

## The LORD's Will and the Free Will of Man

Notes by Franklin

Isaiah 55:8-11 **For My thoughts are not your thoughts**, neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD . <sup>9</sup>As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are **my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts**.

- To the above must say "Yes and that includes me." As this verse continues, we are presented with another strong statement that leads us into our study.

<sup>10</sup>As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater, <sup>11</sup>so is **My word that goes out from My mouth: It WILL NOT return to me empty, but WILL ACCOMPLISH what I DESIRE and ACHIEVE THE PURPOSE for which I sent it.**

- A strong statement from the Only Sovereign LORD GOD (1Tim.6:15) in whom is no shadow of turning (James 1:17).

Isaiah 46:8-10 **Remember this, and be assured**, recall it to mind, . . . Remember the former things of old, for I AM God, and there is no other; I AM God, and there is none like Me, <sup>10</sup>**Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times things that are not yet done, saying, MY COUNSEL SHALL STAND, and I WILL ACCOMPLISH ALL MY GOOD PLEASURE.**

Isaiah 14:24 The LORD of hosts has sworn saying, "Surely, **just as I have intended so it has happened, and just as I have planned so it will stand**

Psalms 33:8-12 **The counsel of the LORD stands forever, the plans of His heart from generation to generation.**

That God is Sovereign there is no doubt.

And that **Man has a Free Will** to oppose the Plans, Desires and Will of the LORD is Abundantly clear beginning with **Adam & Eve's Rebellion** and in every person thereafter.

The Sovereign LORD GOD created Man after His likeness and gave him a **free will** and a limited sovereignty on earth.

Genesis 1:26-29 Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule . . . over **all the earth** . . . and subdue it . . . (also see: Psalm 115:16)

The LORD **loved Adam & Eve**. He walked with them in the Garden every day, in a close, **intimate relationship**. He told him what to do and what NOT to do for their own good. **They knew the Will of the LORD**.

However there was a **battle** for the **control of their will** and they **made a decision** to **believe** the lie of satan. And all mankind are suffering the consequences of Adams decision. 2 Timothy 2:26 . . . and escape from the snare of the devil, having been held captive by him to do his will.

Adam and Eve acting out of their "**free will**" **rebelled** against the LORD and **gave their authority** over the earth to **satan**

- Three times Jesus calls him **the ruler of this world** (John 12:31; 14:30; 16:11)
- 1 John 5:19 We know that we are of God, and that the whole world lies in the power of the evil one.

But THE LORD DID NOT GIVE UP ON His Plan for Them.  
AND HE WILL NOT GIVE UP ON HIS PLAN FOR YOU.

- Isaiah 46:8-10 . . . I AM God . . . <sup>10</sup> Declaring the end from the beginning, . . MY COUNSEL SHALL STAND, and I WILL ACCOMPLISH ALL MY GOOD PLEASURE.

Genesis 3:21 The LORD God made garments of skin (a sacrifice & blood was shed) for Adam and his wife, and clothed them.

A picture of what The LAMB OF GOD would later do – cover their sin and the sin of all those born of Adam.

The Will of the LORD was, and ultimately would be accomplished.

But - MAN brought GREAT DIFFICULTY & BONDAGE into his life by DISOBEYING GOD'S WILL. **And so do we.**

Adam was created with a FREE WILL. But when he sinned **he came into bondage**: **you are slaves of the one whom you obey**  
(Romans 6: 16)

And as descendants of Adam we were all **born in bondage, slaves to sin.**

Ephesians 2: 1-9 And you were **dead** in your trespasses and sins, <sup>2</sup> in which you formerly walked according to the **course of this world**, according to the **prince** of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the **sons of disobedience**. <sup>3</sup> **Among them** we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest. <sup>4</sup> But God, being rich in mercy, because of His **great love** with which He **loved us**, <sup>5</sup> even when we were **dead** in our transgressions,

- Isaiah 46:10 **Declaring the end from the beginning . . . saying, MY counsel shall stand, and I will accomplish all MY good pleasure.**
- The LORD begins to **WORK IN YOU both TO WILL and TO WORK for HIS GOOD PLEASURE.** Philippians 2:13 . . . . .

and made us alive together with Christ (**by grace you have been saved**), <sup>6</sup> and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in Christ Jesus, <sup>7</sup> so that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of **His grace** in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. <sup>8</sup> For **by grace you have been saved through faith**; and that **not of yourselves**, it is the **gift of God**; <sup>9</sup> not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.

And when we are **Born Again** our **Will is set FREE** from bondage to sin, to **choose** whom we will **serve** and **obey**.  
**So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed** (John8: 36).

However, satan **does not give up** and just as the LORD **WORKS IN YOU both TO WILL and TO WORK for HIS GOOD PLEASURE**, **satan** also is **working** hard to capture us both to will and work for "**his** pleasure."

- For **OUR STRUGGLE** is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the **powers**, against the **world forces** of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness. (Eph.6:12)

It is a DAILY WARFARE for the CONTROL of the MIND and WILL of man.

Joshua said to the people of the LORD (24:15) **choose for yourselves today whom you will serve . . .** it is a DAILY DECISION

We MUST stand with Joshua:

**as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD .**

Righteousness or Morality, is doing what you should do . . . not what you are FREE to do. **Learn from Adam.** His Free Will got him into Bondage. AND SO WILL YOURS.

