

# God's Will & Guidance

## Lesson 16

### Memorize (Select One) –

- ✓ Proverbs 3:5 & 6 - Trust in the LORD with all your heart and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight.
- ✓ Ephesians 5:17 - So then do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is.

## I. God's Will

The Bible sets forth two aspects of God's will: His sovereign (decreed) will that relates to His rule and control over all things, His command (desired) will that is revealed throughout the Scriptures as laws or directives.

### A. God's Sovereign Will

It has been well said that God plans His work and works His plan. Nothing happens that is not in His plan. History is the unfolding of God's purposes which happen according to His preordained plan.

Look up the following passages and write out the key thought that expresses God's sovereign will:

1. Isaiah 46:10 & 11 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Daniel 4:35 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. Eph. 1:11b \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

***According to God's sovereign will, the Bible declares that, "God \_\_\_\_\_ to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to \_\_\_\_\_. (Romans 8:28)"***

**B. God's Commanded Will**

It is in this sense that God's will is God's Word. What God declares to man is what He expresses as His desire for man. The essential distinction of God's commanded will is that it can be resisted or rejected. Look up the following passages and write out the key statement(s) that expresses God's commanded will.

1. Romans 12:1 & 2 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Romans 12:9 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. Eph. 5:17 & 18 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. I Thess. 5:16-18 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. II Peter 3:18 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**C. Characteristics of God's Will**

<b><i>Sovereign Will</i></b>	<b><i>Commanded Will</i></b>
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.

**D. Responding to God's Will**

What do the following verses teach us about the right response to God's sovereign will?

▪ Gen. 18:25 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

▪ James 4:13-15 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

▪ I Peter 4:19 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

What do the following verses teach us about the right response to God's commanded will?

▪ Deut. 11:1 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

▪ Luke 11:28 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

▪ James 1:22 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**II. Guidance**

"Guidance comes from the Bible, prayerfully used. The advise of others is to be sought, not for their opinions but for assistance in using the Bible to help you make a decision that honors God. The Bible is the source of revelation from God and the only sure guide to pleasing God." – J. Adams

***"Seeing that His Divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness...." (II Peter 1:3)***

**A. *Guidance from the Scriptures is provided for us in 3 basic ways:***

1. By direct commands and prohibitions. An example of this would be the \_\_\_\_\_ (Exodus 20:1-17).
2. By principles worked out in the Scriptures like the one called the "Holding Principle" based upon Romans 14:23. This principle for guidance teaches us, "When in doubt, \_\_\_\_\_."
3. By examples and illustrations presented in the Scriptures. Write a paraphrase of Romans 15:4 -

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Read I Cor. 10:6-12. According to verses 6 & 11, we are told Israel's experiences in the wilderness happened as \_\_\_\_\_ for us.

- ***Often well intentioned people will say things such as, "Just follow your heart" or "Listen to that still small voice in your heart." Why is this a formula for disappointment or disaster (Jer. 17:9)?***

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- ***What does the Bible call the person who trusts in his heart (Prov. 28:26)?*** \_\_\_\_\_

**B. *Guidance Guaranteed in the Scriptures***

1. What is the promise of Psalm 23:3b?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. What is the key to guidance stated in Psalm 119:105?  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. What are 3 prerequisites to God's guidance stated in Prov. 3:5 & 6?

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4. What will be given to the one who trusts God and prayerfully seeks God's guidance (James 1:5-8)? \_\_\_\_\_

5. Read Proverbs 2:1-11. What will wisdom gained from God's Word allow you to discern (verse 9)?

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***“Often people say they are having problems with guidance when the real problem they face is obedience. Those growing in their understanding and obedience to the Scriptures will also be growing in their ability to discern the right path to be taken.” – S. Ferguson***