

The Pattern of God's Will

Welcome to Harvest Community Church

Series: Knowing God's Voice

Text: Ephesians 1:9-11

There are some basic facts about the will of God that are important to know.

- It is possible to hear God's voice.
 - God does indeed have a plan for you. **Jeremiah 29:11**
 - God has the ability to communicate His will to us.
Ephesians 5:17, Colossians 1:9, Acts 22:14
- ❖ God's will is planned. God is working in this world to bring to pass all the things on the basis of His plan. **Ephesians 1:11, Philippians 2:13** Nothing that God is doing is unplanned. There are no divine accidents. He created everything and put the worlds into motion. Everything has a purpose, time, season and reason. God has an over-all plan for the universe that is working out. A plan for mankind that has been prophesied and is intentionally unfolding. He has a master plan because He is the Master. God has an individual plan for each person. All of His plans fall within this sovereign plan and His moral will.
- ❖ God's will is personal and individual. God's will for every person includes that they are redeemed. **2 Peter 3:9** While He desires this for everybody, this is a desire of His heart for each person and He takes this personally.
- He has a plan for every single person. If we will listen, then He will communicate that plan to each one of us in as much detail as we need. Throughout the Bible we see how God place people in specific situations and in specific places for special purposes. **Jeremiah 1:5** Jesus has different plans for each one of us and He desires us to know them. Everywhere we look in creation we see the intelligent planning hand of God at work. You and I were not only planned by God, but we were intelligently designed and planned. **Psalms 32:8, Psalm 37:23** God orders and plans our steps just as surly as the planets are organized. Everything in God's creation is done with precision. There is nothing chaotic about it. **Psalms 8:3** The same precision that has scheduled the movement of the planets orders the steps of the believer. **Isaiah 30:21** God orders the big events of our lives and each and every step.
- ❖ God's will is not man's way. **Isaiah 55:8-9** God's will is not always the path that we would naturally select. His is often the road less traveled. **Proverbs 14:12, Matthew 7:13-14**

- ❖ God's will is **good**. While His way would not be the one we would naturally select, God knows what is best. Father really does know what is best in every way. **Romans 12:2**
- ❖ God's will is **progressive**. God is constantly working in our lives. **Ephesians 2:10**, **Philippians 2:13** The work and will of God in our life is in the present tense. **Hebrews 13:21** God is continually guiding, developing and speaking to us regarding His plan. **Isaiah 58:11**

Two Divisions in God's Will

- 1) The first division of God's will is found in His Word. The will of God for each person will **always** fall within His sovereign and moral will as revealed in the written Word of God. The written Word of God includes the complete revelation of God's moral will. This includes all the commandments on how we should live. God's sovereign will is for **all** people – there are no exceptions. **Ephesians 1:9-11**
- 2) The second division of God's will is not revealed in His Word. This includes the individual life plan for each believer. We are all called to live a righteous life, but we are not all called to live the **same** life. There are many things that are specific to our life that are not specifically written in God's word. While we are all called not to be unequally yoked when married, the Bible never tells us who we are to specifically marry, or what occupation we are to pursue, what church we are to attend or where we are to live. All of us have decisions we make in life. For each one we are to find God's direction for it in His written Word and then seek God to know His voice and thoughts so we can know His will.

God's written will and His personal will always work together. When we are desiring to know God's will in certain situations, we can **study** the scriptures to look for specific guidance. In many situations God has already provided us with general principles – which when correctly understood and applied – will lead to a decision **consistent** with God's will.

There is a **pattern** to God's will. **Romans 12:1-2**

- The **perfect** will of God is accomplished when a believer is in harmony with the moral, sovereign and individual will of God for their life. They have accepted Christ's plan for salvation they are walking in obedience to the commandments of God and they have determined God's specific leading for their individual life plan.
- The **good** will of God is when a believer is not in the perfect plan of God for their life, but they are living within the sovereign and moral will of God. They are not **disobedient** to God's revealed will, they are still seeking to find that perfect individual plan of God for their life.

- The **acceptable** will of God, when a believer is missing God's perfect will for their life, but they are still acceptable to God. They are living in the **permissive** will of God. They are not violating God's ways, but they are not accepting God's best. They may not even be concerned about God's perfect will. They are content to do much of their life on their own.
- There are those that are **outside** the will of God – this is a person that is not a believer. They are living in direct disobedience to God's revealed will and seeking the specific will of God for their life is not even on their radar. These cannot be considered a believer.

Specific plans that are God's revealed will for us.

- He has a **plan** for us. **John 6:37-40, Galatians 1:4, James 1:18**
- His will for our **loved** ones. **2 Peter 3:9**
- His will concerning our **sanctification**. **1 Thessalonians 4:3-4**
- His will regarding **prayer** and thanksgiving. **1 Thessalonians 5:17-18**
- His will regarding our **lifestyle**. **1 Peter 2:15**
- His will regarding the **Holy Spirit**. **Acts 2:17-18**
- His will regarding our Christian **witness**. **Mark 1:17, Acts 1:8**
- His will regarding **children** and babes in Christ. **Matthew 18:14**
- His will regarding **suffering**. **1 Peter 4:19**
- His will regarding material **possessions**. **Matthew 6:31-33**
- His will regarding our **eternal** future. **John 17:24**