

## His Perfect Will

**Romans 12:1-2-** “I exhort you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy and well pleasing to God, which is your spiritual service. Do not conform yourselves to this world but, be transformed by the renewing of your mind in order that you may prove what is well pleasing and good, and the perfect will of God.”

There is no mystery in starting this week’s lesson. By the title and scripture, it is focused on God’s perfect will. Passover is only 79 days away and we have done our due diligence to share God’s Word for self-reflection and prepare for our upcoming Covenant renewal. Issues of pride, self-control, sin, and others have been included in the topics for some time. Identifying our shortcomings is crucial to our spiritual growth. Becoming spiritually whole can increase our service to God and to those in His family. We will achieve greater results if we are walking in God’s will.

What is will? If we check out the definition of “will” in the Free Dictionary we will get an idea of how “will” is used in this context. It is the mental faculty by

which one deliberately chooses or decides upon a course of action, determination, self-control, and self-discipline.

I find it amazing that God not only gave us life, but He also gave us His Son, His Holy Spirit, His Commandments, and way of life, and promises of eternal life *if* we are obedient. He gave us free will whether or not to obey Him! Free will is sometimes referred to as “free moral agency,” but that always sounded like a place where you can check on your morals at no cost. Sorry...

You would think that with such gifts He gave us, we would automatically follow His word and obey His Commandments. But as human beings we have many hurdles to overcome. Satan the devil will constantly bombard us with distractions, trials, and difficulties. We can often find ourselves in the middle of a storm and wonder how the dickens ended up there. It is no mystery to those who study the Word of God and keep His Commandments.

**Romans 8:6-8-** “For to be carnally minded *is* death, but to be spiritually minded *is* life and peace, Because the carnal mind *is* enmity against God, for it is not subject to the law of God; neither indeed can it *be*. But those who are in *the* flesh cannot please God.”

**Revelation 12:9-** “And the great dragon was cast out, the ancient serpent who is called the Devil and Satan, who is deceiving the whole world; he was cast down to the earth, and his angels were cast down with him.”

Since man’s fall in the Garden of Eden, our hearts are naturally sinful towards God. Satan is a liar and a deceiver and will always know just what buttons to push to cause us to stumble. But through God’s grace and mercy, He has enabled us to overcome the wiles of the enemy.

**John 1:12-13-** “But as many as received Him, to them He gave authority to become the children of God, even to those who believe in His name; Who were not begotten by bloodlines, nor by the will of the flesh, nor by the will of man, but by the will of God.”

By doing God’s will, we become His children and the brother (or sister) of Jesus Christ.

**Mark 3:35-** “For whoever shall do the will of God, that one is My brother, and My sister, and mother.”

Even Jesus Christ Himself, had free will to choose whether to obey or not to obey God the Father. He did not have to lay down His life if He had chosen not to. He did so because of His own free will.

**John 10:17-18-** “On account of this, the Father loves Me: because I lay down My life, that I may receive it back again. No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself. I have authority to lay it down and authority to receive it back again. This commandment I received from My Father.”

He willfully gave His life to pay for our sins to overcome the evil of this world.

**Galatians 1:3-5-** “Grace and peace *be* to you from God *the* Father and our Lord Jesus Christ, Who **gave** Himself for our sins, in order that He might deliver us from the present evil world, according to the will of our God and Father; To Whom *be* the glory into the ages of eternity. Amen.”

But Jesus did not come to “preach” Jesus as so many Protestant churches focus on. He came to reveal the God the Father and to do His will, not His own. He made this quite clear.

**John 14:6-10-** “Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father except through Me. If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also. But from this time forward, you know Him and have seen Him.” Philip said to Him, “Lord, show us the Father, and that will be sufficient for us.” Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you so long a time, and you have not known Me, Philip? The one who has seen Me has seen the Father; why then do you say, ‘Show us the Father’? Don’t you believe that I am in the Father, and the Father is in Me? The words that I speak to you, I do not speak from My own self; but the Father Himself, Who dwells in Me, does the works.”

Jesu did not boast on the His own works, but acknowledged the works were done by God the Father through Him.

**John 5:30-** “I have no power to do anything of Myself; but as I hear, I judge; and My judgment is just because I do not seek My own will but the will of the Father, Who sent Me.”

**John 6:37-40-** “All whom the Father gives Me shall come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will in no wise cast out. For I did not come down from heaven to do My own will, but the will of Him Who sent Me. And this is the will of the Father

Who sent Me: that of all whom He has given Me, I should not lose any, but should raise them up in the last day. And this is the will of Him Who sent Me: that everyone who sees the Son, and believes in Him, may have eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day.”

