

The will of God

What is the key to knowing the will of God? "What is God's will for me?" This question is perhaps the one most often asked by believers. In everyday situations of life, believers are constantly making choices which determine whether or not they will do the perfect will of God. It is essential to understand His will, make right decisions each day. It is important because each minor decision affects the finding of God's will for a lifetime. Man must make choices in relationship to God's will. This plan was instituted by God when Adam and Eve were placed in the Garden of Eden. God's will for Adam and Eve was to name the animals, tend the Garden, have companionship with each other, and reproduce to populate the earth. Most important, they were to maintain intimate fellowship with God. Adam and Eve were also warned about what was not God's will. They were forbidden to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. The entire Bible is a history of decisions which individuals and nations made in relation to God's will. Knowing the will of God is one of the most important things we can seek in our Christian walk. The keys to knowing God's will for decisions we make are twofold. First, we have to be sure what we are asking or considering is not forbidden in the Bible. Second, God's ultimate will for us is always to glorify Him and help us grow spiritually. We are to redeem the time. Quit wasting time!(EPH5: 15-17)

The will of God includes everything that God desires or wishes to happen in heaven and on earth. As a result, He has planned what He wishes to occur. For example, in the first part of the Lord's Prayer, found in the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus teaches us to pray that the Father's will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Pray, then, in this way: "*Our Father who is in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done, On earth as it is in heaven*"(MAT6:9-10) The word for "will" is thelma. means "what one wishes or has determined will happen." we are to want God to have His wish, His will and His plans fulfilled. That your life and plans should agree with His will. God works all things, including your life, according to his purposes. "*I cry out to God Most High, to God who fulfills his purpose for me.*"(PSA57:2) This is key in understanding God's purpose for your life. God has numbered your days and will fulfill every purpose He has for you.

A successful man is a man who finds out what God wants him to accomplish with his life and then fulfils it. The true measure of a man's success is simply in doing what God wants him to do. The greatest joy in a Christian's life is to know that he is pleasing God by doing His will. God's desires, His commands and His plans are expressed throughout the Bible. Jesus Christ set the example of doing the will of God in Gethsemane. He said, "*My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; When He faced the terrible scourging and crucifixion for our sins, yet prayed, nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will.*"(MAT26:39) What does the will of God? It refers to the sovereign plan of God that Jesus die. This was his plan, his decree. He was willing to give Himself totally to show His love and to do His Father's will. Psalm 40 suggests the need for a body, created by God, to complete His will. This is used in Hebrews 10:7, as a prophecy about the bodily ministry of Jesus Christ, *Then I said, "See --it is written about me in the scroll --I have come to do your will, God."*

What a blessing it is to know that you are exactly where God wants you to be as a Christian and doing exactly what He wants you to do in this life. For the Bible teaches that if you really want to know God's will, you must be willing to do it even before you know what it is. This is taught in John 7:17: "*If anyone wills to do His will, he shall know concerning the doctrine, whether it is from God or whether I speak on My own authority.*" In this verse, Jesus was teaching the great principle that knowing the will of God consists largely in being willing to do it. To know the will of God, we should be submitted to His Spirit that we can hear Him when He leads us. Bible explains that no one knows a man's thoughts except the spirit of the man (1CO2:11-16) Believers have been given the Spirit of God, He can teach us God's thoughts and will. But we won't be able if our minds are filled with worldly concerns. We must seek God's help to do His will as well.

But before you can experience God's blessing in His perfect will, you must know what His will is. It is the will of God that every Christian be sanctified. "*For this is the will of God, your sanctification; that is, that you abstain from sexual immorality.*"(1TH4:1-7) This verse tells us that we can only be in God's will if we are living clean holy lives (which is a pure life that is separated from evil) in our thoughts, motives, and actions. It is the will of God that you thank God in everything. "*In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.*"(1TH5:18) To know God's will from day to day, you must first be totally committed to His desires.(IPE4:2) To know God's will you must first present your body to Him totally submissive to whatever He would lead you to do. "be not conformed" He will "renew your mind." Your mind is "renewed" by the word of God and prayer. Therefore, if you will do this, you are able to "*prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God.*"(ROM12:2) Apostle Paul tells us he was "called to be an apostle by the will of God". God does have a place in life that only you can fill...so find that place of service and serve. It involves doing "every good work" working at maturing spiritually and becoming Christ-likeness. You can complete God's will for your life.

