God's Perfect Will

(Topical Message)
2/21/2010

Introduction:
When we speak of God's will, we are speaking about what He wants;
What does God want for our lives?

There are two major aspects to the will of God:

1. God's desired will
2. God's decreed will

- ***Principles regarding God's will in the lives of His children:***

I. God is concerned about the significant details of your life - *Luke 12:6-7*

II. God has a specific plan & purpose for you to fulfil
Examples: Jeremiah - Jeremiah 1:5 & Paul – Gal. 1:15

III. God's will is not a "bitter medicine"*Psalm 16:11*

IV. God's will is knowable and doable - *Eph 1:18-19*

V. God never leads a person contrary to His Word - *Psalm 119:35*

VI. God only moves those who are in motion for Him; He does not steer parked cars
Acts 13:2

VII. God gives you the desire and ability to do whatever He wants you to do
Php 2:13

How do I know that my decision is the will of God?

Ask yourself the following questions before making the choice:

1. **Am I presently & actively doing both the moral and general will of God for my life?**

2. **Have I <u>prayed to God</u> about this decision? -** Proverbs 3:5,6

3. **Do I need <u>Godly counsel (advice)</u> about this decision? -** Proverbs 12:15

4. **Do I have a <u>solid Bible reason</u> to justify this decision? -** Psalm 119:105

5. **What is really <u>motivating</u> my decision making process?**
   Lot: an example of a man who made bad choices (Genesis 13:9-13)

6. **Which of my choices should be my <u>priority</u>? -***Mt 6:33*

7. **Which of my choices would most <u>please & glorify</u> God? -***Eph 5:10*

8. **What would be the <u>long-term effects</u> of my choice? -** *Pr 14:12*

9. **Do I have <u>peace</u> about my decision? -** *Phil. 4:7*

Conclusion:

If we fight against God's will, we will not succeed, but will fail miserably.

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1/31/2011

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Introduction:

Everyday, we make decisions (choices)…

When we were young (still under the authority of our parents) many of our decisions were made for us. We didn't have much choice other than to obey or disobey them.

However, now (as adults) there are many choices we must make.
For example:

How we will spend our time or money;
Where we will go to college
Our career choice (occupation; vocation)
Our marriage partner
Our location (where we will live)
Whether or not we will have our personal devotions today.
Etc.

There are 2 types of decisions we must make:

1) **Moral Decisions** - Choices related to clearly defined Biblical commands or principles.
2) **A-moral Decisions** - Areas of Christian Liberty where the Bible gives no specific command (Areas where we are free to make thought out, responsible & wise choices)

God created man with an intellect (to think); emotion (to feel); and a will (to make choices).

- Every decision is important.
- You are responsible for the decisions you make in life.
- Your decisions both reveal your character and form it.
- Your present circumstances are (in large part) a result of your past choices.
- The decisions you must make today may be a result of decisions you made in your past (Our choices can result in a vicious or victorious cycle)

When we speak of God's will, we are speaking about what He wants;
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God's Desired Will
(Boulomai)
(What God desires or wishes to happen)
II Peter 3:9 - "The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance."

God's Determined Will
(Thelema)
(What God has decreed will happen)
Eph. 1:11 - "In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will"
(Cp. Eph. 1:5, John 1:13)

Isn't it true that whatever God wants to happen, does happen? Ultimately, Yes.
But immediately, not necessarily. For example: Is it ever God's desired will that people sin? No; However, cannot God take a bad situation and turn it around for good in the end? Yes
See the example of Joseph:
Ge 50:20 But as for you, **ye thought evil** against me; but **God meant it unto good**, to bring to pass, as it is this day, to save much people alive.

