith and trust, building character, and building total trust in our wonderful Abba, who sees the end from the beginning.

There's much more that can be said about the will of God. Let's wrap it up with some of these comments about discovering the MORE SPECIFIC will of God for you.

**Discovering Abba's more SPECIFIC will for you
(this last part is somewhat different from the audio)**

I wrote a blog titled, "Is God's will always done on earth?" Please look it up. Certainly if Yahweh decides on something, it is sure to happen. He even decrees the end from the beginning. But He also allows for free choice, free moral agency. So though he has his own PERFECT will, he does allow us to choose – up to a point, at least - a way that would not be his perfect will. That becomes his "permissive will". There are so many examples of this.

That's why Yeshua taught us to pray "Thy will be done on earth, even as it is in heaven". God's will is always done in heaven, where He is surrounded by perfectly obedient and submissive angelic powers. But here on earth, it's still Satan's domain, and so MUCH of what goes on is not what God would want, nor would he allow – once Yeshua reigns.

WE, as God's children, must find God's perfect will.

- **Beware of false ministers who purport to have been given God's word for you – especially if they want your money.** (We have never asked for money in the sermons on this website). See **Isaiah 8:20**. If they speak against anything in God's word or law, run from them. God tells us he usually has NOT spoken to people who claim to have heard his voice or his will (Please read Jeremiah 23:21-22; 14:14-15).
- **TEST THE SPIRITS. God will is never going to direct us to do something contrary to his word.**

Now obviously, sometimes God DOES speak through a minister or prophet and as we test the spirits, we should be able to discern this. If money is involved, beware, though. But there are true prophets and prophetesses. Agabus told Paul that he would be bound -- and he was, for example.

- **God's spirit apparently prays for us "according to God's will" even when we don't know how to properly express things.** Sometimes you just have a broken heart and can't express much. God's spirit is expressing God's will for you. I find this most comforting and assuring.

Romans 8:27

"Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the **saints according to the will of God.**"

- **INVITE GOD – in prayer and FASTING -- to direct your steps and SHOW YOU HIS will.**

ASK and you shall receive, right? So ASK Father to reveal what HE wants in your life's decisions. GOD'S WILL FOR YOU IS NOT A SECRET. This will apply whether it's about the right choice for a spouse, partner, job, having more kids – anything.

Psalm 25:14 – "the secret of YHVH is with those who fear him."

Proverbs 16:9—A man's heart plans his way, but YHVH directs his steps.

Be sure to PRAY about options you have open.

- **When you aren't sure what God would want, certainly share your heart's desire with God in heaven.** Then always add, "but not my will, but yours be done". Especially if your ways are pleasing to Him, He just might give you the desires of your heart.

Psalms 37:4-5

"Delight yourself also in YHVH, And He shall give you the desires of your heart.

Commit your way to YHVH, Trust also in Him, And He shall bring it to pass"

- **Ask Almighty God to open doors he wants you to walk through – and to slam doors He does not want you to walk through.** Expect answered prayer though. Some doors may well slam tight. Be thankful for that direction from Abba – even if it was an option YOU wanted.

Paul – wanting to go to this or that place – was blocked by God's spirit, somehow. It just didn't work out. I'm sure Paul was asking for direction – and He got answers by doors slamming shut, or coming open.

Acts 16:6-10

Now when they had gone through Phrygia and the region of Galatia, **they were forbidden by the Holy Spirit to preach the word in Asia.** 7 After they had come to Mysia, they tried to go into Bithynia, **but the Spirit did not permit them.** 8 So passing by Mysia, they came down to Troas. 9 And **a vision appeared to Paul in the night.** A man of Macedonia stood and pleaded with him, saying, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." 10 Now after he had seen the vision, immediately we sought to go to Macedonia, concluding that the Lord had called us to preach the gospel to them.

- **IF several options seem to remain open, and you want to know which is God's will -- Then follow the pathway that gives you the greatest PEACE in your heart.** If your heart is troubled going a certain direction, that probably is not of God.

Philippians 4:6-7

Be anxious for nothing, but in everything *by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving*, let your requests be made known to God; **and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.**

Colossians 3:15 – “Let the peace of God rule in your hearts....”

When my daughter here in FL was buying their most recent home, they found a house that seemed perfect, it had just been completely renovated, everything was new, it had a strong fence around it for her kids, there were a lot of extras, but she and we shared later how we did not feel a peace in our hearts. Though at first we tried to make it work, in the end, we had to follow the signal from God: no peace = this is not God's choice for you.

A few days later she found one that perfectly fit their budget, had an enormous room for the 4 boys, was right near a gorgeous lake – and everything came together very nicely as she submitted it to God's will.

So we've covered a lot of ground today and let's wrap it up with this:

“In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him **who works all things according to the counsel of his will**” (Eph. 1:11)

The last verse kind of sums everything up. God works all things for His purposes. That gives me great peace when things don't seem to be going the way *I* want them to—especially if I've committed all that to God.

I hope in this message you've seen more clearly that God has a plan for you, that plan is not a secret, It's his will for you and he wants you to discover it. There are general things He wishes and there are specific things He wishes. Invite him into your life. Ask him to open and shut doors. Ask him to give you great peace when you're walking down the right way of His will.

And then, as you walk through life, accept His will is being done – if you've prayed for it, and sought His will. Have the peace of mind that comes from knowing HE is in charge and HE is working everything to work TOGETHER for good. It's a broader picture He's working with.

Everything works for HIS purposes. I hope that gives you great peace—even in the times when things don't seem to be going your preferred route.

“ Father, teach us to submit to you and your will, to seek your will, and to discover your will and plan for each of our lives. Thank you for being in our lives and all that you have done.”

Until next time.... Walk in God's will.