

What Is the Will of Our Heavenly Father?

Mark Sappington

Recorded on February 6, 2021

Brethren, in today's world, we constantly hear the words "God's will" used in conversations. We hear that this certain act or this occurrence or this set of events were God's will. We constantly hear about asking for God's will to be done in this matter or that issue.

I believe that this concept of God's will has been abused both by churches and by individuals over the past decades and centuries. In history, many horrible actions have been sanctioned and justified by claiming that those actions were God's will. How many wars and battles have been fought in the name of God?

The claim of seeking God's will or following God's will or stating God's will has been used by many as an excuse and as self-righteous cover to do whatever a person desires to do. It provides legitimacy to decisions that a person or a leader has already made. It provides cover for desired actions that a person or leader wants to make.

History is full of examples of where people have done horrible atrocities to other people claiming that they were doing God's will. Atrocities committed during the Great Inquisition immediately come to mind, when people were burned alive, when people had molten metal poured down their throats, when people were drawn and quartered, when people were stretched on a rack until their arm and leg bones completely were torn apart. All was done in the name of God.

We read in Hebrews 11 about the prophets and followers of our Heavenly Father who were tortured, mocked, scourged, stoned, sawn in half, and killed with the sword. Jesus foretold of those atrocities and future atrocities when he warned his disciples in John 16:2 that

John 16:2 *They shall put you out of the synagogues: yea, the time cometh, that whosoever killeth you will think that he doeth God service. (KJV)*

The word for service in Greek is "λατρεία" (Strong's #2999) which means to serve in worship. So people have committed atrocities thinking that they were doing a service of worship to the Father and that they were following His will. Nothing could be further from the truth.

So, the will of God has been misunderstood, misrepresented, misconstrued and misapplied throughout the centuries.

Brethren, in my sermon this afternoon entitled

What Is the Will of Our Heavenly Father?

I would like to explore the subject of God the Father's will in the scriptures of the Bible and its applications in our physical and spiritual lives.

To begin with, we need to define our terms.

The verb in Greek for “will” is “θέλω” (thelo) (Strong’s Concordance #2309) which means “to will, to wish, to desire.”

The Greek noun for “will” is “θέλημα” (thelema) (Strong’s Concordance #2307) which means “will, what one wishes or has determined shall be done.”

So the will of the Father is the desire of the Father. Since God the Father is supreme and is all powerful, He can bring about what He desires in so many ways.

Much is stated and declared about the will of God the Father in the New Testament. Let’s review a few of the many, many scriptures.

Please turn with me to Matthew 6. As part of the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus gave an example prayer to His disciples.

Matthew 6:9 *After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. (KJV)*

It is amazing that people do not ask themselves what Christ meant by that. What is the name of the Father which is so hallowed? We know that name to be Yehovah.

10) *Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. (KJV)*

So Christ instructed us to pray that the Father’s will would be done in earth as it is in heaven.

Please turn with me to Matthew 7. Later in the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus again addressed the will of the Father, but this time he addressed it with a warning.

Matthew 7:21 *Not everyone that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.*

22) *Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works?*

23) *And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity. (KJV)*

So Jesus warns that only those who do the will of the Father will enter the Father’s Kingdom.

Jesus said many times to His disciples that the purpose of His life was to do His Father’s will. Please turn with me to John 4.

John 4:31 *In the meanwhile his disciples prayed him, saying, Master, eat.*

32) *But he said unto them, I have meat to eat that ye know not of.*

33) *Therefore said the disciples one to another, Hath any man brought him ought to eat?*

34) *Jesus saith unto them, My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work. (KJV)*

Please turn with me to John 5. Jesus was preaching to the Jewish leaders who were trying to kill Him.

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. (KJV)*

Please turn with me to John 6.

John 6:38 *For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me. (KJV)*

Please turn with me to Mark 3. Jesus was in the midst of His disciples, His followers, and His family. In answering a question, Jesus said the following:

Mark 3:35 *For whosoever shall do the will of God, the same is my brother, and my sister, and mother. (KJV)*

The Apostle Paul encouraged the Ephesian congregation to do the will of the Father from their heart.