*Note the **Divine sovereignty and human freedom** and responsibility in the verses below. (God's will and Man's will)*

*Luke 22:22. And truly the Son of man goeth, as it was **determined**: but woe unto that man by whom he is **betrayed** !*

*Matthew 23:37. O Jerusalem, Jerusalem . . . how often **would I** have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and **ye would not** !*

*John 6:37. All that the Father giveth me **shall come** [to arrive] to me; and him **that cometh** [to come] to me I will in no wise cast out." Compare: John 6:44, 45, 64-65; John 5:40.)*

*Acts 2:23. Christ, being delivered by the **determinate** counsel and fore¬knowledge of God, **ye have taken**, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain.*

*Acts 4:27-28. For truly, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles and the people of Israel, were **gathered together against** Thy holy Servant Jesus, to do whatever Thy hand and Thy **purpose determined** before to be done.*

*2 Thessalonians 2:13-14. But we are bound to give thanks always to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because **God hath from the beginning chosen you** to salvation THROUGH sanctification of the **Spirit** AND **belief** of the truth: Whereunto he called you by our gospel, to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

- **Principles regarding God's will in the lives of His children:**

I. God is concerned about the significant details of your life

Luke 12:6-7
Are not five sparrows sold for two farthings, and not one of them is forgotten before God? But even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear not therefore: ye are of more value than many sparrows. (cp. Matthew 10:29-f)

Mt. 10:29 - "Two sparrows [little birds] *sold for a farthing"* (1/16 of a day's wages - perhaps like $5.00). They gave a greater discount for five sparrows, namely - two farthings (Lk. 12:6)

"Without your father" - without your heavenly Father's knowledge and will.

He does not forget about the existence of one sparrow (Lk. 12:6) and yet we often view Him as unconcerned or disinterested about our lives.

It is a comfort to know that nothing will happen to us, nor will anyone take the life of a child of God without our Father allowing it! He's in control!

"In God I will praise his word, in God I have put my trust, I will not fear what flesh can do unto me" (Ps. 56:4)

"The Lord is on my side; I will not fear: what can man do unto me?" (Ps. 118:6)

". . . the Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me" (Heb. 13:6)

He knows you (v. 30)

"The average hair count on the human head is said to be about 140,000." (MacARthur, p. 223)

This verse teaches that God is omniscient (cp. Ps. 139).

If God cares enough about us to number our hairs; if He is aware of the number of insignificant hairs, are we right to think that we are not important enough to think about? Are we right to doubt His wondrous love when we are unjustly treated?

When God protects His own, He protects them down to the individual hairs. (Wiersbe, p. 39)

He values you (v. 31)

"Fear ye not, therefore" - Because of God's interest in us, His continual watchcare over us; His sovereign supervision, His genuine concern. . . He says you don't need to live in fear.

God's people excel the worth of multitudes of birds! We are valuable (precious) to God.

II. God has a specific plan & purpose for you to fulfil

Example: Jeremiah - Jeremiah 1:5
Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee, and I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations. (Compare Isaiah 49:1,5)
Example: Paul - Ga 1:15 But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb, and called me by his grace…

III. God's will is not a "bitter medicine"

Psalm 16:11 Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in thy presence is fulness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore.

"Path" = way, manner. The normal word for path -

This word points not (merely) to the way toward life, but the way of living. The manner of true, satisfying living.

"The path of life" - the way indicated by God to man in which he lives in the highest sense of that term: the way of righteousness (Cohen, p. 39).

When you go God's way, your days are good! (top quality) and long (extended quantity)! Jesus said the way to life was narrow (Mt. 7:14)

"Life" - READ Deut. 30:11-15, 19

David asked God to guide his way (Ps. 139:24 - "And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting."

The world has motion, but no guidance from God (like scattered sheep without a shepherd).

Every one is in a hurry to go no where!

"We are more concerned about movement that with direction." (Jowett, p. 28).

We are more ambition to have the wheels going round, than for our lives to be going down God's road.

Do you see the infinite (God) in your pilgrimage through the finite (world)?

Do you see Him in your ordinary work, in your traveling, playing, learning, festivities (EX. of a wedding, etc.)?

IV. God's will is knowable and doable

Eph 1:18-19 The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints, And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power,

"The eyes of your understanding being enlightened" - a statement referring to the spiritual illumination which occurred by the Holy Spirit at conversion.

Prior to this enlightenment, man had no capacity to know God. We knew about God (Rom. 1:19-20), but were spiritual blind (I Cor. 2:14)

"Understanding" = lit. heart, the inner core of your being.

Your heart has eyes! It can see, perceive, and know!

"Hope" = confidence; assurance (cp. Eph. 6:17 - helmet of salvation = the assurance of salvation)

V. God never leads a person contrary to His Word

Psalm 119:35 - Make me to go in the path of thy commandments; for therein do I delight.

How do you know when God is leading you?

