

Knowing and Doing the Will of God

1. Definitions:

Webster: to desire, to wish, used to express desire, choice, willingness, consent
Strong's: a determination i.e. (active) choice or (passive) inclination

Full definitions:

Webster:

- 1) to desire, to wish; used to express desire, choice, willingness, consent
- 2) desire, wish, disposition, inclination, appetite, passion, choice, determination, something desired; mental powers manifested as wishing, choosing, desiring or intending
- 3) to determine by an act of choice

Strong's:

- 1) thelo, or etheio, in certain tenses theleo and etheleo, which are otherwise obsolete; apparently strengthened from the alternate form of Greek 138 (haireomai); to determine (as an active option from subjective impulse; whereas Greek 1014 (boulomai) properly denotes rather a passive acquiescence in objective considerations), i.e., choose or prefer (literal or figurative); by implication to wish, i.e. be inclined to (sometimes adverbially gladly); impersonally for the future tense, to be about to; by Hebrew to delight in : - desire, be disposed (forward), intend, list, love, mean, please, have rather, (be) will (have, -ling, -ling [ly]).
- 2) thelema, from thelo; a determination (properly the thing), i.e., (active) choice (special purpose, decree; abstract volition) or (passive) inclination: - desire, pleasure, will.

2. Some things that are specified as the will of God.

Salvation

Matthew 18:14 Even so it is not the **will** of your Father which is in heaven, that one of these little ones should perish.

John 1:12-13 But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: Which were born, not of blood, nor of the **will** of the flesh, Nor of the **will** of man, but of God.

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.

Ephesians. 1:5-12 Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his **will**, To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved. In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace; Wherein he hath abounded toward us in all wisdom and prudence; Having made known unto us the mystery of his **will**, according to his good pleasure which he hath purposed in himself: [That in the dispensation of the fulness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in him: 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**: That we should be to the praise of his glory, **who first trusted in Christ.**

Prayer

Colossians 1:9 For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding;

Colossians 4:12 Epaphras, who is one of you, a servant of Christ, saluteth you, always labouring fervently for you in prayers, that ye may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God.

Serve God, not man

Ephesians 6:6-7 Not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but as the servants of Christ, doing the **will** of God from the heart; With good will doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men:

Purity

Ephesians. 2:3 Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the **desires** of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.

1 Thessalonians 4:3 For this is the **will** of God, even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication:

1 Peter 4:2,3 That he no longer should live the rest of his time in the flesh to the lusts of men, but to the **will** of God. For the time past of our life may suffice us to have wrought the will of the Gentiles, when we walked in lasciviousness, lusts, excess of wine, revellings, banquetings, and abominable idolatries:

Give Thanks

1 Thessalonians 5:18 In every thing give thanks: for this is the **will** of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.

For well doing to silence ignorance

1 Peter 2:13-16 Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake: whether it be to the king, as supreme; Or unto governors, as unto them that are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers, and for the praise of them that do well. For so is the **will** of God, that with well doing ye may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men: As free, and not using your liberty for a cloke of maliciousness, but as the servants of God.

To suffer for His name's sake (the fiery trial in this case)

1 Peter 3:17 For it is better, if the **will** of God be so, that ye suffer for well doing, than for evil doing.

Creation

Revelation. 4:11 Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.

Submitting to Authority

Romans 13:1 Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God.

Hebrews 13:17 Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you

Ephesians 6:1 Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right.

Counsel from Godly People

Hebrews 3:12-13 Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God. But exhort one another daily, while it is called To day; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.

Proverbs 19:20-21 Hear counsel, and receive instruction, that thou mayest be wise in thy latter end. There are many devices in a man's heart; nevertheless the counsel of the Lord, that shall stand.

Proverbs 1:23 Turn you at my reproof: behold, I will pour out my spirit unto you, I will make known my words unto you.

Walk in Integrity

Acts 24:16 And herein do I exercise myself, to have always a conscience void of offence toward God, and toward men.

Proverbs 11:3 The integrity of the upright shall guide them: but the perverseness of transgressors shall destroy them.

Follow the Holy Spirit's Guidance

John 16:13 Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will show you things to come.

Psalms 119:165 Great peace have they which love thy law: and nothing shall offend them.

I Corinthians 2:11,12 For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God. Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God.

Nourishment

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

Peace

Philippians 4:6-7 Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.

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

Colossians 3:15 And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful.

Isaiah 26:3 Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee.

Testings

1 Peter 4:12-13 Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you: But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy.

Understanding God's Teaching

John 7:17 If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself.

Knowing God

John 14:21 He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him.

3. Examples

Saul

1 Samuel 15:11 It repenteth me that I have set up Saul to be king: for he is turned back from following me, and hath not performed my commandments. And it grieved Samuel; and he cried unto the Lord all night.

Nebuchadnezzar

Daniel 4:24-25 This is the interpretation, O king, and this is the decree of the most High, which is come upon my lord the king: That they shall drive thee from men, and thy dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field, and they shall make thee to eat grass as oxen, and they shall wet thee with the dew of heaven, and seven times shall pass over thee, till thou know that the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will.

4. Two Questions

1. "Who are you, Lord?"

2. "What will you have me to do?"