

UNDERSTANDING AND DOING GOD’S WILL
PART 2–STEPS IN KNOWING AND DOING GOD’S WILL
EPHESIANS 5:17

INTRODUCTION

EVERY PERSON has the **RESPONSIBILITY** to **UNDERSTAND** and **DO** the **WILL OF GOD!** **NO ONE** is exempted!

The **BIBLE** clearly teaches that the **LORD’S WILL** can be **KNOWN**, **UNDERSTOOD**, and **PROVEN** in one’s life **BY DOING IT!** Our **DUTY** is to **SEEK IT** and **DO IT!** But who really cares about **OBEYING GOD?**

Well, we know that those who are **LOST** can’t see the **NEED** until **GOD’S HOLY SPIRIT** opens their eyes through the **CONVICTION HE** brings!

1 Corinthians 2:14–“But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.”

John 16:8–11– “8 And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: 9 Of sin, because they believe not on me; 10 Of righteousness, because I go to my Father, and ye see me no more; 11 Of judgment, because the prince of this world is judged.”

No one can UNDERSTAND and DO the WILL OF GOD for their life until they respond in REPENTANCE and FAITH for SALVATION! That is the **FIRST** step of **GOD’S WILL** for one’s life!

John 6:40– “And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day.”

But sadly, the trend I am seeing today is that way too many professing **BELIEVERS** want to **SETTLE** for the **EASE** and **COMFORTS** of this world without ever attempting to **KNOW** and **DO** the **BALANCE** of **GOD’S WILL!** (i.e. That which comes **AFTER SALVATION!**)

The complacent **BELIEVER** asks, “*Why should I change my lifestyle?*”

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Some may argue that it is tough enough to live life as it is and take care of the problems they already have, let alone trying to do what **GOD** wants.

If this reflects our thinking, then we need a **NEW PERSPECTIVE**—a **NEW ATTITUDE** if you will.

We must **RENEW OUR MINDS**, adjusting it to **GOD’S** thinking as revealed in **HIS WORD.** (“*Study to shew thyself approved unto God*”)

THERE ARE THREE BASIC STEPS IN KNOWING AND DOING THE WILL OF GOD:

I’m going to give you these three things and then we’ll look closer at them in a few minutes:

FIRST, We Must Acknowledge The Fact Of GOD’S WILL For Our Lives!

SECOND, We Must Give Attention To The Example Of CHRIST, Who Came To Do The FATHER’S WILL!

THIRD, We Must Accept The Work Of The HOLY SPIRIT, Who Enables Us To UNDERSTAND And DO GOD’S WILL!

Understand that the entire **GODHEAD** is at work for us in this crucial area of our experience as **BELIEVERS!** An in-depth study of the **SCRIPTURE** reveals the **ABSOLUTE NECESSITY** of **GOD’S HELP** if we are to **OBEY HIS COMMANDS** as we should.

Take the command of CHRIST in Acts 1:8 for example:

First, **CHRIST** told **HIS DISCIPLES** that they would be **EMPOWERED** when the **HOLY GHOST** that **HE** had previously **PROMISED** to send to them would come upon them!

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Then **HE** told them that they were to be **WITNESSES** unto **HIM!**
The LORD did not leave **HIS DISCIPLES** on their own!
And HE doesn't leave us on our own!

We have the **HELP** and **ENCOURAGEMENT** from the **LORD HIMSELF** in the **PERSON** of the **INDWELLING HOLY GHOST** for our entire **CHRISTIAN LIFE!**

It is important that we, as **BELIEVERS** remember that every **COMMAND** of **SCRIPTURE** directed to the **BELIEVER CAN BE OBEYED!** **GOD** gives us both the **LIGHT** of **UNDERSTANDING** and the **POWER** of the **INDWELLING HOLY SPIRIT** to **DO** (or accomplish this)!

