

Having trouble reading this email? You can view it in your [web browser](#).

Ron and Val Berrus

God's Will Be Done JCI #102 Jan 15, 2011

Just Checking In #102 God's Will Be Done January 15, 2011

Psalm 39:12 "Hear my prayer, O Lord... for I am a 'pilgrim' with You..."

(For more on this subject, you can go to www.ronberrus.abwe.org, open the Foundation for Your Faith link and open or download lessons 11 and 12.)

Matt 6:10 "Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven..."

Luke 22:42 "Not my will, but Thine be done

Mark 3:35 "Whoever does the will of God is my mother, my brother and my sister

Romans 12:2 "...that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

The Will of God

the believer's desire

the Spirit's intercessory focus

the Son's determined purpose

The scriptures everywhere affirm the centrality of the will of God. But this phrase "will of God" is used in different ways. Let's take a look at a few passages that will help us better understand and appreciate these distinctions regarding God's will.

God's Decree... is all inclusive.

Ephesians 1:11 In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will:

Acts 4:27-28 Indeed Herod and Pontius Pilate met together with the Gentiles and the people of Israel in this city to conspire against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed. They did what your power and will had decided beforehand should happen.

God's eternal decree includes all that God does and all God allows. In this aspect of God's will (i.e. His eternal, sovereign plan) we recognize that nothing happens that God has not foreknown, planned for, allowed and included in the outworking of His eternal plan for His own eternal glory. It is in this sense that Job attributed his blessings and his tragedies to God, and was not in error in doing so. 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." In all this Job did not sin nor charge God with wrong.

Nothing surprises God. God never has to formulate a plan B. He is active in His world. He is bringing all things unfaithfully to His decreed and determined end. This is why we have prophecy! God's will is certain. Included in His eternal decree was creation, the fall of angels and men, death, destruction, election, predestination, redemption, sanctification, glorification, new creation.... absolutely everything... yea, the movement of every atom from creation to eternity. And all that God does and all that God allows is being worked together for His own greater glory.

God's Desire... is not all inclusive

Romans 12:2 "... be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is-- his good, pleasing and perfect will."

1 Thessalonians 4:3 "It is God's will that you should be sanctified: that you should avoid sexual immorality..."

God's desire, what delights Him, is that which is in accordance with His character. His commands are the outflow of His character. He delights in that which is consistent with His own moral character, and that is reflected in His revealed will found in His word, as in Deuteronomy 29:29 "The secret things (decree) belong to the LORD our God, but the things revealed (desire) belong to us and to our children forever, that we may follow all the words of this law."

Sin never pleases God. It cannot please Him, since it is the very opposite of His character and nature. It is most certainly included in His plan (decree). But God takes no pleasure in the death of the wicked... Ezekiel 18:32 "For I have no pleasure in the death of one who dies," says the Lord GOD. "Therefore turn and live!" God never does evil, nor can He do so. Titus 1:2 In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began..." More than that, He cannot be tempted or even have the desire for evil. James 1:12 "...for God cannot be tempted with evil..." Yet, God has most certainly included evil in His eternal plan for His greater glory. Here is where we make the distinction between what God actively does and what God passively allows. He allows evil in His plan, yet always works righteousness. In all that God allows and does, in all His eternal and sovereign plan, He gains glory to Himself. He gets glory in His demonstration of longsuffering, grace, mercy, justice, vengeance, and wrath. In all things God gets glory to Himself, and this is altogether right that it be so. He is worthy of our eager willingness to obey, believe, follow and exalt Him as God and God alone.

We are not responsible to fulfill God's eternal decree. He is! And He will!

We are fully responsible to fulfill His pleasure by obeying His revealed commands with a pure heart.

For further study:

Do a word study on “God’s will, plan, purpose, pleasure.”

The apostles were convinced of it... Acts 2:23; 4:27-28; 13:48; 17:41; 22:10

The saints struggle with it - Psalm 73

The Son struggled with it - John 12:27-28 "Now My soul is troubled, and what shall I say? 'Father, save Me from this hour'? But for this purpose I came to this hour. Father, glorify Your name."

Think about it:

“Understanding God’s ways is not difficult. It’s impossible! If it were only difficult, someone somewhere would be able to figure it out!” Romans 11:33 & 36 Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out! For of Him and through Him and to Him are all things, to Whom be the glory forever. Amen.

Self Check:

1. What does fear, worry, anxiety, and anger reveal about my core beliefs regarding God’s plan, sovereignty, and goodness?
2. What are at least 10 things that I know for certain are God’s will for me? (Examples – 1 Thess 4:3 & 5:18)
3. Agree or disagree: “We are certain about God’s ultimate purpose, but mostly confused about His present plan.”
4. What are 5 of your favorite verses about God’s sovereignty and ultimate purpose?

"Lord, You are sovereign, just and good. I place my trust in You, not because I understand Your ways or can predict what You will do next. I place my trust in You because of Who You are, revealed most clearly at the cross. Your Son, Your sovereignty, Your justice, Your mercy, Your grace, Your judgment, Your wisdom, Your Plan. Give me a fresh revelation of the cross in my soul, that I may give you glory and pleasure by an ever increasing love, trust and obedience to You. In the Name of Him into Whose hand Your sovereign plan was placed... our Lord Jesus Christ, Amen." (Revelation 5:7)

Remember, you are very special to us and we pray for you.

Living with leaving in view.... Jn 9:4 Ron & Val

Seeing The Invisible, embracing The Unapproachable, declaring The Unexplainable, changed by The Immutable, running after The Irresistible with inexhaustible joy in our inexpressible sorrows, spending our time on eternity, owning nothing yet possessing everything that matters and lasts. We are Pilgrims in Paradox. Welcome to THE JOURNEY.

©2011 Ron and Val Berrus

You received this email because **sample@somedomain.com** is subscribed to our list.

You can *instantly* unsubscribe from these emails by [clicking here](#).