

ABATT  
The Will of God  
Christian Life Assembly  
Jim Hoffman

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The Will of God

What do you know about  
the will of God?

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“Wanting our own will over  
God’s will reveals an  
underlying desire to be our  
own God!”  
Unknown

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**The Will of God**

“The word of God is the will of God.”

Warren Wiersbe



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**The Will of God**

- The ten commandments are the will of God.
- The two great commandments are the will of God.
- The great commission is the will of God.
- The entire Word of God is the Will of God.

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The Will of God

- God has a sovereign will that cannot be thwarted, stopped, or changed.
- Psalm 33:8 Let all the earth fear the Lord; Let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of Him. 9 For He spoke, and it was done; He commanded, and it stood fast. 10 The Lord nullifies the counsel of the nations; He frustrates the plans of the peoples. 11 The counsel of the Lord stands forever, the plans of His heart from generation to generation. NASB

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The Will of God

- Isaiah 46:9 For I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is no one like Me, 10 Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times things which have not been done, saying, **‘My purpose will be established, and I will accomplish all My good pleasure’**;
- Psalm 135:6 **Whatever the Lord pleases, He does**, in heaven and in earth, in the seas and in all deeps. NASB

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The Will of God

- **So there is a sense in which God’s will is always done** because He has the power to bring about His purposes.
- **God also has a will for man, and that will is often not done** – so how are we to reconcile these two facts?
- Fortunately, our failures do not have the power to thwart the sovereign will of God – **His purposes will be done with or without our cooperation.**

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**The Will of God**

- God does what He wills while allowing us to make our choices within His will.
- Then He takes all of our choices, melds them into His sovereign will, and brings to pass that which He desires in our lives and in the world.
- In many respects it is not complicated, and it is not difficult to find and to know His will – it takes obedience to do His will, but His will is not hidden.

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**The Will of God**

- God is not sitting on His throne watching to see how long it will take you find His will as though He has hidden it like parents hide Easter eggs for their children.
- God has a will for you, He has made it quite plain, and He wants you to know it and do it.
- In fact, this is throughout the Bible – that mankind might know and do God’s will.

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**The Will of God**

- Do not fall for the idea that God’s will is somehow not enjoyable, and not something that you would choose for yourself.
- The will of God is anything but that – it is that which when done becomes a great treasure to us, and something that we are glad to embrace.
- Rom 12:2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect. NASB

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**The Will of God**

- Some think that God’s will is found only through circumstances like it is something that is hard to see and seldom found.
- Do not look for the will of God in your circumstances – like having a preference for Chinese food and thinking that is your call to the mission field in the Far East. 😊
- While circumstances may play a role in your discovery of God’s will they are not the even primary source for finding His will.

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**The Will of God**

- Do not try to find the will of God by randomly selecting Bible passages because even from the Bible you could get bad advice! 😊
- “and Judas went out and hanged himself”
- “go and do thou likewise”
- “what thou doest, do quickly”

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**The Will of God**

- Finding the will of God ought not be thought of as something that only an elite few find.
- Finding and doing the will of God is not just something pastors, missionaries, and a few other “Navy Seal” types find and do.
- Finding and doing His will is for every believer.

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**The Will of God**

- If God has a will for your life you can be sure that He made no attempt to hide it from you.
- **Furthermore, we can be sure that if He has a will for our lives, we are accountable for finding it, and He is not interested in keeping it from us.**
- So where is the most likely place to look for His will – our first and best resource is His Word.

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**The Will of God**

- The following are the will of God all of mankind:
  - **It is God's will that we be saved** – that we repent and come to Christ for salvation. (1<sup>st</sup> Tim 2:3)
  - **It is God's will that we be filled with the Holy Spirit.** (Eph 5:18)
  - **It is God's will that we be sanctified.** (1<sup>st</sup> Thes 4:3)

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**The Will of God**

“The Ultimate Will of God”

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**The Will of God**

- **The ultimate will of God for all believers is that we be like Jesus!**
- Romans 8:29 For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren. NASB
- The mold is Jesus and God has predestined the believer to be pressed into that very same mold.

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**The Will of God**

- We should distinguish between terms like His “ultimate will” (that we be like Jesus) and His “specific will” for us.
- The “**ultimate will**” of God for us (that we be like Jesus) is the same for each and every Christian, no exceptions.
- The “**specific will**” of God for each believer is a subset of His “ultimate will”, varies for each Christian, and seems to be organized around our time, talent, and treasure.

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**The Will of God**

- Some perspective at this point – **the will of God is far more about who you are than it is about what you do, who you marry, where you live, or what career you choose.**
- We can be even more bold – you can marry the wrong person, choose the wrong career, and live in the wrong place and still do the will of God.
- You may miss some blessings, but you will not miss His ultimate will if you do whatever you do in a Christ-like fashion.

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The Will of God

- If God has called you to pastor, but you end up being a computer programmer who is Christ-like, you may have missed His specific will for your life, but all is not lost.
- Conversely, suppose God has called you to pastor, and you serve as a pastor, but do not pastor in a Christ-like fashion, then much is lost.
- Again, finding and doing the will of God is **more about who you are than it is about what you do.**

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The Will of God

“The Specific Will of God”

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The Will of God

- To find God’s specific will for your life you need to know yourself – while we rarely know how much time we have left we ought to know what our talents and treasures are.
- God’s specific will for your life will always involve the assets He has lent to you. (take inventory of both your spiritual gifts and natural talents)
- Doing God’s will almost always involves employing the assets He has loaned to you in a fashion that pleases Him.

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The Will of God

• How can one have assurance that we have found and are doing God's will for our lives?

• Rule #1: God's will never contradicts His word.

• Rule #2: Col 3:15 "Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts" – The Greek word for "rule" is the same one from which we get the English word, "umpire". If you do not have peace with a decision, don't move forward with it.

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The Will of God

"When in doubt, don't!"  
Unknown

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The Will of God

• I do believe in the "open and closed door" line of thinking for finding the will of God.

• 1st Cor 16:8 But I will remain in Ephesus until Pentecost; 9 for a wide door for effective service has opened to me, and there are many adversaries. NASB

• Acts 14:27 When they had arrived and gathered the church together, they began to report all things that God had done with them and how He had opened a door of faith to the Gentiles. NASB

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The Will of God

- It is clear from scripture that if anyone wants to know the will of God that **all we need to do is ask**.
- James 1:5 But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him. NASB
- James 4:2 (we don't have because we don't ask) essentially says the same thing – just ask!

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The Will of God

“Wanting our own will over God’s will reveals an underlying desire to be our own God!”  
Unknown

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Questions

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