Ephesians 6:5 *Servants, be obedient to them that are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in singleness of your heart, as unto Christ;
6) Not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but as the servants of Christ, doing the will of God [θέλημα τοῦ θεοῦ – again, all but a few instances in the New Testament of the word θεός refer to God the Father] from the heart;
7) With good will doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men: (KJV)*

So the Bible has a lot to say about the will of our Heavenly Father. But what truly is our Father's will?

Brethren, in exploring the subject of God the Father's will in the scriptures of the Bible and its applications in our physical and spiritual lives, I would like to discuss five points concerning our Father's will.

The first point concerning the will of our Heavenly Father is:

1. The Bible shows what the will of the Father is

We all have our own ideas about what the Father's will is, but let's let the Bible show what His will is.

Please turn with me to John 6. Jesus was teaching the multitudes in Capernaum which had come from the other side of the Sea of Galilee to hear Him. Jesus tells the multitude about the will of His Father.

John 6:39 *And 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.
40) And this is the will of him that sent me, that everyone which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day. (KJV)*

So the Father's will is that everyone who believes that Jesus is the Messiah sent from the Father may have eternal life and that Jesus will raise them at the resurrection.

Please turn with me to Ephesians 1. The Apostle Paul taught the Ephesians in his epistle to them concerning the will of the Father.

Ephesians 1:3 *Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ.*

4) *For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight.*

5) *In love he predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will. (NIV)*

In verse 5 we have two words: εὐδοκία (eudokia – Strong’s 2107) meaning good pleasure and θέλημα (thelema – Strong’s 2307) meaning will or desire. So our Father’s will and desire is that we become His sons through Jesus the Messiah.

Please turn with me to Luke 12. Jesus was preaching to a huge multitude, so many that they began trampling on one another to hear Him. Jesus preached about the Father’s will and His Kingdom.

Luke 12:31 *But rather seek ye the kingdom of God; and all these things shall be added unto you.*

32) *Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. (KJV)*

Again, the Greek word for “good pleasure” in verse 32 is the same Greek word we just discussed in Ephesians 1:05. So here we have Jesus preaching to the multitudes that it is the will and pleasure of the Father to give us His Kingdom.

It is the human nature in man not to believe in simplicity. Please turn with me to 2 Kings 5. Naaman (the general of the armies of Syria) was a leper. He traveled to Israel to ask to be healed by Elisha. Elisha did not even meet with him but told him by messenger to bathe seven times in the Jordan, and after doing that, he would be healed of his leprosy. What was Naaman’s response? He was angry. Just bathe in the Jordan? But his servants were wise and provided him with the following advice in verse 13:

2 Kings 5:13 *And his servants came near, and spake unto him, and said, My father [chief], if the prophet had bid thee do some great thing, wouldest thou not have done it? how much rather then, when he saith to thee, Wash, and be clean?” (KJV)*

Naaman heeded that advice, bathed in the Jordan seven times and was healed of his leprosy.

With that simplicity in mind, please turn with me to 1 Thessalonians 5. The Apostle Paul very descriptively described the will of the Father in his first epistle to the Thessalonians. We all have the tendency to apply huge tasks or huge demonstrative actions for describing the desires and instructions of our Creator. Yet Paul showed that the Father’s will includes the little consistent acts of kindness and love that we can show on a daily basis.