**John 7:16-17-** “Jesus answered them and said, “My doctrine is not Mine, but His Who sent Me. If anyone desires to do His will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it is from God, or whether I speak from My own self.”

Misunderstanding God’s word is not a complicated thing. Failing to keep God’s Commandments AS He instructed and AS Jesus Himself kept them (all Sabbaths and Holy Days) will blind the truth in God’s word. It will open the door to the doctrines and traditions of men, rather than the Commandments of God.

**Matthew 15:7-10-** “Hypocrites! Isaiah has prophesied well concerning you, saying, ‘These people have drawn near to Me with their mouths, and with their lips they honor Me; but their hearts are far away from Me. For they worship Me in vain, teaching *for* doctrine *the* commandments of men.’” And after calling the multitude to *Him*, He said to them, “Hear, and understand.”

**Mark 7:7-9-** “But in vain do they worship Me, teaching *for* doctrine the commandments of men.’ For leaving the commandment of God, you hold fast the tradition of men, *such as* the washing of pots and cups; and you practice many other things like *this*.” Then He said to them, “Full well do you reject the commandment of God, so that you may observe your *own* tradition.”

Have not the Protestant churches edited and changed the word of God to fit their own narrative? Haven't they also adopted their own holidays, doing away with God's Sabbaths and Holy Days, dismissing them as “Jewish?” The Sabbath was established at Creation 2200 years before a Jew ever walked the Earth. The Sabbaths and Holy Days are God's, not man's and not just for the Jews.

**Leviticus 23:1-2-** “And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, “Speak to the children of Israel and say to them, ‘*Concerning* the appointed feasts of the LORD, which you shall proclaim *to be* holy convocations, **even these are My appointed feasts.**”

Nowhere in this scripture does God say this is for the Jews only. God says that they are His appointed feasts. The children of Israel were made up of twelve tribes, only two were Jews. The country of Israel in the Middle East was not founded until

1948. Nothing was done away with from His Commandments. God does not change (**Malachi 3:6, Hebrews 13:8**) nor can He lie (**Titus 1:2**).

**Hosea 4:6-** “My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. Because you have rejected knowledge, I will also reject you from being as a priest to Me. Since you have forgotten the law of your God, I will also forget your children.”

God’s will for us is to know Him, know and grow in the image of His Son, Jesus Christ our Savior.

The simplest breach in missing God’s will is failing to keep God’s Sabbath. By breaking the Fourth Commandment, they break them all. Not reading and studying the word of God for ourselves is critical in getting in alignment with the will of God.

**James 2:10-** “For *if* anyone keeps the whole law, but sins in one aspect, he becomes guilty of all.”

No matter how holy someone believes they are or how many “Jesus labels” they apply to something, they can never make it as holy as what God has established in

His word. God is no respecter of persons. Handing out tracts, singing in a choir, beating tambourines or any other theatrics will not matter. God is extremely specific in His instructions.

**Acts 10:34-** “Then Peter opened his mouth and said, “Of a truth I perceive that God is not a respecter of persons,”

**Romans 2:11-** “Because there is no respect of persons with God.”

For those who wish to walk as Jesus did and be like Him, they must *do* as Jesus did. To be in God’s will is to do what God said.

**John 14:15-** “If you love Me, keep the commandments— namely, My commandments.”

Anyone who thinks they are walking with Jesus Christ and does not keep His Commandments is only deceiving themselves.

**1 John 2:3-5-** “And by this *standard* we know that we know Him: if we keep His commandments. The one who says, “I know Him,” and does not keep His

commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. On the other hand, *if* anyone is keeping His Word, truly in this one the love of God is being perfected. By this *means* we know that we are in Him.”

The will of God the Father was so important to Jesus Christ that He made it known even unto death. He loved the Father as He loves us. He consciously submitted to the perfect will of God.

**Matthew 26:39-42-** “And after going forward a little, He fell on His face, praying, and saying, “My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You *will*.” Then He came to His disciples and found them sleeping. And *He* said to Peter, “What! Were you not able to watch with Me one hour? Watch and pray, so that you do not enter into temptation; the spirit indeed *is* willing, but the flesh is weak.” The second time He went again *and* prayed, saying, “My Father, if this cup cannot pass from Me unless I drink it, Your will be done.”

**Philippians 2:5-8-** “Let this mind be in you, which *was* also in Christ Jesus; Who, although He existed in *the* form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, But emptied Himself, *and* was made in *the* likeness of men,

*and* took the form of a servant; And being found in *the* manner of man, He humbled Himself, *and* became obedient unto death, even *the* death of *the* cross.”