JESUS came to Redeem what was His and Recover the Authority over the earth and give it back to His Church – His “called out ones.”

**All authority has been given to Me in heaven & on earth. <sup>19</sup>Go therefore** (Matthew 28:18-19) **As we OBEY Him we come under and are GIVEN HIS AUTHORITY: Behold, I have given you authority . . . over all the power of the enemy, and nothing will injure you.** (Lk 10:19)

- Remember – You Only HAVE Authority if you are UNDER Authority.
- The Roman Centurion: Matthew 8:9 **For I also am a man under authority, with soldiers under me; and I say to this one, 'Go!' and he goes, and . . .**

This is **why** we are told:

**Pray, then, in this way: Our Father in heaven, Hallowed** (honored, revered) **be Your name. <sup>10</sup>Your kingdom come.** (His Kingdom is where He is obeyed) **Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.** Mt. 6:9-10

- We can read or say it but IT IS NOT PRAYER unless we are SINCERE.
- This places us “under Authority” thus giving us Authority.

This indicates that in regard to what happens on this earth, the Sovereign LORD GOD has chosen to work through His appointed and designated AMBASSADORS, HIS CHURCH – YOU & ME.

JESUS is our Example:

John 6:38 For I have come down from heaven, **NOT TO DO MY OWN WILL, but THE WILL OF HIM WHO SENT ME.**

JESUS came to know the Will of God by:

John 5:19 I say to you, **the Son can do nothing of Himself, unless it is something He sees the Father doing; for whatever the Father does, these things the Son also does in like manner.** Sees Visions & Dreams

And by Prayer / Communication / Listening

John 5:30 I can do nothing on My own initiative. **As I hear, I judge; and My judgment is just, because I DO NOT SEEK MY OWN WILL, but the will of Him who sent Me.**

- **I can do nothing on My own initiative** Total Surrender.

And Neither Can We: **he who abides in Me and I in him bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing.** (John 15:5) Nothing that Pleases the FATHER. Nothing of lasting Kingdom value.

- **As I hear, I judge** Until You HEAR . . . No Judgment.  
Psalm 5:3 In the morning, O LORD , **You will hear my voice;** in the morning I will order my prayer to You and watch.

Habakkuk 2:1-2 I will stand on my guard post and station myself on the wall; and I will keep watch to see what **He will speak to me,** and how I may reply when I am reprov'd. Then the LORD answered me . . .

- **I do not seek My own will**  
Oh my! This is the main issue and our biggest problem.  
How often are we truly able to say this? This must be our main goal.
- **but the will of Him who sent Me.**  
This places JESUS (and us) under Authority - Giving HIM Authority.

## Our FREE WILL is our Problem Because we still have our fallen nature.

And this is where **Philippians 2:12-13** helps us understand how the LORD honors and works with the free will of man.

Philippians 2: 12-13 Therefore my beloved, just as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, **work out your salvation** with fear and trembling; <sup>13</sup>for it is God who **WORKS IN YOU both TO WILL and TO WORK for HIS GOOD PLEASURE.**

- **Work out your own salvation:**

This acknowledges that **man is free** and therefore **our responsibility** to “work out our own salvation.” The LORD does not do it for us.

Paul is speaking to **Believers** so it is **NOT** the salvation of Eternal Life that we are to “work out.” That was assured by BELIEF and TRUST in the **finished** work of JESUS CHRIST and not by any works from us.

Titus 3:5 **HE saved us, NOT by WORKS** of righteousness which we have done  
2 Timothy 1:9 **who has saved us and called us . . . not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace granted us . . . from all eternity**

The Salvation we are to work out is the **day-by-day Salvation** or **Victory** over the **world**, the **flesh** and the **devil**.

There are three stages of Salvation in the New Testament:

1. We **have been saved**: past tense, completed action, finished work from the **Penalty of sin** by Faith in Jesus Christ and His shed Blood.
2. We **are being saved**: every day from the **Power of sin** as we take up our cross, follow and obey the LORD. (Luke 9:23; 1 Corinthians 1:18)
3. We **shall be saved** at a future time from the **Presence of sin** either by death or the coming of the LORD.

Here are some of the ways we are to “Work out your salvation:”  
Eph.4:1 **walk in a manner worthy your calling** (15) **speaking the truth in love**; (17) **walk no longer as the unbelievers in the futility of your mind**; (22-24) **put off the old self which is corrupted and be renewed in your mind and put on the new self**; (6:11) **put on the full armor of God**. . .;

(14-18) gird your loins with truth, put on the breastplate of righteousness and feet shod with the gospel. Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit . . . praying at all times in the Spirit” And you will be (3:17) **rooted and grounded in love**, <sup>18</sup> able to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, <sup>19</sup> and to **know the love of Christ** which surpasses knowledge, that **YOU MAY BE FILLED UP TO ALL THE FULLNESS OF GOD**.