1 Thessalonians 5:08 *But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for a helmet, the hope of salvation.*

- 9) *For God [the Father] hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ,*
- 10) *Who died for us, that, whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with him.*
- 11) *Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another, even as also ye do.*
- 12) *And we beseech you, brethren, to know them which labour among you, and are over you in the Lord [εν Κυριος, in the Father], and admonish you;*
- 13) *And to esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake. And be at peace among yourselves.*
- 14) *Now we exhort you, brethren, warn them that are unruly, comfort the feebleminded, support the weak, be patient toward all men.*
- 15) *See that none render evil for evil unto any man; but ever follow that which is good, both among yourselves, and to all men.*
- 16) *Rejoice evermore.*
- 17) *Pray without ceasing.*
- 18) *In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God [θέλημα τοῦ θεοῦ, the will of the Father] in Christ Jesus concerning you. (KJV)*

So these scriptures show that the Father's will is that we edify one another, that we comfort one another, that we support the ministry, that we support the weak, that we be patient to one another, that we never seek revenge, that we follow good, that we rejoice always, that we pray without ceasing, and that we always give thanks for our blessings. All of these mundane acts of kindness are our Father's will.

Please turn with me to 1 Peter 2. The Apostle Peter further explains the will of our Heavenly Father.

1 Peter 2:15 *For this is the will of God, that by doing good you should put to silence the ignorance of foolish people. (KJV)*

Again, the will of the Father is tied to and connected with doing good in our lives.

Although the word "will" does not appear in Hebrew in the Old Testament, we find a verb which closely follows the concept of desire on the part of the Father.

Please turn with me to Micah 6. Again, knowing that Yehovah is the God the Father, we can see the commonality between the Old Testament and the New Testament.

Micah 6:08 *He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the LORD require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God? (KJV)*

The Hebrew verb for "require" in Micah 6:08 is "דָּרַשׁ" (darash) which means "to seek, to seek with care, to inquire, to require."

So Yehovah or God the Father seeks those who will do justly, who will love mercy, and who will walk humbly with Him. That is the desire, and by extension, the will of our Heavenly Father.

So how does the Bible define the will of the Father?

It is the Father's will that everyone whom the Father calls will have eternal life.

It is the Father's will that we become His spiritual sons forever.

It is the Father's will that we enter His Kingdom.

It is the Father's will that we love one another and treat one another with kindness including that we edify one another, that we comfort one another, that we support the ministry, that we support the weak, that we be patient to one another, that we never seek revenge, that we follow good, that we rejoice always, that we pray without ceasing, and that we always give thanks for our blessings.

It is the Father's will that we do justly, that we love mercy, and that we walk humbly with Him.

The second point concerning the will of our Heavenly Father is:

2. We must focus on the big picture to understand the will of the Father

Mankind in today's world is interested in immediate satisfaction, and the immediate fulfillment of every wish and desire. But God the Father does not think and act in that way. Please turn with me to Isaiah 55, and we will read the words from our Father on this matter.

Isaiah 55:8 *For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD.*

9) *For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts. (KJV)*

So our Heavenly Father looks at everything differently than we do. He is looking at the big picture. His main objective with each and every one of us is for us to enter into His Kingdom. As we have read earlier in John 6 and Luke 12, it is His will and His desire that we enter His Kingdom as His children.

And He has called us now for the purpose of assisting Christ in the administration of Christ's government on earth during the Millennium.

Our Father and Jesus the Messiah are working with each and every one of us and is preparing each and every one of us on an individual, personally tailored basis as part of Their plan for us to be in our Father's Kingdom.

The Father allows events and actions to occur in our lives to test us, to hone us, to mold us, and to correct us so that we will be in His Kingdom. That is of most importance to Him.

The severe trials in our lives, the tragedies in our lives, the failures in our lives, the unpleasant events in our lives all teach us one thing that will be so important in our future governance with Christ in the future: empathy.

Please turn with me to Hebrew 4. As a physical human on the earth, Jesus endured every trial and every temptation that we encounter in our lives today.

Hebrews 4:14 *Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession.*

15) *For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. (KJV)*

Jesus has empathy for what we face in our lives every day, because He lived a human life, He walked our walk, He faced what we face, yet without sin.

Please turn with me to John 5. God the Father will allow Jesus to judge humanity for spiritual salvation or for spiritual death. Why? Because of the empathy that Jesus has for mankind. This is explained in John 5, beginning in verse 22.