It is not always easy to see God’s will when we are deep into a trial, or a storm has come upon us. Often, we may not have even done something of our own free will to warrant such a trial. We can miss the lesson God has *for* us in trying to figure out “why” is this happening to me? We will begin to question and doubt God’s involvement in what we are experiencing. We may feel abandoned.

**Psalm 13:1-6-** “How long will You forget me, O LORD? Forever? How long will You hide Your face from me? How long shall I take counsel in my heart, having sorrow in my heart daily? How long shall my enemy be exalted over me? Consider *and* answer me, O LORD my God; enlighten my eyes, lest I sleep the sleep of death, Lest my enemy say, “I have overcome him,” and my foes rejoice when I am moved. But as for me, I have trusted in Your mercy; my heart shall rejoice in Your salvation. I will sing to the LORD because He has dealt bountifully with me.”

Waiting on God’s intervention when we are in crisis is never pleasant. We have grown to be accustomed to a fast-food society and we want things now and we want things “our way.” Nobody likes that four-letter word, WAIT. The fact is we humans hate waiting. The phrase, hurry up and wait, remarks that none of us likes

to wait. Yet we are continually admonished to wait on the Lord. Scripture has quite a bit to say about waiting. Especially waiting on God.

**Isaiah 40:31-** “But those who wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up *with* wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.”

**Psalms 27:14-** “Wait for the LORD; be of good courage, and He shall make your heart strong; yea, wait, I say, *wait* on the LORD.”

In like manner, faith and waiting are also closely linked. Our faith in God is often displayed by waiting on Him. If we trust Him, if we have faith in Him, we will wait for Him to have His will be done in our lives. He will work out the things we cannot or should not do on our own. How many times have we tried to “help God along” with a certain trial or issue we have been dealing with? Only to have it blow up in our face or become worse? In either case, He will let us flounder and go through it again until we get out of His way that His will be done.

During our wait, Satan has a field day in twisting and attacking our faith. Our faith is linked to our hope. Satan wants to cast his doubts and shoot his fiery darts at our minds to make us uncertain about God fulfilling His promises. Waiting on the Lord is good for us because it reinforces our faith and trust in God.

**James 1:2-3-** “Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you are beset by various trials, Knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance.”

**Romans 5:1-4-** “Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through Whom we also have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we ourselves boast in the hope of *the* glory of God. And not only *this*, but we also boast in tribulations, realizing that tribulation brings forth endurance, And endurance *brings forth* character, and character *brings forth* hope.”

We might convince ourselves that we are waiting on God when He is really waiting for us. We are blessed by His Divine patience with us!

**Romans 8:23-25-** “And not only *that*, but even we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, also groan within ourselves, awaiting the sonship—the redemption of our bodies. For by hope we were saved; but hope that is seen is not hope; for why would anyone still be hoping for what he sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, we ourselves wait for it with patience.”

Waiting on God is the very foundation of our hope. Hope is used in the Bible not as something wished for but as a promise and the confident trust in a future event. We have the promise of God in His Word for our future redemption and adoption when we are *resurrected* at The Lord's return (**1 Cor. 15:51-55**). But until that event occurs and our hope is fulfilled, we wait. Wait is a four-letter word that will help us develop the patience we so desperately need. Just wait, you will see.

**1 Peter 1:6-7**- "In this you yourselves greatly rejoice; though for the present, if it is necessary, you are in distress for a little while by various trials; In order that the proving of your faith, which is much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is being tested by fire, may be found unto praise and honor and glory at *the* revelation of Jesus Christ;"

**Romans 8:17-19**- "Now if *we are* children, *we are* also heirs—truly, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ—if indeed we suffer together with Him, so that we may also be glorified together with Him. For I reckon that the sufferings of the present time *are* not worthy *to be compared* with the glory that shall be revealed in us. For the earnest expectation of the creation itself is awaiting the manifestation of the sons of God;"

There is an important lesson here. Not all waiting is actually "waiting on God." It could be procrastination on our part, not walking in the will of God by our own choice. It is far too easy to sit in a pew on a Sunday morning, listening to a fairy tale than reading God's word and doing what He says to do. Work is another four-letter word that is not too popular.

I see so many people distracted and absolutely refuse to wait on God or live and obey His Commandments. They treat Him like a genie in a bottle to be summoned out when the need for a blessing arises or a bailout in the time of trouble. If you need a better job, do you ask God for it and sit back waiting for Him to provide it? Or do you humbly ask and do all you can to be prepared for it? Are you being obedient to His Word? Are you walking in His perfect will? Calling on God outside of His will usually gets you a busy signal...