- And we are to do this: **With fear and trembling**

Considering that **if we do not** “work out our salvation” **our enemies** - the **world**, the **flesh** & the **devil** - will overpower you, **your light** will become dim and your life ineffective and full of problems. And then consider the **account** you must give to Him whose Spirit you have grieved, and whose glory you did not reveal on earth. (2Cor.5:10)

- **For it is God who works in you:**

HE IS WORKING IN YOU! HE is working in EVERY BELIEVER.  
HE has a wonderful PLAN for your life. The **HOLY SPIRIT** “in you” works to **accomplish HIS purpose** – to BLESS YOU, and Others through you / to live a holy life / to speak His Words / and do “the greater works.”

- **Both to WILL and to WORK:**

Causing you to (1) **know the will of the Lord**, to **know what** you should do, and then (2) HE gives **you** the **power to do it** – The HOLY SPIRIT. Not forcing you, but encouraging and leading you to **yield your will to His**.

But the **control** of your will, the **decision** to do it, and then the **steps** of faith into the **action** of doing it, **comes from you**. The LORD encourages you to **choose His will**, and gives you the **power to do** what HE desires, and then **we MUST act** or work by HIS power.

**The PROBLEM is:** man has his own **free will** to make his decisions. And far too often our decisions are motivated by the **desires of our flesh**. Or out of my severely limited and corrupted mind.

Without the LORD working in us, we would not know or do HIS will. At least not for the right reason.

Without **the power to work**, man can **do nothing** that is fruitful for the Kingdom: John 15:5 **he who abides in Me and I in him bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing.**

As JESUS said: **My food is to DO THE WILL of Him who sent Me and to ACCOMPLISH HIS WORK.** (John 4:34) We need to come to the place where we can honestly say the same: **The goal of my life is – to do HIS Will and accomplish HIS work.**

Philippians 2:13 **for it is God who WORKS IN YOU both TO WILL and TO WORK . . . for HIS GOOD PLEASURE.**

Jesus did: **He who sent Me is with Me; He has not left Me alone, WHY? for I always do the things that are PLEASING TO HIM.** John 8:29

Our FATHER wants a Family who freely **Responds to HIS GREAT LOVE** and lives to first and foremost, **PLEASE HIM.**

And to make this happen we MUST be **captured** and **compelled** by HIS GREAT LOVE.

As 2Corinthians 5:14 says: **For the love of Christ compels us, having recognized this, that one died for all, so that they who live might no longer live for themselves, but FOR HIM who died and rose again on their behalf.**

And this would never happen in “fallen,” corrupted, perverted man, if the LORD who is LOVE was not . . . **working in you both to will and to work for HIS GOOD PLEASURE.**

We MUST **obey** that inner voice of the Holy Spirit and then **“work out our own salvation.”**

Colossians 1:10 **walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to PLEASE HIM in all respects, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God**

But this is NOT Necessarily Easy:



JESUS experienced the great TENSION and STRUGGLE between His will and the will of the father:

Luke 22:44 And being in agony He was praying very fervently; and His sweat became like drops of blood, falling down upon the ground.

Matthew 26:38 My soul is **deeply grieved**, to the point of death; remain here and keep watch with Me. 39 My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; yet **not as I will, but as You will.** 40 And He came to the disciples and found them sleeping, and said to Peter, **So, you could not keep watch with Me for one hour?** 41 **Keep watching and praying that you may not enter into temptation; the spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.** (Gal.5:16-17) 42 He went away again a second time and prayed, saying, **My Father, if this cannot pass away unless I drink it, Your will be done.** SURRENDER !

This is a **good example** of how we should **fight-the-fight to resist our will** and follow the "will of the LORD" as He works within us, urging and encouraging us. **JESUS won this battle through agonizing PRAYER.**

So, is it any wonder that Jesus said: **Pray, then, in this way: Our Father in heaven, Hallowed** (revered, honored) **be Your name.** 10 **Your kingdom come.** (His Kingdom is where He is obeyed) **Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.** Mt. 6:9-10

I would suggest that beginning your day with **Prayer** is where the **Victory Begins** (Mark 1:35). **Yielding** my will to HIM and **Praying** – staying in communication with HIM throughout the day . . .

"NOT MY WILL BUT YOURS LORD. YOUR WILL BE DONE."  
What is Your Will here? What would You have me to do?

The **Surrender of our will** is much easier when I Remember:

1. You Lord are **good** (Ps 86:5) And all that He does is GOOD.
2. The LORD Loves me and has a wonderful plan for my life: Jeremiah 29:11 **For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, to give you a future and a hope.**

Romans 8:28 And we know that God CAUSES all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.

3. John 10:10 The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy

Knowing this, we would be **foolish** to exalt and chose **my way** over the LORD's Plans for my life. But we are a foolish people.

And especially when considering: . . . **whatever** a man sows, **he will also reap.** <sup>8</sup>  
For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap **corruption** Galatians 6:7-8

There are consequences to our decisions

All the more, the PRAYER OF JESUS must become my continuous Prayer:  
**Father, not my will - YOUR WILL be done - YOUR KINGDOM come.**

And now because **God works in you** the **power to will** and the **power to do**, it is our duty, **our responsibility**, to make the **decision** and take the **action** to **work out our own salvation**. The **control** and **use of** the power of **our will** and **actions** belong to us. The **responsibility** to will and to act is ours.