By definition "yours will be done" is God's purpose and plan for our lives. If you will of what He plans for our lives to be and He is at work all the time. You must be in conformity to the will of God before He will direct you in the specifics of life. Your priority should be to fulfil the will of God in your daily life, then trust Him to guide you in the detailed plan, step by step. God is infinitely more interested in your being the type of person He wants you to be in your doing for Him certain deeds and works. Be what He wants you to be, and He will show you what to do, as well as enable you to do it. The will of God is ultimately the same for every person on earth, to be conformed to the image of His Son, the Lord Jesus.

What are the three kinds of wills?

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Jesus declared: *For I came down from Heaven not to do mine own will, but the will of Him that sent me.*(JOH6:38) The common meaning of the word "will" is to determine on the basis of the will. The will is the power of choice. Examine life of Jesus in relation to that will and importance of the will of God. There are three types of will operating in the world.

Self-will: This is the will of man, the basic selfish nature which desires to walk its own way. Willfulness, especially in satisfying one's own desires or adhering to one's own opinions. Self-will is being stubborn or sticking firmly to your own opinion and ideas. When you guide your life by self-will, you make choices on the basis of your will apart from God. The Bible warns about self-will: *O Lord, I know that the way of man is not in himself; it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps.*(JER10:23) Self-will is the operation of the fleshly nature of man: *“and especially those who walk according to the flesh in the lust of uncleanness and despise authority. They are presumptuous, self-willed. They are not afraid to speak evil of dignitaries,*(2PE2:10) Bible records results of self-will: So I gave them up unto their own hearts' lust: and they walked in their own counsels.(PSA81:12) Sin, suffering, trouble in the world today are all results of man living in disobedience to the will of God. David speaks of self-will operating in the lives of wicked men: *Deliver me not over unto the will of mine enemies: for false witnesses are risen up against me, and such as breathe out cruelty.*(PSA27:12) Bible states that leaders in the church should not be self-willed: For the bishop must be blameless as the steward of God: not self-willed.(TIT1:7)

Satan's will: Satan has a will. He desires to destroy all that is good in your life. Jesus warned Peter about this: And the Lord said, Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat.(LUK22:31) Satan wants to sift all that is good out of your life. Jesus said: The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.(JOH10:10) Paul said some believers are taken captive by the will of Satan: And that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will.(2TI2:26) We are not unaware of his schemes” or “evil tricks”(2CO2:11), and we are wise to heed its warnings.

God's will: The third will operating in the world is the will of God. The will of God or divine will is the concept of a God having a will (i.e. particular desire) for humanity. Ascribing a volition or a plan to a God generally implies a personal God. It is often conflated with God's plan. In Greek there are two terms used for the word "will" in reference to the will of God. One word is "boulema," which refers to God's sovereign will. This is His predetermined plan for everything that happens in the universe. This type of "God's will" is fulfilled regardless of decisions made by man. It is His master plan for the world. The "boulema" will of God does not require the cooperation of man and the outcome is predetermined. The "boulema" will of God is written in His Word and is quite clear. There is no need to seek this will of God because it is revealed in the Bible. The other word "thelema" refers to God's desire for man to experience and live in His will. It refers to His individual plan or will for each man and women. In order for God to fulfil His "thelema" will, it requires your cooperation. You have the power to choose whether or not you will walk in the individual will of God for your life. It is this "thelema" will, or God's will for you as an individual, to which we speak of seeking God's will. Other type of God's will is the "moral" will of God, commandments revealed in written Word of God which teach how believers should live. The moral will of God is found in his law. The precepts, statutes, commandments that he delivers to his people the moral will. They reveal to us what is right and proper for us to do. The moral will is God's rule of righteousness for our lives.