**1 Thessalonians 5:16-18-** "Rejoice always! Pray unceasingly. Give thanks in everything, for this *is the* will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you."

Trials are usually something God wants us to learn even though we cannot see Him in it. Our patience, perseverance, faith, and trust in Him will draw us closer to Him

and His perfect will for us. Praising God in times of turmoil is not simple, but it is the will of God.

Our time to wait on God is when God promises to do something or says that something will happen. He provides us with scripture that may give us a glimpse of the future, but we will have to wait for Him to bring it to pass. Waiting is not always pleasant. It takes work, it takes discipline, restraint, patience, and our all-out effort and we must love Him first.

**Romans 12:12-14-** “Be rejoicing in hope. Be patient in tribulation. Be steadfastly continuing in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints, and strive to be hospitable. Bless those who persecute you; bless, and do not curse.”

Coming to a place of understanding the trials we face are for our own good, we will search for an opportunity to glorify God in them. As our faith and trust grows, the enemy will lose his influence. When we suffer in such a manner, we need to remember that Christ suffered first. He glorified God the Father in keeping His perfect will.

**1 Peter 4:1-2-** “Consequently, since Christ has suffered for us in *the* flesh, arm yourselves also with the same mind because the one who has suffered in *the* flesh has finished *living* in sin *To this end: that* he no longer live his remaining time in the flesh to the lusts of men, but to the will of God.”

**Colossians 1:10-11-** “That you may walk worthily of the Lord, unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work and growing in the knowledge of God; Being strengthened with all power according to the might of His glory, unto all endurance and long-suffering with joy;”

Because Christ suffered and paid the price for our sins, we now have an intercessor to the very throne of God.

**Romans 8:27-28-** “And the One Who searches the hearts comprehends what the strivings of the Spirit *are* because it makes intercession for *the* saints according to *the will of God.* And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to *His* purpose.”

We now have His example to follow. Our course of action to be in God’s will has been laid out before us.

**1 Peter 2:21-** “For to this you were called because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow in His footsteps.”

**Hebrews 10:35-37-** “For this *very* reason, do not cast away your confidence, which is bringing a great reward. For you need to have endurance, so that, after you have done the will of God, you may receive the promise. For *it is* but a short time *until* He Who is coming will come, and will not delay.”

By being obedient to His word and walking in His will we will receive His promises. We too must willfully submit ourselves and seek the will of God.

**James 1:12-** “Blessed *is the* man who endures trials because, after he has been proved, he shall receive a crown of life, which the Lord has promised to those who love Him.”

**Revelation 2:10-** “Do not fear any of the things that you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to cast *some* of you into prison, that you may be tried; and you shall have tribulation ten days. Be faithful unto death, and I will give you a crown of life.”

By seeking God in a personal relationship, seeking His perfect will for our lives we can better serve Him *and* those in need.

**1 Corinthians 9:16-19-** “For though I preach the gospel, there is no *reason* for me to boast because an obligation has been laid upon me. And woe to me, if I do not preach the gospel! For if I do this willingly, I have a reward; but if I *do this* against my will, I have been entrusted with a ministry. What then is my reward? That in preaching the gospel, I may make the gospel of Christ without expense, so that I may not abuse my authority in the gospel. For although I am not under bondage to anyone, I have made myself a servant to all, so that I might gain the more.”

Suppose a friend needs some emotional support, can we truly offer it if we are not in spiritual alignment with the will of God? Have you ever tried to share scripture and not know which one you need? If we are truly “walking the walk” we will be able to “talk the talk.” Being in God’s will, you will seek to know His word.

Our goal is to strive and grow in the image and likeness of Jesus Christ our Savior. Image includes His Character, His conduct and being an example that others may see Him in us, to walk in the perfect will of God the Father as Jesus did.

As we labor toward spiritual development, we will grow according to how hard we work. We all know it takes work. Playing church once a week will gain nothing, except hearing The Lord tell us to “depart, I never knew you.” (**Matthew 7:23**). We will become better servants to those in God’s family and those around us if we are doing it for the glory of God (**1 Corinthians 10:31**).

It should not be a surprise to anyone, but everything is the will of God! We can either walk in His *permissive* will, where we do what we want, or we can choose to walk in His perfect will and be heirs to His Kingdom. He lets us make the choice.

Amen.

BL-02/10/24