John 5:22 *For the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the Son:*

Skip down to verse 26

26) *For as the Father hath life in himself; so hath he given to the Son to have life in himself;*

27) *And hath given him authority to execute judgment also, because he is the Son of man. (KJV)*

It is the will of our Heavenly Father that we rule with love and with empathy, so that we can tell those who live into the Millennium and those who will be resurrected in the Millennium that we totally understand, that we have walked in their shoes, that we know what it's like to endure what they have endured in their lives.

I believe that this helps explain why the Father allows bad things happen to us in our lives sometimes. Maybe we are having severe health trials. Why doesn't the Father heal us immediately? Maybe it is so that we learn empathy toward others in their health trials. Maybe we've lost a family member in a tragic accident or from an illness. Why didn't the Father stop the accident or heal the family member? Maybe the Father allowed it so that we could have a certain empathy and understanding for use in the future that we would have gotten no other way.

The people in the world today and in the world in history are and have been totally taken in by Satan and his influence. Mankind has all lived unhappy lives, full of sadness, heartache, loss, sickness, violence, suffering, tragedy, and death.

These are the people that we are going to help in the future. The trials and the suffering that we undergo in this life help to prepare us for use by God the Father and Jesus Christ to relate to the problems and issues of the resurrected masses and to help our Father's future children attain spiritual salvation.

God the Father focuses on His plan of salvation. All that happens in the world ultimately advances that plan, because the Father is always ultimately in control. The day will come when we will be able to sit down with our Heavenly Father, and He will explain why He allowed this to happen and that to happen, why He immediately answered this prayer but never answered that prayer.

It will all make perfect sense then. We will all see the perfect wisdom and reasons in His decisions that we just cannot see and understand now.

So, we must trust our Heavenly Father and we must keep our focus on the big picture and not get lost in the weeds.

The third point concerning the will of our Heavenly Father is:

2. We can obstruct the will of the Father by our actions

On a big-picture scale, the will of God the Father will always be done; however, on a personal scale, that is not always the case. The reason is that our Heavenly Father allows us to have free moral agency. He allows us to choose whether to follow Him or not.

So even though our Father's will is that we do this action or that action, if we choose not to, we obstruct His will, and His will is not done through us. His will always will be done, but it just may not be through us.

When the Father called and chose us, He had a plan for each and every one of us. But by our decisions, our sins, and our rebellion against the Father, He may have had to alter that plan many times. He started with us with Plan A. But through our sins and disobedience, Plan A (the Father's original plan for us) gets altered to Plan B. Plan A is no longer available.

An example in the Bible where a man changed God's original plan for him was King David. Please turn with me to 2 Samuel 12. We all know the story of David and Bathsheba. David was a man after God's own heart. But David allowed his lust for Bathsheba to get the better of him.

David committed adultery with Bathsheba, and then he desperately tried to cover up the sin when she became pregnant at a time when her husband Uriah would not have been with her. What to do! What to do! So David had Uriah put on the front lines of battle so that he would be certainly killed, which he was. Problem solved. David married Bathsheba, and all was well. He got away with it, or so he thought.

God sent the prophet Nathan to David. And Nathan, in explaining David's sin to him, said the following.

2 Sam 12:07 *Then Nathan said to David, "You are that man! The Lord, the God of Israel, says: I anointed you king of Israel and saved you from the power of Saul. 8) I gave you your master's house and his wives and the kingdoms of Israel and Judah. And if that had not been enough, I would have given you much, much more. 9) Why, then, have you despised the word of the Lord and done this horrible deed? For you have murdered Uriah the Hittite with the sword of the Ammonites and stolen his wife. 10 From this time on, your family will live by the sword because you have despised me by taking Uriah's wife to be your own. 11) This is what the Lord says: Because of what you have done, I will cause your own household to rebel against you. I will give your wives to another man before your very eyes, and he will go to bed with them in public view. 12) You did it secretly, but I will make this happen to you openly in the sight of all Israel."* (NLT)