God's will was the chief concern of Jesus during His earthly ministry.(JOH6:39) God's will was to bring men into right relationship with Him: 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.(JOH6:38,40) The purpose of Christ's life was to fulfil God's will. Even as a child, Jesus was concerned with doing God's will. When He was in the temple and His parents came looking for Him, Jesus said: *“Did you not know that I must be about My Father's business?”*(LUK2:49) The secret of His spiritual strength was found in doing God's will: Jesus said, *My meat is to do the will of Him that sent me, and to finish His work.*(JOH4:34) His concern with finishing God's work through His life and ministry. The power evident in Christ's earthly ministry is related to the will of God(JOH5:30) Christ's words and deeds were not His own. He spoke and acted according to the Father's will: My doctrine is not mine, but His that sent me.(JOH7:16) The word which ye hear is not mine, but the Father's. I do nothing of myself, but as my Father has taught me.(JOH8:28;14:24) I seek not my own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me.(JOH5:30) Even as He faced death by crucifixion, Jesus was willing to die if it was God's will for Him to do so. The life of Jesus is a perfect example of absolute conformity to the sovereign, moral, and individual will of God.

In Eph1:9–10, *“And he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ,”* Before the foundation of the world God's plan was to send Christ to die for us, but in later times He revealed to us this mystery. There's “the revealed will of God,” and there's also “the hidden will of God.” *“The secret things belong to the Lord our God, but those things which are revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law.*(DEU29:29) We are responsible to pass on what God has revealed to our children, to bring them up with discipline and instruction that comes from the Lord. Anything that God has ordained to “belong to us” is ours to steward. God desires obedience from us. When he reveals his will, he expects us to live accordingly. The most important “secret” thing is the exact time of the second coming of Christ. While we don't know when that will be, we are to always be ready.

God's will is important

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God's will is important because: Your eternal destiny depends on doing God's will. You must respond positively to God's plan of redemption for your life. . . Because straight is the gate and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.(MAT7:14,21) Not every one 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. God's ultimate will is the advancement of his kingdom, and the salvation and sanctification of his children through his son, Jesus. In His sovereignty and power, God decided not to demand—force—all people to actually be saved. But God is not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to faith and to repentance. Jesus' followers to continue growing in their faith, love, and service to God and be ready for Jesus' return. *And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.*(IJO2:17)

Your relationship to Jesus is based on doing His will: *For whosoever shall do the will of God, the same is my brother, and my sister, and mother.*(MAR3:35) God's will is important because you are incapable of directing your own way: (JER10:23) You lack the ability to guide your own steps. Without God's guidance you go your own way and stray from the plan of God: All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned everyone to his own way.(ISA53:6) God is the only one with knowledge of the future. He knows the snares of Satan that await you. He knows the future of the economic and political systems. He knows what events await you in the future: *I am God, and there is none like me, declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done.*(IIISA46:9-10) Man is able to function in the present and recall the past. He can also plan for the future. But God is the only one with actual knowledge of the future.

Knowing God's will is also important because you are commanded to know and do it: *Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is.*(EPH5:17) Christians should not be reckless or unwise in our lifestyle choices. Paul referred to some "foolish" actions and talk (v.4) Here, he reminds readers that foolishness contradicts God's desire for our lives. As the servant of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart.(EPH6:6) God desires your obedience to His will more than He desires your sacrifices or praise: Samuel said, Hath the Lord as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as in obeying the voice of the Lord? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, to hearken than the fat of rams. For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, stubbornness as iniquity and idolatry.(ISA15:22-23) God wants you to stand perfect and complete in His will: Epaphras has been praying that believers "*may stand mature and fully assured in all the will of God.*"(COL4:12)