How do we differentiate between our doing our own selfish, independent will, and our doing God's will?

Sometimes what God wants and does not want is obvious. For example, God never leads a person contrary to His Word. God never leads us to do anything sinful.

Some have tried saying:

"God has led me to date this unsaved man . . ."
"God has led me to divorce my mate . . ."
"God has led me to quit coming to church . . ."
"God has led me to work at this night club . . ."

God's will never contradicts God's Word!

VI. God only moves those who are in motion for Him; He does not steer parked cars
Acts 13:2 - As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them.

If you are not already at work in the ministry God has given us to do here, what makes you think you will work when you move to another location? What would lead you to believe that when you become trained, then you will serve . . . or when you go to the foreign mission field then you will serve?

The work of missions must begin at home!

You can't suppose that you can live any way you want, and that someday God will knock you over the head and call you into some great work for Him.

God never moves parked cars! (He moves those who are in motion)

God's will (desired purpose) unfolds as we are busy serving Him right where we are!

GOD LEADS YOU IN THE PERSON OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
(v. 2, 4)

1. The Spirit's Leading is personal

   The Spirit is personal; and He leads us personally.

   The Holy Spirit is personal (not a mere force)

   --He speaks
   --He refers to Himself with personal pronouns ("Me; I")
   --He is God!

   The Holy Spirit leads us personally.

   Whenever you make a move for God, it is important to know that it is indeed the Holy Spirit leading you and not some other spirit, or your own independent decision.

   The Holy Spirit evidently called out Barnabas and Paul with an objective, verbal, spoken voice. Not like the way He calls preachers today!

How does the Holy Spirit call today?

1) By the Sword of the Spirit (His written commands are His call) - Mt. 28:19-20. The call of the Great Commission is a matter of obedience, not some "experience." If you want a call, go home tonight and I will call you on the phone and quote Mt. 28:19-20 to you!

2) By the Conviction of the Spirit (the Holy Spirit's conviction is His call)

3) By the Internal Promptings of the Spirit (your sincere willingness and desire to serve is God's call put into you by His spirit) - Phil. 2:12-13; I Tim. 3:1.

4) By the objective opening and closing of doors of the Spirit (Acts 16:6-7)

What is a call?

God calls you when He puts into you:

1) an interest,

2) that becomes a concern,

3) that becomes a conviction,

4) that becomes a compulsion

(Bill Commons, ABWE)

VII. God gives you the desire and ability to do whatever He wants you to do
Php 2:13 For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.

Philippians 2:12
Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.

Paul is not teaching salvation by works (cp. Ro. 13:11; Salvation is not only a point and time but it is a life).Paul is writing to saints (1:1).

NOTE: He does not say "work for it", but "work it out." The point is - You already have it, so use it!

This attitude of "fear and trembling" necessitates that you:

1) Be serious - it's not your own life you're spending if you belong to God. "You are not your own . . ." I Cor. 6:19

2) Be careful - Not reckless (Don't be flippant or haphazard with the priceless, sacred spiritual life God gave you).
Illus. of a surgeon with a delicate operation.

"Fear and trembling" is the awareness that God is watching.

When you yield, God's will becomes your will and God's work becomes your work.

We must yield our heads, our hands and our hearts to God.

There are problems in life, but God will help us to "work them out."

"Knowing God's will is life's greatest knowledge;
Doing God's will is life's greatest privilege"
- Dr. Bob Jones Sr.

How do I know that my decision is the will of God?

Ask yourself the following questions before making the choice:

1. **Am I presently & actively doing both the moral and general will of God for my life?**
   The only way to find the will of God is to be in the will of God;
   (We can't find God's future perfect will, if we are not presently doing His will)

   Some fundamental decisions you must make:

   You must make a genuine, thought out, conscious decision to…

   1. **Trust Jesus Christ for your eternal salvation**
      Acts 16:31 - Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house (implied, if they believe also).

   2. **Surrender your life completely to God's will**
      Romans 12:1 - I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.