**We ARE laborers, workers together with God** 1 Corinthians 3:9

**HE does HIS part**, then we MUST respond and **do our part**.

**His Disciples** were With Him, Following Him, Listening to Him, Learning His ways, they knew **"the will of the Lord"** because, He told them. He also tells us through prayer (conversation with Him) and His Word:

Mark 16:15-20 **Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation. He who has believed shall be saved. These signs will accompany those who have believed: in My Name they will cast out demons, speak with new tongues, pick up serpents and if they drink any deadly thing it shall not hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick and they will recover.**

They OBEYED, and the next verse says:

**And they went out and preached everywhere, while THE LORD WORKED WITH THEM, and confirmed the word by the signs that followed.** Mk.16:20

- The LORD worked in them to will and to work for HIS good pleasure, **they went out** – did their part and - **the Lord worked with them and confirmed the word by the signs** doing only what HE CAN DO.
- The **first step** in “**working out our salvation**” is to “**believe.**” The LORD works this in you to do His will - believe. (2Peter1:1)
- The **second** and following steps can be summed up by:  
Luke 9:23 **If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself (his will), take up his cross daily and follow Me.**

Taking up your cross is: **death to self-desires** and “**yes**” to **HIS Will**.

Romans 12:1-2 Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to **present your bodies** a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, *which is* your spiritual service of worship. <sup>2</sup>And **do not** be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.

- To know His Will – our MINDS Must be renewed!

1 Cor.2:14 But the **natural man does not receive** the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; **nor can he know them**, because they are spiritually discerned.

Isaiah 55:8-9 For **My thoughts are not your thoughts**, neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD . <sup>9</sup>As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are **my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.**

**To know HIS Will** we must do as His disciples did, we must walk closely with HIM, in an intimate relationship, listening and learning His Will and Obeying and doing it, and **the Lord will work with us**, and confirm His word by the signs that follow.

Why ?

Philippians 2:15 **for HIS GOOD PLEASURE** . . . so that you will prove yourselves to be **blameless and innocent**, children of God **above reproach** in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom **you appear as lights** in the world.

As JESUS said: **He who sent Me is with Me; for I always do the things that are pleasing to Him.** (John 8:29)

## Jesus Calling by Sarah Young - NOVEMBER 6

SEEK TO PLEASE ME above all else. As you journey through today, there will be many choice-points along your way. Most of the day's decisions will be small ones you have to make quickly. You need some rule of thumb to help you make good choices. Many people's decisions are a combination of their habitual responses and their desire to please themselves or others. This is not My way for you. Strive to please Me in everything, not just in major decisions. This is possible only to the extent that you are living in close communion with Me. When My Presence is your deepest delight, you know almost instinctively what will please Me. A quick glance at Me is all you need to make the right choice. *Delight yourself in Me* more and more; seek My pleasure in all you do.

JOHN 8:29 **The one who sent me is with me; he has not left me alone, for I ALWAYS DO WHAT PLEASES HIM.**

HEBREWS 11:5-6 **By faith Enoch was taken from this life, so that he did not experience death; he could not be found, because God had taken him away. For before he was taken, he was commended as one WHO PLEASED GOD. And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.**

PSALM 37:4 **Delight yourself in the LORD and he will give you the desires of your heart.**

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Here is an example to help us understand

1 Samuel 14:6-11 **Then Jonathan said to the young man who was carrying his armor, Come and let us cross over to the garrison of these uncircumcised; perhaps the LORD will work for us, for the LORD CAN save by many or by few."** <sup>7</sup> His armor bearer said to him, **"Do all that is in your heart; I am with you according to your desire."** <sup>8</sup> Then Jonathan said, **"Behold, we will cross over to the men and reveal ourselves to them."** <sup>9</sup> **"If they say to us, 'Wait until we come to you'; then we will stand in our place and not go up to them."** <sup>10</sup> **"But if they say, Come up to us, then we will go up, for the LORD has given them into our hands; and this shall be the sign to us.**

- Here is a man with great trust and reliance on the LORD. He knows what is right, what is righteous, he knows the general plan and promise of the Lord, and he is ready to fight for it.
- This is **"SONSHIP"** knowing the Heart of the FATHER. A **Child** is as a servant – not knowing the Heart-Desires of his Father.

Galatians 4:1 **Now I say, as long as the heir is a child, he does not differ at all from a slave although he is owner of everything**

1 Cor. 3:1-4 . . . infants in Christ. I gave you milk to drink, not solid food; . . .

1 Cor. 13:11 **When I was a child, I used to speak like a child, think like a child, reason like a child; when I became a man, I did away with childish things.**

- **perhaps the LORD will work for us** – Our plan may or may not be the LORD's will. But we **NEED TO KNOW**, we need to Discover. As Jonathan, **we must be ready and willing to take "steps of faith"** to discover the LORD's will. Willing to take a risk.
- **His armor bearer said to him, Do all that is in your heart** – not your mind. He knew the Lord **"fashions the hearts of them all"** (Psalm 33:15) It is much better to follow your heart over your mind.

The LORD replaces our **"heart of stone"** and gives us a **new heart and a new spirit** when we are born again (Ezekiel 36:26).

- Still following his heart, Jonathan devised a plan to verify the outcome. Either way it was very risky and involved a fight. If they said "we will come down to you" then the outcome was not assured.
- But following "all that was in his heart," knowing the promises of the Lord, and willing to take a risk, a great victory was won.