According to Jesus, knowledge of the truth leading to obedience, a person is willing to obey God is what affects their ability to learn the truth! If you do God's will as it is revealed to you, then you will develop spiritual maturity in judging sound doctrine. This will prevent you from being deceived by false teaching. When you are living in the will of God you can pray with confidence that your requests will be answered: *And whatsoever we ask, we receive of Him because we keep His commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in His sight.*(IJO3:22) Confidence and Compassion in Prayer: *Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us.*(IJO5:14) Spiritual blessings are promised if you do God's will: For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise.(HEB10:36) Blessings will actually pursue you: And it shall come to pass, if thou shalt hearken diligently unto the voice of the Lord thy God, to serve and to do all His commandments which I command thee this day, that the Lord thy God will set thee on high above all nations of the earth; And all these blessing shall come on thee, and overtake thee, if thou shalt hearken unto the voice of the Lord thy God.(DEU28:1-2) Those who deliberately turn away from God's revealed will are chastised: Chastisement means discipline, reproof, and correction.(v.15) And ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as unto children, My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of Him; For whom the Lord loveth, He chasteneth and scourgeth every son whom He receiveth.(HEB12:5-9) Jesus warned: *And that servant, which knew his lord's will, and prepared not himself, neither did according to his will, shall be beaten with many stripes.*(LUK12:47) some Christians do not live godly lives, such believers will be rebuked by Lord. Knowing God's will is a serious matter for those who desire to live abundant life and avoid chastisement.

One of the instructions given to Joshua when he assumed leadership of the nation of Israel was to keep the commandments of God and walk in His ways. If he did this, Joshua had this guarantee: *Then thou shalt make thy way prosperous and then thou shalt have good success.*(JOS1:8) Like Joshua we would be wise to take heed to God's word - to recite His word in our heart and to keep the truth of His Word forever on our lips and in our hearts - and to observe all that God has written to us in our lives - for then we will prosper and succeed in whatsoever we do - to our benefit and to His glory. Psalms 1:3, records that a man walking in God's way will be successful and "whatsoever he doeth shall prosper" blessed person—one who follows and considers the words of God. will enjoy spiritual prosperity and spiritual success. In a world filled with failure and defeat, knowing and doing the will of God is the secret to successful living. You should be motivated to do God's will because you love Him. Love desires to please the object of love: If ye love me, keep my commandments.

Once we're saved, God has a further will for our lives. Forgiveness of sins is an entree to a life dedicated to the fulfilment of the will of God. Jesus said, "*Whoever does God's will is my brother and sister and mother*"(MAT12:50) Christ defines His family through the connection to His Father in heaven. Believers are brothers and sisters in Christ because we all share the same Father in heaven. That Father has literally adopted us as His own children through our faith in Christ.

God wants you to know His will

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Bible commands: Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is.(EPH5:17) Paul's prayer on behalf of the Colossian Christians for their continued spiritual growth, including knowledge of God, of His will and wisdom. Paul also prays for their strength and endurance. So, they are part of becoming more like Christ.(COL1:9) In Acts Paul spoke to one man: 'The God of our fathers has chosen you that you should know His will, and see the Just One, and hear the voice of His mouth.(ACT22:14) On the basis of Scriptures it can be concluded that God wants you to know His will.

God is working in this world to bring to pass all things on the basis of His plan: *In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being pre-destinated according to the purpose of Him who worketh all things after the counsel of His own will.*(EPH1:11) The believer's inheritance is two-fold. First, it means becoming a child of God; this gives us the right to expect an inheritance. Second, we gain eternity with the Lord, dwelling in His righteousness for all time. God has an overall plan for the universe which He is working out. We call this His master plan. He also has an individual plan for each person. Those plans fall within this sovereign plan and His moral will. God's will for each individual includes His sovereign plan of redemption: *The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.*(2PE3:9) But God's plan goes beyond the revelation of His sovereign and moral wills. God has an individual plan for each person which He seeks to communicate. He placed men in specific situations at exact times for special purposes. Each stories in Bible is unique.

