

We Are God's Will

There Is No Greater Joy Than God's Will!

By B. D. Tate

When we became born again we entered back into God's perfect will! We were born again of the Father's will (John 1:13). We therefore can know we are in God's will!

Col 1:9 For this reason we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, **and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding;**

We Were Born Into God's Will And We Are Meant To Know His Will—It Is No Longer A Mystery.

God's Will

Under the Old Covenant men grappled and struggled to know God's will. There wasn't much confirmation within our hearts of knowing if we were doing exactly what God wanted. *The law gave us parameters* to go by but mostly they were negatives not positives. We knew not to do this or that but what were we supposed to do? We knew not to worship idols for example, this of course meant we were to only worship God; however, how is that done? We knew to offer sacrifices; we were to offer sin offerings, peace offerings, and gift offerings. We knew to be thankful and to fear God. What we knew however, was always from a distance. **No one could be born again until Christ was glorified.**

Under the New Covenant everything is different and so much better. When we related to God under the law it was based upon regulations, statues, and rules. Under grace we relate to God personally through Jesus our Lord. Our new position is as far superior as Jesus is far more superior over the law itself. The laws only *reflect the image* of God; **Jesus is the image of God!**

Col 1:15 **He is the image of the invisible God**, the firstborn over all creation.

16 For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him.

17 And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist.

Jesus Is God And God Is In Us!

We were made of God's will to come into fellowship with God (John 1:13). **The greatest joy our life we will ever know is pleasing God and knowing we are in God's will!** We please God when we fulfill His will in our life! The problem for most of us is that our understanding of God's will has been *skewed by sin nature in us*.

Sin nature reviles being told what to do. Sin nature rebels against being subordinate and under command or authority. Sin nature sees surrender and humility as weakness. Sin nature is convinced that self rule is the only way to happiness and fulfillment. We are convinced that doing things our way will be the best. Listen to what Proverbs says about this very thing several times:

Pr 14:12 & 16:25 **There is a way that seems right to a man, But its end is the way of death.**

Our pride blinds us so much that we are sure that our ways are correct and best. It blinds us to thinking that our good works are good enough. Even our intentions for good are justified in our own minds.

When we look at God through sin conscious eyes we don't see Him as He really is. We see judgment, wrath, vengeance, a constant watch keeping a record of our wrongs; we see an angry God who is constantly disappointed with us. God is love but we only see the heaviness of His condemnation.

Obedience To God's Will Just Kills Us (And It should)!

Then when we consider obeying God and keeping His commandments our hearts are not happy *but burdened with guilt and shame*. We can quickly become exasperated and overwhelmed by the Holiness of God. We simply can't satisfy God's requirements and fall far short. Deep inside we know it is an impossible task and (knowing our true feelings), one that we dread. We only attempt to keep the commandments out of fear or resentment because our true desires are *to do our own thing*.

When we think of obeying God in every respect and coming completely under His will we just die inside. If I obey God I have no life. If I do only what God wants what joy is there (This is sin nature speaking)?

We may admire a religious person who has disciplined him/herself so as to have a life of piety but deep inside we are thinking do they have any fun? Isn't life just a bore? To the average human being the pastor or priest, the bishop, the cardinal, and especially the pope, just look bound up in religion. Many of them hardly smile or laugh out loud, or just kick back and enjoy life. When they do smile it is only so deep, when they have fun it is limited, and when they relax it is only so much.

For most people fun is not found in religion; therefore, when the Word of God teaches us that our life, our purpose, and our **meaning are found in God's will we generally don't see it**. We know we are supposed to believe it but in truth we don't relate to it.

God's Will Seems Very Different From Our Own

There is a conflict at *two levels* at least. The first level is to recognize that *our sin nature is in opposition to God's Spirit*:

Ga 5:17 **For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another**, so that you do not do the things that you wish.

We don't want to do God's will especially if we are living to the flesh. Our carnal sense driven life, our natural way, is not subject to God neither can it be.

Ro 8:7 Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be.

The second level is our *misconceptions regarding God's will*. Most of us immediately refer to the Ten Commandments and the two greatest laws: The command to love God with all our heart and our neighbor as our selves. When we do we come immediately under guilt and condemnation. God's will for the most part is experienced as a heavy burden with no rest in sight.

Another aspect of God's will is *the confusion surrounding it*. We have been taught that God's will is mysterious and sometimes unknowable. We've been taught that God's will may include our suffering, sickness, disease, loss, pain, and even death. We are being led like sheep to the slaughter for God's glory. For most Christians there is a general sense of God's will with the conviction that we are to obey as Job wrote,

Job 1:21 And he said: "Naked I came from my mother's womb, And naked shall I return there. The LORD gave, and the LORD has taken away; Blessed be the name of the LORD."

The confusion comes because we really can't discern if what is happening to us is from God or from the world (This is not too different from the Old Covenant standing). If we believe everything that comes into our life is from God then there is nothing we should resist or stand against because that would be resisting God's will. **This is a position of weakness and doubt because we have been disarmed from knowing God's will.**

Rom. 12: 2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

Or,

Jas 4:7 Therefore submit to God. **Resist the devil and he will flee from you.**

An Impossible Position!

How can we be full of faith and grace when we are not established or certain of God's will? This is impossible. We can't stand in confidence without knowing God's certain will. The enemy wants us in a very compliant place. A place that is vacillating, tossed, easily stumped, and quickly defeated. This is a place of uncertainty; **it is a place of double mindedness (James 1:5-8).** When we are unsure we cannot stand in faith. Faith is only known and experienced when we are convinced of what God's will is (Rom. 10:17)!