Here is an example where the close friend, even the prophet of the Lord, was wrong.

1 Chronicles 17:1-4 **David said to Nathan the prophet, Behold, I am dwelling in a house of cedar, but the ark of the covenant of the LORD is under curtains.** <sup>2</sup> Then Nathan said to David, **Do all that is in your heart, for God is with you.** <sup>3</sup> It came about the same night that the word of God came to Nathan, saying, <sup>4</sup> Go and tell David My servant, Thus says the LORD, You shall not build a house for Me to dwell in

- David's had a zeal for the Lord, he knew the will of the Lord, what was to be done. He was a **"SON,"** but **he was not the person to do it.**
- We may **know** the will of the Lord, but we also need to **know** if I am the person to do it.
- We are all called to be His ministers, to preach the gospel, to let our light shine, to pray for the sick, to be His witnesses. But there are **Special events** for which the LORD has chosen a **special person** (Moses, Joshua, Saul, David, Solomon and the list goes on).

**DAVID** also had those around him who said: you can't do what's in your heart. His brothers / King Saul: "You are not able ... you are just a youth" / the Giant said: "*Am I a dog, that you come to me with sticks?*"

We can be **our own worst enemy** and often disqualify our self, thinking I am not talented or gifted, or special like others I know, or read about. I am not a David, a Daniel, a Billy Graham or Randy Clark. **BUT WE MUST REMEMBER**, The Lord often chooses the foolish to confound the wise:

1 Cor. 1:27 God has **chosen the foolish** things of the world to shame the wise, and God has chosen **the weak things** of the world to shame the things which are strong

- I qualify and I think, actually we all qualify.
- As with Moses: any ole bush would do. And as Randy Clark says: "God can use even little ole me."

A good example is **Gideon** (Judges 6-9)

He said to Him, "O Lord, **how shall I deliver Israel? Behold, my family is the least in Manasseh, and I am the youngest in my father's house.**

- Gideon did not think he was special and neither did anyone else. He had nothing that qualified him to for such a task.

<sup>16</sup> The LORD said to him, **Surely I WILL BE WITH YOU, and you shall defeat Midian as one man.**

We MUST always remember the LORD's response: **I WILL BE WITH YOU** (Hebrews 13:5) and that who He calls, He qualifies and equips (Colossians 1:12; 2Tim.1:9) **HE DOES NOT CALL THE QUALIFIED / HE QUALIFIES THE CALLED.**

Still Gideon was not sure and asked for a sign to confirm the LORD's will.

<sup>17</sup> So Gideon said to Him, **If I have found favor in Your sight, then show me a sign that it is You who speak with me. . . .**

- We also need to know and verify the voice that we are hearing to be certain that it is the LORD and not me or another source.
- Gideon asked for a sign and Jonathan set up a situation.

<sup>21</sup> Then the angel of the LORD put out the end of the staff that was in his hand . . . and fire sprang up from the rock and consumed the meat and the unleavened bread. Then the angel of the LORD vanished from his sight.

- This shows us that the LORD **will verify** and reveal His Will to us and not keep it illusive or hidden. As the LORD said in Isaiah 7:11 **Ask a sign for yourself from the LORD your God; make it deep as Sheol or high as heaven.**
- By Prayerful, meditative **reading of the Word**, we will come to know the mind, the will, and desires of the LORD and our **"steps of faith"** will be more **"in His footsteps."**

As Daniel said: Daniel 11:32  
the people who **know** their God will display strength and take action.

"**who know their God**" means "intimacy with God." The word "know" is the same word in Genesis 4:1 **Adam knew** Eve his wife, and she conceived This kind of knowing **brings life.**

You will come to "know" Him by **diligently seeking Him**

Jeremiah 29:13 **You will seek Me and find Me when you search for Me with all your heart** - spending time reading His Word, talking to Him, worshipping Him. You will discover His will, His heart, and how He thinks.

- **display strength and take action** Not sit idly by but take action, take risks, to prove what the will of the LORD is.

Romans 12:2 **And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that YOU MAY PROVE what the will of God is**, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.

Hebrews 13:20-21 Now may the God of peace . . . <sup>21</sup> **make you complete** in every good work **TO DO HIS WILL, WORKING IN YOU** what is **WELL PLEASING IN HIS SIGHT**, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.

Philippians 1:6 I am confident of this very thing, that **He who began a good work in you will perfect it** until the day of Christ Jesus.

1 Thessalonians 5:24 **He who calls you is faithful, who also will do it.**

Isaiah 14:24 **The LORD of hosts has sworn saying, "Surely, just as I have intended so it has happened, and just as I have planned so it will stand**

Psalms 33:8-12 **The counsel of the LORD stands forever, the plans of His heart from generation to generation.**

Yes and Amen!

Just as He has planned, so it will stand.

There is a second important and controversial subject which the above verses address. And that is:

Adam, Eve, and All GOD'S Children, WILL SPEND ETERNITY in Heaven because - IT IS THE WILL OF THE LORD.

All of God's children, and the Earth, WILL BE RESTORED . . . BECAUSE IT IS THE WILL OF THE LORD.