God told the Prophet Jeremiah: *"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you; Before you were born I sanctified you; I ordained you a prophet to the nations."*(JER1:5) It means that God knew you before you were even conceived. He knew who you would be, when you would die. There are certain people that God Almighty has prepared for his purposes. What greater witness is there to the personal plan of God for an individual? When the Apostle Peter was overly concerned about what ministry John was to have, Jesus said to him. If I will that he tarry till I come, what is that to thee? follow thou me. (JOH 21:22) Jesus had different plans for the lives of Peter and John. Everywhere we look in the universe intelligent planning is apparent. The arrangement of planets, the stars, the individual designs of each flower reflect this planning. Given this evidence, we must conclude that the divine Creator has an individual plan for man, the highest of His created beings. God promised: *I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will guide you with My eye.*(PSA32:8) It is the Lord's desire to teach His children in the way in which He would have them to go according to His way of submission and obedience to His Word and His authority. Psalms 37:23 states that every step of a righteous man is ordered by the Lord: *The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord, And He delights in his way.* The same word "ordered" is used in Psalms 8:3 in relation to the moon and stars which God created. The science of astronomy has recorded the amazing precision of the movement of heavenly bodies. The same precision that has scheduled the movement of the planets orders the steps of believers. He promised: Your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, "This is the way, walk in it," Whenever you turn to the right hand Or whenever you turn to the left.(ISA30:21) God orders not just the big events of life, but each step.

God's will is often contrary to the ways of man: *For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.*(ISA55:8-9) God's thoughts and His ways don't always make sense to us, God's will is not always the path you would naturally select. This is why it is important to recognize the voice of God. But this does not mean the will of God is something which will bring unhappiness. God's will is always good, and, therefore, everything He does is good. Although His way may not be the one you would select, God knows what is best, they are higher. Better. Superior.(ROM12:2) God's plans is progressive: Ephesians 2:10 states "we are His workmanship." The word "are" is the present tense. God is constantly working in your life. It is a continuing, progressive process of revealing His will. *For it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure.*(PHI2:13) God works in us to "will" His good pleasure. This includes the idea of placing desires a believer to serve the Lord. God's desire to make you perfect in every good work to do His will, working in you that which is well pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ: to whom be glory for ever and ever.(HEB13:21) God is continually guiding, developing, and speaking to you regarding His plan. You are promised continual guidance.

We must understand there are two basic divisions of the will of God. Each division is in harmony with the other: The first division of the will of God is that which is specifically revealed in the Bible. The will of God for each individual always falls within His sovereign and moral will as revealed in His written Word. The written Word of God includes the complete revelation of God's moral will. This includes all commandments as to how you should live. God's sovereign will includes His moral will. It is His sovereign will that each man and woman live within the moral standards of His written Word. The best summary of this plan is: the unity of the knowledge of the Son of God would refer to the unified content of what is known about the Son of God. that is involved in the salvation thru Christ and full knowledge of what is given in him.

The second division of God's will is that which is not revealed in His Word. This includes the individual life plan for each believer. God's Word does not reveal your specific life ministry or occupation, what church you are to attend, who you are to marry, where you are to live, etc. Yet each of these decisions are important. It is for decisions like these that you must seek God's will and be able to hear His voice. It becomes clear as you pray, and God reveals it to you by His Spirit.

When desiring to know God's will in regards to a certain life situation, first study the Scriptures to see if specific guidance is given in the written Word of God. There is no need to "seek God's will" or ask for confirmation of His will when He has already spoken in His written Word. Examine the Scriptures carefully for specific guidance already given. Accept the written Word as God's voice speaking to you. If you refuse the guidance God has given in His written Word, you open yourself up to deception. In many situations the Bible provides general principles--which when understood and applied-- will lead to a decision consistent with God's will. These principles apply to a variety of specific situations. For example, Apostle Paul warns: Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? And what concord hath Christ with Belial (Satan)? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? (2CO6:14-15) Scripture's teaching here is that Christians must not enter into binding, partnering agreements with non-Christians. Bible gives a general principle that believers and unbelievers should not be yoked together. This principle can be applied to many life situations: Being married to an unbeliever, going into business partnership with an unbeliever, making unbelievers your closest friends, etc. Study the lives of Biblical characters to see what decisions they made in similar situations and if such decisions were in harmony with the will of God. In matters where guidance is not given in the written Word of God, the Lord has other methods by which He speaks to man.

