

Fundamentals of the Faith

Lesson Ten: God's Will and Guidance

God is sovereign and has a purpose for all of His creation. He has a plan or "will" for each of us and we often make His will more difficult to respond to than it really is.

1. God's Will

- The Bible portrays two aspects of God's will. They are God's **_SOVEREIGN_** will and God's **_COMMANDED_** will.

God's Sovereign Will

In God's sovereignty, He has a plan that covers all aspects of creation and time. What does Isaiah 14:24, Isaiah 46:9-10 and Ephesians 1:11 tell us about God's sovereign will?
GOD'S SOVEREIGN WILL INVOLVES HIS ULTIMATE, COMPLETE CONTROL OVER EVERYTHING. NOTHING HAPPENS THAT WAS NOT IN GOD'S PLAN. HISTORY IS READLLY THE UNFOLDING OF GOD'S PURPOSES, WHICH HAPPENED EZACTLY AS HE PLANNED.

What is God's sovereign will in the following verses?

Philippians 1:6? **_GOD WILL COMPLETE THE GOOD WORK THAT HE STARTED IN ME_.**

Jeremiah 29:11? **_THAT I HAVE PEACE, A FUTURE AND A HOPE_.**

How should I respond to God's sovereign will?

Proverbs 3:5-6 **_I AM TO TRUST HIM AND NOT TRY TO FIGURE THINGS OUT ON MY OWN_.***

1 Peter 4:19 **_I AM TO DO GOOD AND COMMIT MYSELF TO GOD_.**

God's Commanded Will

God's commanded will is revealed throughout the Bible as laws or principles. It is that aspect of His will to which I am accountable.

What is God's commanded will in the following verses?

Matthew 22:37 **_I AM TO LOVE GOD WITH ALL ME HEART, ALL MY SOUL AND ALL MY MIND_.**

Matthew 22:39 **_I AM TO LOVE MY NEIGHBOR (ALL PEOPLE) AS I LOVE MYSELF_.**

Romans 12:2 **_I AM NOT TO BE CONFORMED TO THIS WORLD BUT I AM TO BE TRANSFORMED (COMPLETELY DIFFERENT ON THE OUTSIDE) BY THE RENEWING OF MY MIND THROUGH STUDY AND MEDITATION OF SCRIPTURE _.**

1 Thessalonians 5:18 **_I AM TO GIVE THANKS FOR EVERYTHING._**

How should I respond to God's commanded will?

Ephesians 5:17 **_I NEED TO UNDERSTAND WHAT GOD'S WILL IS_.**

Deuteronomy 11:1 **_I AM TO LOVE GOD, KEEP HIS CHARGE, HIS STATUES HIS JUSGMENTS AND HIS COMMANDMENTS_.**

Deuteronomy 29:29 **_I AM TO DO EVERYTHING THAT GOD TELLS ME TO DO_.**

Philippians 2:14 **_I AM TO DO EVERYTHING THAT GOD TELLS ME TO DO AND DO IT WITHOUT ANY "BUTS" OR "YEA-BUTS"_.**

2. God's Guidance

Because of His great love, God has predestined, called, justified, and will glorify all believers. He also guides us. The Bible uses words like "lead" (to shepherd; to bear or carry), "guide" (to show; to help understand) and "direct" (to establish; to make straight) to describe His guidance.

There are two ways that God's guidance is shown in the Bible. They are **_DIRECT_** guidance and **_INDIRECT_** guidance.

Direct guidance was experienced during the Old Testament and early New Testament time periods. It included **_SPOKEN REVELATION FROM GOD_, _VISIONS_, _DREAMS_ and _PROPHETS & APOSTLES SPEAKING FOR GOD_.**

The Holy Spirit is active in all areas of indirect guidance as part of His ministry in us. Indirect guidance includes **_GUIDANCE THROUGH THE WORD_** (Psalm 119:105), **_GUIDANCE THROUGH CONVICTION_** (Acts 17:16), **_GUIDANCE THROUGH GOD'S PROVIDANCE_** (Romans 8:28) and **_GUIDANCE THROUGH GOD-GIVEN WISDOM_** (Proverbs 2:1-11).

Did you notice that **nowhere** did it say that it is God's will for me to go to a certain school, to marry a certain person, to work at a certain job, to live in a certain city, to wear certain clothes, to go to a certain church, to drive a certain car, to do a certain ministry etc, etc, etc.... If it is not God's commanded will then what is it?*

God's sovereign will and commanded will are better understood in light of their respective characteristics.

SOVEREIGN WILL	COMMANDED WILL
1. Secret; known only to God except as revealed through history or revelation.	1. Revealed in the Bible.
2. Cannot be resisted or thwarted.	2. Can be resisted or disobeyed
3. Encompasses both good and evil (sin).	3. Involves only that which is good; holy
4. Comprehensive; controls all aspects of life, time, and history.	4. Specific; provides principles for living.
5. The believer is not commanded to know or discover what God has not revealed.	5. Believers are exhorted to know, understand, and obey all that God has revealed without any buts or yea-buts.