Ephesians 1:4-5 He **chose us** in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him. In love having **predestined us** to Himself, **according to the GOOD PLEASURE OF HIS WILL**

- The Ephesian letter is written **To the saints who are at Ephesus and who are faithful in Christ Jesus** (Ephesians 1:1) Therefore the "us" in verse 4 is also believers, the ones to whom Paul is writing.
- The "us" is clearly Believers, because not everyone on earth is "predestined to HIM" and to Eternal Life in heaven. There are many who are destined to an eternity in hell (Mt.23:15, 33; 2Peter 2:4-10)



- **If** the “**us**” He **chose** in Him before the foundation of the world is each and every person, how can JESUS say: **I NEVER KNEW YOU; depart from me** ? Matthew 7:22-23
- The “us He chose” is **limited** because HIS Will, HIS Desire, HIS Purpose **shall be accomplished**. HIS children SHALL BE WITH HIM in Eternity.

Speaking to “**us**” He **chose** before the foundation of the world he continues in Ephesians 1:11 In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, **being PREDESTINED** according to THE PURPOSE of Him who **WORKS ALL THINGS ACCORDING TO THE COUNSEL OF HIS WILL**

Therefore: **He who has begun a GOOD WORK in you WILL COMPLETE IT** until the day of Jesus Christ; Philippians 1:6

Our DESTINY is clearly ASSURED by the Death, Burial and Resurrection of the LORD our SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST.

**GOD IS LOVE** (1John 4:8) And **LOVE NEVER FAILS** (1Cor 13:8)

**Nothing Can Separate You from The LOVE of GOD** (Romans 8:38)

What the LORD GOD began in Genesis with Adam (Eternal Life) and with His original plan for the earth WILL BE ACCOMPLISHED.

Isaiah 65:17 For behold, I create **new heavens and a new earth**; and the former things will not be remembered or come to mind.

Isaiah 66:22 For just as the **new heavens and the new earth** which I make will **endure** before Me, declares the LORD, so **your offspring and your name will endure**.

2 Peter 3:13 But according to **His promise** (His Will) we are looking for **new heavens and a new earth**, in which **righteousness dwells**.

Adam brought a huge amount of pain & suffering into all of our lives.

- **REMEMBER**: The actions of **our will** do not only bring pain & suffering into our life but also into the life of others, especially our children and beyond.
- But this Promise stands Sure: **He who has begun a GOOD WORK in you WILL COMPLETE IT** until the day of Jesus Christ; Philippians 1:6
- And: **GOD IS LOVE** (1John 4:8) And **LOVE NEVER FAILS** (1Cor 13:8)

The following statements of JESUS CHRIST Declares it clearly:

John 6:37-39 **ALL that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out. <sup>38</sup> For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me. <sup>39</sup> THIS IS THE WILL of the Father who sent Me, that of ALL He has given Me I SHOULD NOT LOSE ONE, but should raise them up at the last day.**

John 17:4 **I have glorified You on the earth. I have finished the work which You have given Me to do. . . <sup>6</sup> I have manifested Your name to the men whom You have given Me out of the world. They were Yours, You gave them to Me, and they have kept Your word. . . <sup>8</sup> for the words which You gave Me I have given to them; and they received them and truly understood that I came forth from You, and they believed that You sent Me. <sup>9</sup> I ask on their behalf; I do not ask on behalf of the world, but of those whom You have given Me; for they are Yours**

I am convinced that the above is TRUE, and when it is all said and done, the LORD GOD ALMIGHTY **will not** have any **remorse** or **regret** because HIS WILL, HIS DESIRE, HIS PURPOSE was NOT achieved. **All** of those HE Loves, HIS Children, and all that HE Purposed to be in heaven, **WILL BE in Heaven with Him.** (Read Romans 9:6-24)

In eternity past HE has: **raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly in Christ Jesus** (Ephesians 2:4-10) **There will not be any empty seats.**

Because He has: **Declared the end from the beginning, and from ancient times things that are not yet done, saying, 'My counsel shall stand, and I WILL DO ALL MY PLEASURE.**

Continuing with this thought:

Ephesians 1:5 **having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the GOOD PLEASURE OF HIS WILL**

Ephesians 1:11 **In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestined according to THE PURPOSE of Him who WORKS ALL THINGS ACCORDING TO THE COUNSEL OF HIS WILL**

Philippians 1:6 **being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a GOOD WORK in you WILL COMPLETE IT until the day of Jesus Christ.**

The Scriptures make it clear that HE has NOT "begun a good work" in everyone. And NOT ALL are "*predestined according to the Purpose of HIM who works ALL things according to the counsel of HIS will.*"

For example:

Matthew 13:10-11 And the disciples came and said to Him, Why do You speak to them in parables? <sup>11</sup>Jesus answered them, **To you it has been granted to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them IT HAS NOT BEEN GRANTED.**

- He is speaking in parables so that they will **not** understand.