Notice the past conditional tense in verse 8. I would have given. It is a terrible and sad event when the Father uses the past conditional tense in addressing us. The past

conditional tense is always followed by a terrible three letter word – “but.” Verse 8 says: *And if that had not been enough, I would have given you much, much more.* This tense means a change in the plan. The Father would have given David much, much more, but now He was not. David, by his actions and deeds, changed the plan that God had for him. His life was never the same. He was always on the run. His own son would continually try to kill him. His wives were all openly raped. He and others paid a terrible price. This was definitely not what the Father had intended in His original plan for David. Yet, the Father’s overall will with David was still done, and King David will rule over the House of Israel in the Millennium.

Another example in the Bible where God's original plan was changed was with the Children of Israel. The Children of Israel had left Egypt on the First Day of Unleavened Bread. Approximately 18 months after they had left Egypt, the Children of Israel were camped at the edge of the Promised Land in the Wilderness of Paran.

Turn with me to Numbers 14. The Father’s original plan for the Children of Israel was for them to enter the Promised Land at that time. They were all camped close by ready to enter into the Promised Land. Moses sent the 12 spies to spy out the land. After 40 days, the 12 spies returned, and 10 of the spies gave a bad report. Only Joshua and Caleb spoke positively concerning the Promised Land. What was the reaction of the Israelites?

Numbers 14:01 *And all the congregation lifted up their voice, and cried; and the people wept that night.*

2) *And all the children of Israel murmured against Moses and against Aaron: and the whole congregation said unto them, Would God that we had died in the land of Egypt! or would God we had died in this wilderness!*

3) *And wherefore hath the LORD brought us unto this land, to fall by the sword, that our wives and our children should be a prey? were it not better for us to return into Egypt?*

4) *And they said one to another, Let us make a captain, and let us return into Egypt.*

They were all ready to return to Egypt. They even wanted to stone Joshua and Caleb. Skip down to verse 22.

22) [Yehovah said] *Because all those men which have seen my glory, and my miracles, which I did in Egypt and in the wilderness, and have tempted me now these ten times, and have not hearkened to my voice;*

23) *Surely they shall not see the land which I swore unto their fathers, neither shall any of them that provoked me see it:*

Skip down to verse 29

29) *Your carcasses shall fall in this wilderness; and all that were numbered of you, according to your whole number, from twenty years old and upward, which have murmured against me,*

30) *Doubtless ye shall not come into the land, concerning which I swore to make you dwell therein, save Caleb the son of Jephunneh, and Joshua the son of Nun.*

- 31) *But your little ones, which ye said should be a prey, them will I bring in, and they shall know the land which ye have despised.*
32) *But as for you, your carcasses, they shall fall in this wilderness.*
33) *And your children shall wander in the wilderness forty years, and bear your whoredoms (infidelity), until your carcasses be wasted in the wilderness.” (KJV)*

The Father's original plan and will was for the Israelites to enter the Promised Land at that time. But because of their unbelief and their rebellion, God changed the original plan. Instead, the new plan was for the Israelites to wander 40 years in the wilderness until everyone over the age of 19 was dead (except for Joshua and Caleb). The original plan was no longer available to the Israelites.

The Father's will was ultimately fulfilled though 40 years later when a new generation entered the Promised Land. But the ones who entered in were not the ones whom the Father originally intended.

Brethren, what have we done or what are we doing to obstruct the Father's will from being done through us?

On what plan is the Father with us now? If He started with Plan A with us, are we on Plan G or K or even Z?

Do we think too highly of ourselves? Again, like we read in Micah 6:08, the Father's will and desire are that we walk humbly with Him. The Father has called us and chosen us to know His truth now and not later in the future with the rest of humanity. But instead of appreciating the great honor and privilege that He has given us, do we begin to think proudly of ourselves?

Please turn with me to Luke 3. This pride was the attitude of the Pharisees and the Jewish leaders in the time of Jesus. They believed that since they had Abraham as their father, that they were special above all others in the world and that they were superior to everyone else.

