

Pentecostal Assembly Church
 Pastor Josh Anderson
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The Will of God (*part 2*)

Summarization of Lesson I

- The will of God is received by revelation. That which is written in Scripture and those things which are hidden.
- We find the will of God exemplified in every aspect of the life of Jesus Christ.
- The prevailing of righteousness and Godly benevolence towards us are known to us as the good pleasure of His own will.
- The only counsel or purpose by which God demonstrates His power is the counsel of His own will.

Seeking the Will of God

1. Trusting God in all things according to His own counsel

- **Proverbs 3:5-6**
5 Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.
6 In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.
- **Job 33:12-13**
12 Behold, in this thou art not just: I will answer thee, that God is greater than man.
13 Why dost thou strive against him? for he giveth not account of any of his matters.

2. To seek the will of God is to sincerely inquire of the Lord

- **David enquired of the Lord** - I Samuel 23:2, I Samuel 23:4 “yet again”
 I Samuel 30:8, II Samuel 2:1, II Samuel 5:19, II Samuel 21:1

3. The preacher is a messenger of the will of God

- **Malachi 2:7** *For the priest's lips should keep knowledge, and they should seek the law at his mouth: for he is the messenger of the LORD of hosts.*

4. Faint not at tribulations

- **Ephesians 3:13** *Wherefore I desire that ye faint not at my tribulations for you, which is your glory.*

The Proving of God's Will in Every Life

Romans 12:2 *And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.*

Thayer Lexicon – dokimazo

1) to test, examine, prove, scrutinise

- God will test/prove His called out people according to His good pleasure.

Exodus 15:25 *And he cried unto the LORD; and the LORD shewed him a tree, which when he had cast into the waters, the waters were made sweet: there he made for them a statute and an ordinance, and there he proved them,*

- God was ever "proving" his people—trying them, that is—exercising their faith, and patience and obedience and power of self-denial, in order to fit them for the position which they were to occupy in Canaan. *Pulpit Commentary*
- To be tempted of God should be expected.
- To continually tempt God negates the proving of God in your life.

Exodus 17:2 *Wherefore the people did chide with Moses, and said, Give us water that we may drink. And Moses said unto them, Why chide ye with me? wherefore do ye tempt the LORD?*

Exodus 17:7 *And he called the name of the place Massah, and Meribah, because of the chiding of the children of Israel, and because they tempted the LORD, saying, Is the LORD among us, or not?*

- Hebrews describes the reversal of what God intended through the trials in the wilderness.

Hebrews 3:8-9

8 Harden not your hearts, as in the provocation, in the day of temptation in the wilderness:

9 When your fathers tempted me, proved me, and saw my works forty years.

- The Israelites were only in the business of tempting and proving God in the wilderness. All the while God desired to prove them.
- Because of this they could not know the will and ways of God.

Hebrews 3:10 *Wherefore I was grieved with that generation, and said, They do always err in their heart; and they have not known my ways.*

- Revelation of God's ways will only come by allowing God to prove your life.
- Cain could not endure the proving of the will of God. Cain was given opportunity past disobedience to fulfill the will of God. *"If thou doest well, shalt thou not be accepted? and if thou doest not well, sin lieth at the door" (Genesis 4:7).*

Let God Prove You by the Renewing of Your Mind

Romans 12:2 *And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the **renewing** of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.*

Thayer Lexicon – anakainosis

1) a renewal, renovation, complete change for the better

Titus 3:5 *Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and **renewing** of the Holy Ghost;*

- We are predisposed to prove what is that good and acceptable will of the flesh.
- “The Pharisees had kept the law to the letter and had spent their lives in the pursuit of a most scrupulous perfection. But they were so intent upon perfection as an abstraction that when God manifested His will and His perfection in a concrete and definite way they had no choice but to reject it.” *Thomas Merton, No Man Is an Island*

Surrendering to the will of God requires more than outward conformity to a commandment.

Surrendering to the will of God demands a renewed mind through the Holy Spirit.

To embody the proving of God’s will is to embrace it through the **mind of Christ**.

Philippians 2:5-8

5 Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:

6 Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God:

*7 But made himself of **no reputation**, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men:*

*8 And being found in fashion as a man, he **humbled himself**, and **became obedient unto death**, even the death of the cross.*

- a. To take on the nature of no reputation (emptied himself).
 - b. To humble yourself (in spite of that which betrays your calling).
 - c. To become obedient amidst the crucifying of your flesh.
- A renewed man/woman abandons their own will to be tested of the good pleasure and counsel of the Almighty God.
 - “As if God said, ‘Good; you have mastered that exercise. I am very pleased with it. And now you are ready to go on to the next.’” *C.S. Lewis, A Grief Observed*

Abraham was Proved of that “Good, and Acceptable, and Perfect Will of God.”

- He was proved when he left his family and country not knowing where he went.
- He was proved when it was revealed to him the son of the bondwoman was not the heir of promise.
- He was proved by the sacrifice of Isaac “which is your reasonable service.”
 - That which contradicts self-preservation does not seem reasonable.
- Abraham through the longsuffering of a merciful God was found genuine without the mark of failure. “*He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God*” (**Romans 4:20**). Abraham learned God’s ways and lived out the will of God for his life.

Timing is a Crucial Detail of the Will of God

- The feast of Pentecost that was instituted in remembrance of the giving of the law and was set in precise order of God’s timing. “*You shall count seven weeks. Begin to count the seven weeks from the time the sickle is first put to the standing grain*” (**Deuteronomy 16:9**).
- Jesus told them to tarry in Jerusalem for the promise of the Father. The timing of the fulfillment was unrevealed. “*And when the day of Pentecost was fully come*” (**Acts 2:1**).
- The plan of God cannot be separated from the timing of God. It’s possible to be in the will of God holding onto the promise of a certain future without a clear timetable.
- Joseph lived out the fulfillment of God’s will for years not knowing the timing. “*And Joseph was thirty years old when he stood before Pharaoh king of Egypt*” (**Genesis 41:46**).
- The solution for the difficulties of that which is unknown is obedience to the will of God presently known in your life.
- Do the will of God right now with all your heart until God reveals to you what is next!

The Greatness of God’s Purpose will Reveal Itself

Philippians 1:12 *But I would ye should understand, brethren, that the things which happened unto me have fallen out rather unto the furtherance of the gospel;*

Philippians 1:19-20

19 *For I know that this shall turn to my salvation through your prayer, and the supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ,*

20 *According to my earnest expectation and my hope, that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but that with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ shall be magnified in my body, whether it be by life, or by death.*

- Never be ashamed of that which is working towards the salvation of your soul, the furtherance of the gospel and Christ being glorified through your life.