Verse 15 continues: **otherwise they would see with their eyes, hear with their ears, and understand with their heart and return, and I would heal them.'**

- Obviously He is not **working in them both to will and to act for His good pleasure.** Should they hear and believe it would be an act of "their own will." (Matthew 7:22-23 is an example of their own will)

The parable of the "Tares among Wheat" (Mt.13) and the "Wedding Feast" also speaks to this:

Matthew 22:9-14 **Go therefore to the main highways, and as many as you find invite to the wedding feast. <sup>10</sup>Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered together all they found, both evil and good; and the wedding hall was filled with dinner guests. <sup>11</sup>But when the king came in to look over the dinner guests, he saw a man there who was not dressed in wedding clothes,**

- This is an example of a man who acted out of his own will and came in. Obviously the LORD was not **working in him both to will and to act for His good pleasure.** (see Isaiah 61:10 & Revelation 19:7)

<sup>12</sup>and he said to him, Friend, how did you come in here without wedding clothes? And the man was speechless. <sup>13</sup>Then the king said to the servants, **Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness; in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. <sup>14</sup>For many are called, but few are chosen.**

- **many are called** – The "call" goes out to all, to everyone. We are to preach the gospel to everyone for we do not know who is chosen and who is not chosen.
- **but few are chosen** – (ἐκλεκτός (ek-lek-tos'): select; elect; chosen; by implication, favorite) And the chosen, or elect, are the ones in whom the LORD works **both TO WILL and TO WORK for HIS GOOD PLEASURE** whom HE has clothed with garments of salvation, has wrapped with a robe of righteousness (Isaiah 61:10) as His bride has made herself ready. It was given to her to clothe herself in fine linen, bright *and* clean; for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints. (Rev 19:7-8)
- However, if NOT chosen and clothed with garments of salvation and righteousness, there is no entrance or place in heaven, at The Wedding Feast.

Matthew 11:26-27 Yes, Father, for this was well-pleasing in Your sight.  
 27 . . no one knows the Son except the Father; nor does anyone know  
 the Father except the Son, and ANYONE TO WHOM THE SON WILLS TO  
 REVEAL HIM.

[see also the notes "Born From Above" and "Adoption"]

There are some verses that seem to **not agree** with the above.

John 3:16-19 For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life. 17 For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through Him. 18 He who believes in Him is not judged; he who does not believe has been judged already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

"God so loved the world." The word "world" is an all-encompassing term. It was HIS creation. But HE does NOT love what has happened to the world and everything in it. For instance HE does not love sin, satan, death and we would have to include some people because: Just as it is written, "JACOB I LOVED, BUT ESAU I HATED." (Romans 9:13)

However the LORD has Forgiven the sin of the people of the world.

2 Corinthians 5:18-19 Now all these things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation, 19 namely, that God was in Christ RECONCILING THE WORLD to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and He has committed to us the word of reconciliation.

Sin, Adam's sin, has been paid, forgiven and forgotten by The Blood of Jesus. Sin is not the issue for Eternal Life. **The issue is True belief** of who Jesus is and what He has done, whoever believes in Him shall not perish.

And this True belief only comes to: "those He chose before the foundation of the world" (Eph.1:4); "those He predestined according to His will" (vs.5); "according to His purpose who works all things after the counsel of His will." (vs.11) (For a complete study on Faith see my study notes "Faith.") There are verses that seem to say that the "will of the Lord" will not always be accomplished.

Here is one of those verses:

2 Peter 3:7-9 But by His word the present heavens and earth are being reserved for fire, kept for the **day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men.** <sup>8</sup> But do not let this one *fact* escape your notice, **beloved**, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years like one day. <sup>9</sup> The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward **you** (the beloved), not **willing for any** (of the beloved) **to perish but for all** (the beloved) **to come to repentance.**

- Peter's letter is written to believers: 2 Peter 1:1 **those who have received a faith of the same kind as ours** (that is, as Peter's) . . . (3) **who called us**
- He is speaking to the **beloved** and that the Lord is patient toward **you** the **beloved** (literally; long-suffering to us-ward) and **NOT WILLING for any** (of "us" His "beloved") **to perish but for all to come to repentance.**

The context of any passage is critical to correct interpretation.

Ephesians 1:11 . . . according to **THE PURPOSE of Him who WORKS ALL THINGS ACCORDING TO THE COUNSEL OF HIS WILL**

Isaiah 46:10 **Declaring the end from the beginning, saying, 'My counsel shall stand, and I WILL DO ALL MY PLEASURE.**

Isaiah 55:11 **My word WILL NOT return to me empty, but WILL ACCOMPLISH what I DESIRE and ACHIEVE THE PURPOSE for which I sent it.**

I am confident of this one thing: All, Everyone that HE Loves, that He has chosen and predestined, **WILL BE IN HEAVEN.**

Here is another verse that stands in opposition:

1 Timothy 2:1-6 First of all, then, I urge that entreaties *and* prayers, petitions *and* thanksgivings, be made on behalf of **all men,** <sup>2</sup> for kings and **all** who are in authority, so that **we** may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and dignity. <sup>3</sup>This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, <sup>4</sup>**who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.** <sup>5</sup> For there is one God, and one mediator also between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup> **who gave Himself as A RANSOM FOR ALL.**

- According to the context, the "all" is not limited, it includes all. However it does not say all will be saved, only that it is His "desire." From Barnes' Notes:  
"That is, it is in accordance with his nature, his feelings, his desires. The word **desires** is the word translated "will" in the other verses. It cannot be taken here in the absolute sense, denoting a decree like that by which He **willed** the creation of the world, for then **it would**

**certainly be done.** The word is often used to denote a desire, a wish. He does not will it in the sense that he exerts his absolute power to make it happen."