Luke 3:7 *Then said he to the multitude that came forth to be baptized of him, O generation of vipers, who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come?*

8) *Bring forth therefore fruits worthy of repentance, and begin not to say within yourselves, We have Abraham to our father: for I say unto you, That God is able of these stones to raise up children unto Abraham. (KJV)*

The blunt truth of the matter is that God the Father does not need any of us. He deals with us out of His infinite love and patience, not because we deserve it in any way, but because it is His will and desire that we become His children.

Brethren, let's strive never to obstruct the Father's will in our lives.

The fourth point concerning the will of our Heavenly Father is:

4. We cannot make our will to be the will of the Father

As Jesus lived His life here on earth, He left a perfect and powerful example of how we should live our lives by imitating the way that He lived His life.

Please turn with me to 1 Peter 2. The Apostle Peter wrote that Jesus left us an example of suffering.

1 Peter 2:19 *For this is thankworthy, if a man for conscience toward God endure grief, suffering wrongfully.*

20) *For what glory is it, if, when ye be buffeted for your faults, ye shall take it patiently? but if, when ye do well, and suffer for it, ye take it patiently, this is acceptable with God.*

21) *For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps:*

22) *Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth:*

23) *Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed himself to him that judgeth righteously: (KJV)*

So Peter instructs us that Jesus left us an example of suffering unjustly and that we should follow His footsteps and travel that same path.

Please turn with me to John 5. Jesus was preaching to the Jewish leaders who were trying to kill Him.

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. (KJV)*

Jesus never sought His own will during His life here on earth. He lived a perfect and sinless life, and He always sought and followed His Father's will.

However, we are not sinless. We are continually corrupted by the influence of Satan, by the influence of the world, and by the influence of our own human nature. We want what we want. And we usually want it now.

Please turn with me to Matthew 26. On the last night of Jesus' life, in the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus reiterated that He was here to do the will of His Father.

Matthew 26:38 *Then saith he unto them, My soul is exceeding sorrowful, even unto death: tarry ye here, and watch with me.*

39) *And he went a little further, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt.*

40) *And he cometh unto the disciples, and findeth them asleep, and saith unto Peter, What, could ye not watch with me one hour?*

41) *Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.*

42) *He went away again the second time, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if this cup may not pass away from me, except I drink it, thy will be done. (KJV)*

Jesus totally surrendered to His Father's will. Jesus was human. He did not want to die. He knew exactly what the following day would bring: mockings, a torturous and agonizing scourging, a painful crucifixion, and finally death. He was facing straight on His short

future on this earth. His will was to live, but He surrendered to His Father's will. And His Father's will was that He would die for all the sins of mankind so that we would have the opportunity to have eternal life as our Father's spiritual children.

Please turn with me to John 12. Earlier in Jesus' ministry, He understood that it was the Father's will that He die.

John 12:27 *Now is my soul troubled; and what shall I say? Father, save me from this hour: but for this cause came I unto this hour. (KJV)*

Jesus knew how His life would end, and He knew the very day that it would end. Have we ever pondered that truth? How would it be and how would you live your life if you knew the exact date of your death? Again, Jesus did not want to die, but He knew that His suffering and His death were the very reasons why He came to earth.

Our human nature gives us a proclivity of wanting what we want, and supplanting what the Father wants with what we want. Do we find ourselves playing games that we outwardly show that we are seeking God's will, when we are actually inwardly seeking our own will? We cannot play games with the Father. He knows our heart, He knows our thoughts, He knows our intentions, and He knows our motivations.

We should strive to have the exact same attitude toward the Father's will as Jesus did. He did give us great examples for us to follow, as we have read earlier.

Please turn with me to Philippians 2. If we allow Him to, the Father will give us the desire and the power to do His will. The Apostle Paul discusses this in His epistle to the Philippian congregation.

Philippians 2:12 *Dear friends, you always followed my instructions when I was with you. And now that I am away, it is even more important. Work hard to show the results of your salvation, obeying God with deep reverence and fear.*

13) *For God is working in you, giving you the desire and the power to do what pleases him. (NLT)*

Our Heavenly Father will give us the desire and power to do what pleases Him, to do His will, and that power that He gives us will help us immensely in controlling our own desires and our own will.

The fifth point concerning the will of our Heavenly Father is:

5. We are to test and to prove what the will of the Father is

Brethren, not everything that happens in life is the Father's will. We can easily be confused in the in the heat of a trial and in the moment of decision what the will of our Heavenly Father really is.

Please turn with me to Romans 12. The Apostle Paul addresses this issue with the members in Rome.

Romans 12:01 *I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.*

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 [θέλημα τοῦ θεοῦ, will of God the Father].*

3) *For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith. (KJV)*

So the Apostle Paul instructed and exhorted the Roman congregation to not accept just anything as the will of our Heavenly Father.

The Greek verb for “prove” in Verse 2 is “δοκιμάζω” (dokimazo) which means “to put to the test, to prove, to examine, to distinguish by testing.”

Paul is exhorting the brethren to test, to prove, to examine, and to distinguish by testing what the will of our Father is.

Not everything that happens in our lives necessarily is the Father’s will. Seeking the Father’s will cannot be used as an excuse for doing nothing. Seeking the Father’s will cannot be used as an excuse to settle for whatever happens in our lives. Seeking the Father’s will is not defeatism. How many times do we hear after failing in something or hearing bad news or not receiving what we are striving for in life, “Well, I guess that’s God’s will.” Do we just give up in what we are striving for? Do we ever think that the Father may be testing us to see our resolve in the situation?

So brethren, we should prayerfully examine and distinguish by testing what the will of our Father is. We shouldn’t just settle for just anything that happens and call it God’s will.

So brethren, seeking, knowing, and understanding the will of our Heavenly Father is very misunderstood by the majority of mankind. The concept of God’s will has been so abused, so misconstrued, so misrepresented, and so used as a weapon of control over and atrocities against other people.

Brethren, in today’s sermon, we discussed five points concerning the will of our Heavenly Father:

- 1) The Bible shows what the will of the Father is
- 2) We must focus on the big picture to understand the will of the Father
- 3) We can obstruct the will of the Father by our actions
- 4) We cannot make our will to be the will of the Father
- 5) We are to test and prove what the will of the Father is

So brethren, in these end times, with the world seemingly crumbling around us, with the world seemingly steering totally out of control, let us renew our focus on seeking the will of our Heavenly Father.

Let us renew our focus on striving for entering our Father’s Kingdom, because that ultimately is His greatest will and desire.

Let us renew our focus on loving, revering, honoring, obeying, and worshipping our Heavenly Father not just with words but with our actions and our thoughts.

Let us renew our focus on showing sincere love to one another, edifying one another, comforting one another, supporting one another, being patient with one another, doing good to one another, rejoicing with one another, praying for one another, and being kind to one another.

In closing, our Father's will can be summed up by the two great commandments that Jesus gave in Matthew 22 when He was asked what the great commandment was.

Matthew 22:37 *Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.*

38) *This is the first and great commandment.*

39) *And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. (KJV)*

Our Father's will is that we love Him with all our heart and soul and mind and that we love one another as we would love ourselves. Do we do this every minute of every day? Are we following the will of our Heavenly Father in the way that we conduct our lives?

Final scripture. Please turn with me to Matthew 6:33, a famous scripture that we all know by heart.

Matthew 6:33 *But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you. (KJV)*

Brethren, God the Father wants us to seek His Kingdom, a Kingdom He deeply desires to give to us, a Kingdom for which He was willing for His only Son to suffer and die so that we may enter it. Again, this is the ultimate will of our Heavenly Father.

Brethren, let's strive to seek the Kingdom of our Heavenly Father and His righteousness, and let us always strive to seek our Father's will.