   3. **Obey the commands and principles that are specifically addressed by the Bible (for the N.T. believer).**

      Such as…

      a. **Keeping yourself morally pure (in thought, word & action)**
         Daniel 1:8 - But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself
         Ps 17:3 - I am purposed that my mouth shall not transgress.
         Job 31:1 - I made a covenant with mine eyes; why then should I think upon a maid?

      b. **Communing with God daily**
         Bible Reading, Meditation, & Memorization & Prayer)
         Joshua 1:8 - This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.
         Lu 18:1 - And he spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint;

c. Fellowshipping with God's people regularly

Heb. 10:24-25 And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

d. Husbands loving and leading their wives and families

Col 3:19 Husbands, love your wives, and be not bitter against them.

e. Wives submitting to and helping their husbands

Eph.5:22-23 Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife…

f. Children obeying their parents

Eph. 6:1-2 Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. Honour thy father and mother; (which is the first commandment with promise;)

g. Being Loving, truthful, sanctified, humble, a good employee etc.

2. Have I <u>prayed to God</u> about this decision?

Proverbs 3:5,6 - Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.

3. Do I need <u>Godly counsel (advice)</u> about this decision?

Proverbs 12:15 - The way of a fool *is* right in his own eyes: but he that hearkeneth unto counsel *is* wise.

Pr 1:5 A wise *man* will hear, and will increase learning; and a man of understanding shall attain unto wise counsels:

Pr 19:20 - Hear counsel, and receive instruction, that thou mayest be wise in thy latter end.

4. Do I have a <u>solid Bible reason</u> to justify this decision?

Psalm 119:105 - Thy word *is* a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.

5. What is really <u>motivating</u> my decision making process?

Lot: an example of a man who made bad choices (Genesis 13:9-13)

a. Lot chose based on what he saw with his eyes (v.10a)
(He didn't think to pray first)

b. Lot chose based on the prospect of material advantage
(Monetary gain)(v.10b)
(Decisions that are made primarily on the promise of monetary gain will probably always be bad decisions; Before making the move ask: "is there a good church in town?" "will my ministry be enhanced by the move")

c. Lot chose out of selfish motives, seeking the best for himself.(v.11)
1Co 10:24 Let no man seek his own, but every man another's wealth.
Php 2:4 Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others.

d. Lot's choice made him vulnerable to making other bad choices. (v.12)
Lot's bad choice was to pitch toward Sodom, then ended up in Sodom. Where is your life pitched toward? It's not so much where your are but where you are headed. Lot had a Tent View (TV) of Sodom.

e. Lot's choice negatively affected not only himself, but his entire family (Gen.19:14-17;26;35-38)

6. Which of my choices should be my <u>priority</u>?
Mt 6:33 But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

7. Which of my choices would most <u>please & glorify</u> God?
Eph 5:10 Proving what is acceptable unto the Lord.
Make your decisions based upon what is <u>right</u>, not what is popular, or feels good.

8. What would be the <u>long-term effects</u> of my choice?
Pr 14:12 - There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.

Don't made decisions based merely upon <u>immediate</u> results.
"Never sacrifice the eternal on the altar of the immediate" (Dr. Bob Jones Sr.)

9. Do I have <u>peace</u> about my decision?

Phil. 4:7 And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

Some Warnings about Decision Making:

1) Beware of making <u>hasty</u> decisions (Quick decisions)

2) Beware of making <u>carnal</u> decisions (Decisions when you are not close to God)

3) Beware of making <u>self-serving</u> decisions (out of selfish motives)

4) Beware of making <u>unsure</u> decisions (If its doubtful, its dirty)

5) Beware of making <u>emotional</u> decisions (without reason)

6) Beware of making <u>faith-less</u> decisions (throwing out "the fleece")

Conclusion:

If we fight against God's will, we will not succeed, but will fail miserably.

"RUNNING FROM THE WILL OF GOD"

***DON'T RUN AWAY FROM GOD'S WILL FOR YOUR LIFE!**

4 examples of men who left the will of God!

1. JONAH
(Reason: <u>Prejudice</u> towad the pagans)
Motive: <u>Animosity</u> see: The Book of Jonah

2. ELIJAH
(Reason: <u>Persecution</u> of the adversary)
Motive: <u>Fear</u> see: I Kings 19:1-f

3. JOHN MARK
(Reason: <u>Pressures</u> of the ministry)
Motive: <u>Immaturity</u> see: Acts 12:25, 13:5; 13:13

4. DEMAS
(Reason: <u>Pleasures</u> of the world)
Motive: <u>Selfishness</u> see: Col. 4:14; II Tim. 4:10