**The *Will* of God (Not *My* Will, But *Thine*)**

The psalmist wrote, *“Teach me to do Thy will, for Thou art my God; let Thy good Spirit lead me on level ground”* (143:10); and, *“I delight to do Thy will, O my God; Thy law is written on my heart”* (40:8).

Of Jesus, the writer of Hebrews penned, *“Then I said, ‘Behold, I have come to do Thy will, O God”* and *“Behold, I have come to do Thy will,”* Heb.10:7,9.

What a perfect heart of submission and dedicated purpose!

The Greek word *thelema* (**thel**-ay-mah) is translated into our word *“will”* (the noun form rather than the verb). It is defined, basically, in two ways **relative to God**:

1. The *purpose* of God to bless mankind through Jesus Christ; Eph.1:5,9; and,
2. The *desire* of God; of what God *wishes/desires* to be done by us, John 6:40; 7:17.

We humans also have a *will* that encompasses both our *intention* or *purpose* and our *desires,* cf. Eph.2:3; 2Pet.2:21.

Obviously, one of the great challenges of Christianity is the *submission* of our will to God’s.

**I. The Battle of Wills: *Mine* vs. *God’s***

1. It begins with a conscious *decision,* Matt.6:10;
2. To adopt the *purpose* of Jesus to our own lives, Jn.4:34; 6:38-39;
3. So that our *desire* becomes one with the *will* of God, 1Pet.4:1-2.
4. This *incorporation* of God’s *purpose* and *desire* (will) into our own is the challenge of life on which our eternity hangs, Matt.7:21!
5. So, make the conscious decision to *“prove the will of God”* in your life, Rom.12:2 (*prove* is *dokimazo-* to *test, examine, scrutinize;* to *recognize as genuine after examination;* to *approve;* to *deem worthy*).
6. But know that this *decision* will be itself *tested,* Matt.26:36-44.
7. We may not (and hopefully will not!) face crucifixion ourselves, but please understand the decision before Jesus:
	* 1. Stick to *the plan* (*will* of God) to save mankind through His own agonizing death; or,
		2. Allow *His will* to take precedence over that of His *Father’s.*
	1. In a sense, we face the same decision daily, Lk.9:18-23.
		1. Is this *choice, decision, goal, purpose,* or *desire* according to *God’s* will or *mine?*
		2. Is it *God’s* will, *my* will, or *Satan’s* will, cf. Luke 4:1-4.
	2. You see, there is a *third* will involved: *Satan’s* will, 2Tim.2:26.
8. Actually, there are only two *wills* involved: God’s or Satan’s; *our* will becomes conformed to *One* or the *Other,* Rom.6:17-18.

**II. Conclusions**

We sometimes speak of “strong-willed children”… either *positively* or *negatively,* but usually *negatively* as they refuse to relinquish their own *desires* to become obedient to yours. Beware lest we become what we despise.

The *submission* of *our* will(s) to *God* begins with a decision. But, it will be a decision that is challenged all along the way by *self* and *Satan!*

When you face your *moment of truth,* pray *“Thy will be done, not mine.”*

When you face your *daily decisions* regarding *purpose* and *desire,* remind yourself of the decision previously made in these regards, and stick with it!

Think: Is this (whatever *this* is) worth supplanting God’s will for Satan’s, or my own will? It NEVER is.