Therefore, for most Christians there is the battle of recognizing what God has done *in the new birth*. We died with Christ and now live in resurrection life with Christ. This means we stop living (identifying with) to the old man and live to the new one! Paul wrote:

Ro 6:7 For he who has died has been freed from sin.

The battle is getting brothers and sisters to embrace God's grace *as His finished work for us on our behalf*. It is establishing us in the new creation of complete forgiveness of sins (Heb. 1:3), the gift of His righteousness (Rom. 5:17), the place of full acceptance (Eph. 1:6), and opening up our hearts to His poured out love (Rom. 5:5). That is a fundamental start for every believer to recognize and embrace that the Spirit of Christ dwells in us (I Cor. 3:16). The Spirit of Christ therefore, makes us just as Jesus is in this world (I John 4:17).

This is a tremendous beginning and often manifests in believers lives with confirming signs of peace, rest, liberty, healing, and restoration of confidence in their relationship to Jesus. **There is however, another problem that is often overlooked.** For many Christians understanding the new birth and newness of life in Christ has brought experiential love, joy, and peace; **however, there is still the battle for the mind.**

The Renewed Mind Is Essential!

When Jesus said, “You shall know the truth and the truth shall set you free (John 8:32).” He was speaking not of the law but of grace that would come to us when we accepted Him as Lord. When we became born again truth and grace came to us (John 1:16, 17); this is the truth that sets us free.

The freedom of grace is multiplied to us in the knowledge of Christ (II Pet. 1:2). This knowledge is the process of renewing our mind to think, act, and speak according to the truth. When our minds are renewed in agreement with God’s word the scriptures testify that we will be *transformed in this world*. The word transformed literally means “**transfigured**” which is what happened to Jesus on the mountain top (Matt. 17:2).

When Our Understanding Of The Truth Of God’s Grace Is Known In Our Hearts And Established In Our Minds That Is When We Become Full Of Faith And Power!

Full Of Faith And Power

Listen to this description concerning Stephen, a deacon appointed by the apostles:

Ac 6:8 And **Stephen, full of faith and power**, did great wonders and signs among the people.

In times past I use to read about the New Testament men of God and see this description, “*Full of faith and power*” and think that God has anointed them especially. I’d see this and wish, “Boy, I wish I knew what full of faith and power was like.” This was before I understood grace and faith as we know it. This was before I understood Christ was in me and that the Spirit dwells in me just as it did with Jesus (Rom. 8:11). This was before I put away the law and its ministry of death and condemnation to me (Gal. 5:1-4). This was before I accepted the Great Commission as

the preaching of the Word of God with signs, wonders, and miracles confirming it (Mark 16:20). This was before I was certain and established in the grace of God in my heart and mind (Heb. 13:9)!

Therefore, to be full of faith and power; to be full of grace and truth, **is to be convinced in your heart and mind that Jesus is in you in the same way God was in Him.** We've been sent to do the same works by the same Spirit, for the same purposes. God was in Christ listen again:

Ac 10:38 "**how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power**, who went about doing good and **healing all who were oppressed by the devil**, for God was with Him."

Jesus' mission is our mission too! God has anointed us just as He anointed Jesus because we have the same Spirit and the same commission. We've been sent just as in the same way Jesus was sent!

Joh 20:21 So Jesus said to them again, "**Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you.**"

And,

Matt. 28:18 And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "**All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.**
19 "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,
20 "teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen.

As we know the truth, that is, as we know in our mind and heart the gospel of grace, **we are transformed from unbelieving believers, to believing, believers by the Spirit of God!**

When we fully grasp that God's will is not wrapped up in the law and the commandments **but is realized in our identification in Jesus;** then we'll be free to embrace the love and power of God. We will not be

hindered in our understanding of God's will which is Christ being formed in our hearts in this realm.

We have missed the greater joy, the greatest gift, and the greatest ministry there is, that is to be like Jesus to the world! When we embrace the truth and remove our skewed view of God's will to see the glory of Jesus, we'll be transformed into the same image!

II Cor. 3: 18 **But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.**

What Is The Unveiled Face?

It is the removal of the law and the putting away of our skewed views of God's will from sin nature!

Boredom Is The Indicator!

Why are we bored in life and so driven to fill the void of that boredom? **It is because we are not experiencing the depth of God's will in fullness.** We are holding back because we have old ideas that God's will is boring. What an amazing reversal of the truth. **What bores us is this world and living without knowing God's will and awesome presence in our hearts!** We are bored because we were made to walk in the Spirit full of faith and power! We are bored because we've been chasing the wind of entertainment, sports, drugs and alcohol, sexual pleasure, careerism, money, power, fame, influence, and just about everything but God's will.

What is boredom? **It is the indicator that we are not fully embracing God!** We are not renewed in our minds to agree with grace and truth that we are just as Jesus is in this world. What could be more exciting and thrilling than to see the works of Christ manifest in our life? There was nothing that Jesus didn't handle from sickness and disease, to lameness, blindness, deformity, and all manner of the curse of the law. I know how exciting a championship is and it is thrilling for a time;

however, the joy that we experience when God's will is powerfully demonstrated to cure cancer, diseases, and conditions is far beyond it. Why is this so? It is so because not only do we see loved ones delivered, healed, and set free, not only do we see people coming to salvation in Jesus' name, **we experienced the divine pleasure of knowing we are in God's will!** God's will never disappoints and never fades away! **We were made to know God's will, to experience God's will, and to manifest God's will around us in Jesus' name!**

Conclusion: We Have The Greatest Job And We Will Be Bored Until We Fulfill It!

We have the greatest job there is we are **ministers of reconciliation** in Christ Jesus!

2Co 5:18 Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, **and has given us the ministry of reconciliation...**

We were born for this; we were born again in this! This is God's will that we manifest the glory of God in Christ Jesus!

God's Will Is Not A Mystery