Now, let's look at those **THREE BASIC STEPS IN KNOWING AND DOING THE WILL OF GOD:**

I. WE MUST FIRST ACKNOWLEDGE THE FACT OF GOD'S WILL FOR OUR LIVES!
(Ephesians 5:17; Colossians 1:9-11; 1 Thessalonians 4:1-9)

GOD'S WILL concerns each member of **HIS** family!
Ephesians 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.”

i.e. GOD PERFORMS on **HIS** end what **HE PROMISES!** **HIS WILL** is **IMMUTABLE!**

II. WE MUST GIVE ATTENTION TO THE EXAMPLE OF CHRIST, WHO CAME TO DO THE FATHER'S WILL!

In **HIS INCARNATION** and **LIFE**, the **LORD JESUS** both **EXEMPLIFIED** and **FULFILLED** the **WILL** of **HIS FATHER!**

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The **WILL** of the **SON** was **NEVER CONTRARY** to the **FATHER'S WILL**, but rather, **HE** set the example of **COMPLETE OBEDIENCE!**

*Hebrews 10:7—“Then said I, **Lo, I come** (in the volume of the book it is written of me,) **to do thy will, O God.**”*

*John 4:34—“Jesus saith unto them, **My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work.**”*

*John 5:30—“I can of mine own self do nothing: as I hear, I judge: and my judgment is just; **because I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me.**”*

*John 6:38-40—“For I came down from heaven, **not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me. 39And this is the Father's will which hath sent me, that of all which he hath given me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up again at the last day. 40And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day.**”*

CHRIST came to **DO** what the **FATHER DIRECTED!**
HE set the pattern that we should follow!

If the very **SON OF GOD** was careful to observe every minute detail of the **FATHER'S WILL**, how much more should we seek to **KNOW IT** and **OBEY IT!**

Even to the final days of **HIS** earthly existence, **CHRIST'S** intention remained the same! When **HE** faced the **CROSS**, sweating great drops of blood in the garden, the **WILL OF GOD** was paramount in **HIS** thinking.

*Luke 22:42—Nevertheless, **not My will, but Thine, be done.***

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And the **LORD JESUS** succeeded in **HIS PURPOSE**, for **HE** was able to say to the **FATHER** in *John 17:4*, “*I have glorified thee on the earth*” and *John 19:30* “*It is finished!*”

The pattern or example that **HE** established should be an encouragement to every **BELIEVER**, for as the **SONS OF GOD** we are “*brought to glory*” through **HIS SUFFERING!**

1 Peter 3:21-23

*We Must First Acknowledge The Fact Of God's Will For Our Lives.
We Must Give Attention To The Example Of Christ, Who Came To
Do The Father's Will.*

III. WE MUST ACCEPT THE WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, WHO ENABLES US TO UNDERSTAND AND DO GOD'S WILL!

To analyze the ministry of the **HOLY SPIRIT** as it relates to the **WILL OF GOD**, let's look at **three crucial observations**:

A. Because the HOLY SPIRIT knows the MIND OF GOD, HE is able to INTERCEDE for us according to the WILL OF GOD!

Romans 8:27—“And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God.”

Remember the context of this is just before...

Romans 8:28—“And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.”

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B. The HOLY SPIRIT helps us to UNDERSTAND the WILL OF GOD and therefore to WALK WISELY and REDEEM the time.

Ephesians 5:17—“Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is.”

Remember the context of this is just after:

Ephesians 5:15–16—“15 See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, 16 Redeeming the time, because the days are evil.”

And the context is just before:

Ephesians 5:18—“And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit;”

C. The HOLY SPIRIT DIRECTS our PLACEMENT in the CHURCH, THE BODY OF CHRIST, and LEADS us to a particular place of SERVICE according to the WILL OF THE FATHER! (1 Corinthians 12:11; 13)

To summarize then, the **HOLY SPIRIT** helps us **KNOW** and **UNDERSTAND** the **LORD'S WILL**.

HE particularly helps us in the area of **CHRISTIAN SERVICE**, showing us what to **DO** and giving us **the POWER** to **DO** it.

Conclusion

Have you acknowledged the fact of God's will for your life? It is a fact!

Are you giving attention to the example of Christ who came to do His Father's will?

Have you accepted the work of the Holy Spirit in this as your enabler?