Places in the New Testament where the word means to desire or wish: Mt.15:28; John 16:19; Luke 8:20; 23:8; Galatians 4:20; 1Cor 7:7; 11:3; 14:5

The following verse helps us understand what Paul is saying:

1 Timothy 4:10 For it is for this we labor and strive, because we have fixed our hope on the living God, who is **the Savior of ALL MEN, ESPECIALLY** (particularly) OF BELIEVERS.

- Paul is saying that He is **the Savior of ALL MEN** in the sense that there is no other Savior. No one else, nowhere else to turn. For there is one God, and one mediator also between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup> who gave Himself as A RANSOM FOR ALL (1Timothy 2:5-6)
- But it is clear that **ALL WILL NOT** be saved. **Only** those who **believe**. Only those whom HE has **chosen**. Because if He did not CHOOSE SOME there would be NONE!

Because:

Psalm 14:2-3 The LORD has looked down from heaven upon the sons of men to see if there are **any who understand, who seek after God**. <sup>3</sup>They have **all turned aside**, together they have become corrupt; **there is no one who does good, not even one**.

Romans 3:10-12 There is **none righteous, not even one**; <sup>11</sup> there is **none who understands, there is none who seeks for god**; <sup>12</sup> **all have turned aside . . .**

However for those HE chooses, for those HE elects, **HE will make it happen**: for it is God who **WORKS IN YOU** both **TO WILL** and **TO WORK** for **HIS GOOD PLEASURE**.

As Simon Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." <sup>17</sup>And Jesus said to him, "Blessed are you, Simon Barjona, because **flesh and blood did not REVEAL this to you, but My Father who is in heaven**. Mt.16:16-18

- To recognize The Truth –Jesus - requires a revelation from GOD, working in you HIS Will for HIS Good Pleasure. **No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up on the last day.** John 6:44

Our prayers and our preaching **should include all** because we do not know who is the LORD's and who is not.

- Hebrews 4:2 For indeed we have had **good news preached to us, just as they also**; but the word they heard **did not profit them, because it was not united by faith** in those who heard.

WHY NOT ? Why did SOME have Faith and SOME did not ?

Faith to Believe is a gift from the LORD.

John 6:64-65 **But there are some of you who do not believe.** For Jesus knew from the beginning who they were who **did not believe** . . .<sup>65</sup> He said, **no one can come to Me unless it has been granted him** from the Father.

John 6:37 **All that the Father gives Me will come to Me**

2 Peter 1:1 Simon Peter. . . **to those who HAVE RECEIVED a faith** of the same kind as ours

Psalms 33:15 **He who fashions the hearts of them all**

Romans 10:10 **for with the heart a person believes**

James 1:18 **In the exercise of His will He brought us forth by the word of truth**

1 Peter 1:3 **according to HIS great mercy has caused us to be born again**

1 Peter 1:21 **who through Him are believers in God**

Philippians 1:29 **For to you it has been granted** for Christ's sake, not only **to believe** in Him, but also to suffer for His sake

Romans 12:3 . . . **God has allotted to each a measure of faith.**

Romans 10:17 **So faith comes from HEARING**, and hearing by the word of Christ.

John 8:47 **He who is of (ἐκ) God, hears the words of God; for this reason you do not hear because you are not of (ἐκ) God.**

NT:1537 ἐκ **ek** (ek) a primary preposition denoting **origin** (the point where action or motion proceeds), from, out of.

John 10:26-27 **YOU DO NOT BELIEVE BECAUSE you ARE NOT OF MY SHEEP.** (27) **My sheep HEAR MY VOICE**, and I know them, and they follow Me

Luke 8:10 And He said, **TO YOU** it **has been granted** to know the mysteries of the kingdom of God, **but to THE REST** it is in parables, so that seeing **they may not see**, and **HEARING they may not understand**.

Hebrews 12:2 **Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith . . .**

**author** – Greek: to commence, **begin** & to lead or bring.  
Faith begins, originates and is perfected by the LORD.

**perfecter** - Continuing, enduring Faith is from the LORD:  
Luke 22:32 **I have prayed for you, that your faith may not fail**

Hebrews 7:25 **He is able also to save forever** those who draw near to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.

2 Timothy 2:19 **Nevertheless, the firm foundation of God stands, having this seal, The Lord knows those who are His, and, everyone who names the name of the Lord is to abstain from wickedness.**

**GOD is LOVE - LOVE NEVER FAILS. HIS WILL will ultimately be done.**

Hebrews 13:20-21 **Now may the God of peace . . . <sup>21</sup> make you complete in every good work TO DO HIS WILL, WORKING IN YOU what is WELL PLEASING IN HIS SIGHT, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.**

Philippians 1:6 **I am confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus.**

1 Thessalonians 5:24 **He who calls you is faithful, who also will do it. (will bring it to pass)**

Isaiah 14:24 **The LORD of hosts has sworn saying, "Surely, just as I have intended so it has happened, and just as I have planned so it will stand**

Psalm 33:8-12 **The counsel of the LORD stands forever, the plans of His heart from generation to generation.**

**Yes and Amen!**

**Just as He has planned, so it will stand.**