In Romans 12:1-2: *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. 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.* What is meant by the good, acceptable, and perfect will of God? We will now deal with that question, and in doing so discover the pattern of God's will. The perfect will of God. The perfect will of God is accomplished when a believer is in harmony with the moral, sovereign, and individual wills of God for his life. The believer has accepted the sovereign plan of God for his salvation through the new birth experience. He is in harmony with the moral commandments of God's written Word. He also has determined God's specific guidance for his individual life plan. In the good will of God, the believer is not in the perfect plan for his life but he is within God's sovereign will and moral will. He is not disobedient to God's revealed will, and he is still seeking to find that perfect individual plan of God for His life. In the acceptable will of God, the believer is missing the perfect will of God for his life but is still in an acceptable area. He is living in the permissive will of God. He may not even be concerned about God's perfect will for His life. God is permitting him to live in this area, although it is not God's perfect will for him. In outside will of God, the believer in this realm is in direct disobedience to God's revealed will. We should discern and do what is the will of God: what is good and acceptable and perfect. Let us confidence in God's Will—that it is best, it will work all things together for good and used by Him to fulfill His Will.

The story of Balaam in Numbers chapter 22 illustrates these realms of God's will. Read the story before you continue with this. Some men from Moab asked a prophet of God named Balaam to go with them and prophesy against God's people, Israel. God spoke to Balaam and told him not to go: And God said unto Balaam, Thou shalt not go with them; thou shalt not curse the people: for they are blessed.(Numbers 22:12) It was the perfect will of God for Balaam NOT to go with the men of Moab. But Balaam disobeyed God's voice and went with the men. When he did, he was functioning in disobedience outside the revealed will of God. God desired so much for Balaam to know His will that He used a donkey to speak to him and convict him of his sin. After this God permitted Balaam to continue on with the men of Moab with orders that he was to bless rather than curse the Israelites. Balaam was now functioning in the permissive will of God. The journey resulted in a series of trying encounters with a man named Balak. These could have been avoided if Balaam had obeyed the voice of God and never gone in the first place. The perfect will of God was that Balaam not go with the men of Moab. Balaam disobeyed and moved outside of the will of God. He was not in the good will of God where the believer is missing the perfect will but seeking it. He was in complete disobedience to the voice of God. The acceptable or permissive will of God permitted Balaam to continue on the journey even though it was not God's perfect will for him.

Walking in the will of God: Consider the example of King David. During his early life of his conformity to the will of God might have looked something like this: When David first became king, he walked in conformity to the will of God. God even called David a man after His own heart. But then David sinned with another man's wife who gave birth to an illegitimate child. This was in direct disobedience to God's written Word. David came before the Lord in repentance, was forgiven, came back in line with God's will. *David had done what was right in the eyes of the LORD—all the days of his life—except in the case of Uriah the Hittite.*(1KI15:5)It is overall pattern of your conformity to God's will that is important. Through every experience of learning to know God's voice, both positive and negative, you can continue to advance in your ability to discern God's perfect will. Continue to strive for conformity despite occasional failures. Don't ever give up!

In 1 Peter 3:17, "*For it is better, if it is the will of God, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil.*" In other words, it might be God's will that we suffer, even as martyr for doing good. His teaching on how Christians should respond to suffering for the sake of Christ. This relates to persecution resulting from being known as a believer in Jesus. Here, Peter reveals what may be a startling idea for some of us: "*It is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God's will.*"