

## God's Will and Guidance

### Lesson # 12 Homework

**Memorize:    *Ephesians 5:17***

"So then do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is."

**Ephesians 5:17**

God is sovereign and has a purpose for all His creation. He has a plan or "will" for each of us and we often make His will more difficult to respond to than it really is. In this lesson we will explore God's will and how we are guided into His will.

#### I.     **God's Will**

***The Bible portrays two aspects of God's will: sovereign will and commanded will. In God's sovereignty, He has a plan that covers all aspects of creation and time. He also has a commanded will that He legislates to His people.***

##### A. The Meaning of God's Will

###### 1. God's sovereign will.

God sovereign will involves His ultimate, complete control over everything. Nothing happens that was not in God's plan. History is really the unfolding of God's purposes, which happen exactly as He planned.

Look up the following verses and write out the key thought about God's sovereign will:

###### a. Isaiah 14:24

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b. Ephesians 1:11b

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***Isaiah 46:9-10***

9 “Remember the former things long past,  
For I am God, and there is no other;  
I am God, and there is no one like Me,  
10 Declaring the end from the beginning  
And from ancient times things which have not been done,  
Saying, ‘My purpose will be established,  
And I will accomplish all My good pleasure’;  
***The New American Standard Bible***

2. God's commanded will.

God's commanded will is revealed throughout the Bible as laws or principles. It is that aspect of His will to which men are held accountable.

a. According to the Great Commission (Matthew 28:20), what are new believers to be taught?

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b. God gave two great commandments. List them below:

(1). Matthew 22:37 \_\_\_\_\_

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(2). Matthew 22:39 \_\_\_\_\_

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B. The Nature of God's Will

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God's Sovereign will and commanded will are better understood in light of their respective characteristics.

Sovereign Will	Commanded Will
1. Secret; known only to God except as revealed through history or revelation.	1. Revealed in the Bible.
2. Cannot be resisted or thwarted.	2. Can be resisted or disobeyed.
3. Encompasses both good and evil (sin).	3. Involves only that which is good and holy.
4. Comprehensive; controls all aspects of life, time and history.	4. Specific; provides principles for living.
5. The believer is not commanded to know or discover what God has not revealed.	5. Believers are exhorted to know, understand, and obey all that God has revealed.

Study the table above. Test your understanding of God's sovereign will and His commanded will.

- Write out the part of the verse that conveys God's will.
- Check the appropriate box.

	Sovereign Will	Commanded Will
1. Philippians 2:13	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. I Thessalonians 4:3	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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	Sovereign Will	Commanded Will
3. 2 Corinthians 6:14	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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4. Matthew 7:21	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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5. Philippians 1:6	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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6. Jeremiah 29:11	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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**C. Response to God's Will**

1. How should we respond to God's sovereign will?

a. Proverbs 3:5-6 \_\_\_\_\_

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b. I Peter 4:19 \_\_\_\_\_

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c. James 4:13-15 \_\_\_\_\_

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2. How should we respond to God's commanded will?

a. Ephesians 5:17 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

b. Deuteronomy 29:29 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

c. Deuteronomy 11:1 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**God instructs; we obey.**

*"Good and upright is the Lord;  
Therefore He instructs sinners in the way.  
He leads the humble in justice,  
And He teaches the humble His way.  
All the paths of the Lord are lovingkindness and truth  
To those who keep His covenant and His testimonies."*

Psalms 25:8-10

**II. Guidance**

Because of His great love, God has predestined, called, justified, and will glorify all believers. He also guides us.

A. Meaning of Guidance

Guidance is God's active role in our lives, accomplishing His purposes.

Note the following words used in the Bible to describe guidance. Write down how the verse conveys the meaning of each word:

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1. Lead (to shepherd; to bear to carry)

a. Psalms 78:52 \_\_\_\_\_  
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b. Psalms 139:24 \_\_\_\_\_  
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2. Guide (to show; to help understand)

a. Psalms 23:53 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

b. Psalms 73:24 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. Direct (to establish or prepare; to make straight)

a. Proverbs 16:9 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

b. II Thessalonians 3:5 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**B. The Nature of Guidance**

The following chart outlines ways in which God guides people directly or indirectly:

<b>Direct Guidance</b>	<b>Indirect Guidance</b>
<b>1.</b> Spoken revelation from God.	<b>1.</b> God's Word.
<b>2.</b> Visions.	<b>2.</b> Conscience or conviction.
<b>3.</b> Dreams.	<b>3.</b> Providence (God is in control).
<b>4.</b> Prophet/Apostle speaking for God.	<b>4.</b> Wisdom and counsel.

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Direct guidance was experienced during the Old Testament and early New Testament time periods. Today, we see God guiding indirectly. The Holy Spirit is active in all areas of indirect guidance as part of His ministry in the believer.

1. Guidance through God's Word

How does the psalmist describe God's Word (Psalm 119:105)?

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2. Guidance through conviction

How was Paul stimulated to action in Athens (Acts 17:16)?

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3. Guidance through God's providence

What can the believer be confident about regardless of the circumstances (Romans 8:28)?

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4. Guidance through God-given wisdom

a. Read Proverbs 2:1-11. What four things will wisdom allow you to discern (verse 9)?

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

b. What is the result of seeking counsel (Proverbs 13:10)? \_\_\_\_\_

**III. Application**

A. List one area in which you are wrestling with a decision:

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B. Does this issue involve:

God's sovereign will?

God's commanded will?

I don't know which one.

C. What should your response be if it involves:

1. God's sovereign will .....Proverbs 3:5-6

2. God's commanded will ..... John 15:10

3. You are unsure ..... James 1:5

What action are you going to take?

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# Notes: