

God Promises His Will

Ephesians 1:9-10 (NIV)

⁹ And he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ,

¹⁰ to be put into effect when the times will have reached their fulfillment--to bring all things in heaven and on earth together under one head, even Christ.

Will of God: One theme that all parts of Scripture take up in one way or another is the will of God. God's will is as vast as his entire plan for creation, and from the standpoint of objective content, it seems to be settled and unchanging. Old and New Testament writers can thus refer to God's will as if its existence is accepted by all. But though it may seem to have the character of a broad blueprint, in practical applications it is expressed in specific terms. God's will can also be viewed from its active side as his conscious "deciding," "willing," and "choosing" to do something.

There is only one constant in this ever-changing world, and that's the character of our heavenly Father. The very earth itself is undergoing changes constantly. What seems the most immovable now will one day be done away with. But God is unchanging. God is unwavering. He's completely faithful and committed to seeing through the promises he's made you.

In the life of Jesus, God illustrated not only his nearness to us, but his desire to co-labor with us in his plans of redemption for all peoples, all generations and all of creation. And within God's desire to partner with us on the earth lies an incredible promise he makes to his people: God promises to share with us the knowledge of his will. An incredible example of God sharing his will with his people is displayed in

Ephesians 1:7-12 In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory.

Paul tells us that God, through the death of Jesus, revealed the mystery of his will to his people. Jesus' death tells us of God's incredible plan to reconcile everything around us to himself. God's plan set throughout the ages revealed itself in Jesus' actions. However, Scripture doesn't only describe a single time God revealed the mystery of his will. The Bible is clear that God desires for his people to continually know his will.

Romans 12:1-2 says, "I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by

testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.” In the renewing of your mind to God’s truth, you position yourself to continually discern the “good and acceptable and perfect” will of God.

How amazing! Not only does God want you to know his will, but he’s given you an incredible tool to do so in the renewing of your mind.

God wants to speak to you throughout your day, influencing the various decisions you make. Your heavenly Father loves you. As a good Father, he longs to share with you what’s best for you, and he’ll do so in the best way possible. Trust and listen, and live your life in response to the life-giving knowledge of God’s will. May God’s character become your source and refuge—your constant and unshakable foundation.