

## **God, will of**

The intent and purpose of God, as revealed in Scripture. God's will for his creation and his people is set out in the Law and the Prophets, which find their fulfilment in Jesus Christ. A central aspect of the will of God is that his people be faithful and obedient.

### **The revelation of God's will**

**In his word** **2Ti 3:16** *See also* **2Sa 7:21** [1Ch 17:19; **Ps 103:20-21**; **Col 1:25-26**; **1Jn 2:4-5**]

**Through the law** **Ex 18:15-16**; **24:12**; **Dt 30:16**; **Ps 119:43**; **Ro 7:12**; **1Ti 1:8**

**Through the prophets** **1Ki 22:6-7** [2Ch 18:5-6; **2Ki 3:11**; **Jer 42:3-4**; **Eze 12:25**; **Am 3:7**]

**In the apostolic gospel** **Ac 20:27**; **Gal 1:11-12**

### **The fulfilment of God's will**

**God's will is fulfilled in Jesus Christ** **Eph 1:9-10** *See also* **Eph 3:4-11**; **Col 1:27**

**Jesus Christ obeyed his Father's will** **Jn 6:38** *See also* **Mt 26:39** [Mk 14:36 [Lk 22:42; **Jn 4:34**; **5:30**; **Heb 10:7**; **Ps 40:8**]]

**Jesus Christ's death fulfilled God's will** **Gal 1:3-4** *See also* **Isa 53:10**; **Ac 2:23**

### **God's will for the world**

**God desires justice and righteousness** **Am 5:24** *See also* **Ps 33:5**; **Isa 5:7**; **Jer 9:24**; **Mic 6:8**

**God desires honesty and truth** **Pr 12:22** *See also* **Ex 20:16** [Dt 5:20; **Lev 19:35-36**; **Pr 11:1**; **Zec 8:16-17**]

**God desires harmony and peace** **1Ti 2:2-3** *See also* **Isa 2:3-4** [Mic 4:2-3; **Isa 11:6-9**]

**God desires the world to be saved** **1Ti 2:4** *See also* **Eze 18:23**; **33:11**; **Mt 18:14**; **Jn 3:16-17**; **2Pe 3:9**

### **God's will for his redeemed people**

**God desires loving obedience** **Mt 22:35-38** [Mk 12:28-29 [Lk 10:27] *See also* **Dt 6:5** *Scripture regularly makes obedience to God a higher priority than performing religious acts*: **Ps 51:16-17**; **Isa 1:11**; **Jer 7:22-23**; **1Jn 2:5**]

**God desires worship** **1Pe 2:9** *See also* **Ps 100:4**; **Isa 45:23**; **1Th 5:18**; **Rev 1:6**

**God desires holiness** **1Th 4:3** *See also* **Lev 19:1-2**; **1Co 1:2**; **Col 1:22**; **1Th 4:7**; **Heb 10:10**; **1Pe 1:15-16**

**God desires love for one another** **Jn 13:34-35** *See also* **Lev 19:18**; **Mt 22:39** [Mk 12:31 pp Lk 10:27; **Jn 15:12-13**; **Gal 5:14**; **1Jn 3:11**]

**God desires high moral standards** **1Pe 2:15** *See also* **Mt 5:16,48**; **1Pe 3:4**

**God's will may involve suffering** **1Pe 3:17** *See also* **Ac 14:22**; **21:13-14**; **Heb 12:5-7**; **1Pe 4:19**

### **Proper responses to God's will**

**Discovering God's will** Eph 5:17 *See also* Ro 2:18; Col 1:9

**Obedying God's will** Mt 7:21 *See also* Ezr 10:11; Mt 12:50 pp Mk 3:35; Eph 6:6; Heb 13:21; Jas 4:15

**Praying for God's will** Mt 6:10 *See also* Ps 143:10; Mt 26:42; Jn 14:13-14; 1Jn 5:14

**Making radical changes to do God's will** Ro 12:2 *See also* Ro 8:5; Gal 5:16-17; Jas 1:20; 1Pe 1:14; 4:2; 1Jn 2:15-17

### **Rejecting God's will**

Lk 7:30 *See also* Ps 107:11; Isa 30:1; Eze 3:7; Mt 23:37 pp Lk 13:34; Jn 8:44

### **Examples of people who obeyed God's will**

Dt 33:21 *Gad*

*David:* 1Sa 13:14; Ac 13:22,36

*Isa* 44:28-45:1 *Cyrus*

*Paul:* Ac 18:21; 21:14; Ro 1:10; 15:32; 1Co 4:19

### **Ways of discovering God's will**

Ex 18:20 *teaching*; Ex 28:30 *Urim and Thummim*; Ps 86:11 *prayer*; Ps 119:105 *God's word*; Da 2:22-23 *revelation*; Jn 14:26 *the Holy Spirit*; Ac 1:26 *drawing lots*

### **God's will and the human will**

**God's will overrules human wills** Pr 19:21 *See also* Ps 33:10-11; Pr 16:9

**God's will overrides the desires of the wicked** Ge 50:20; Isa 10:5-11; Hab 1:5-11; Ac 2:23

**God's will can harmonise with human wills** 1Ch 13:2; Ps 37:4; 145:19; Ac 15:28

### **God's will is sovereign**

**Over all things** Eph 1:11

**Over creation** *See also* Mt 10:29; Ro 8:20; Rev 4:11

**Over evil** Ge 45:8; 1Sa 2:25; Pr 16:4; Isa 65:12; Ro 9:18

**Over the gospel** Mic 7:18; Mt 11:25-26 pp Lk 10:21; Jn 5:21; Ac 13:48; Ro 9:18; 1Co 1:21

**In the church** 1Co 1:1; 12:11,28; Php 2:13; 2Ti 1:1; Heb 2:4<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Manser, M. H. (2009). *Dictionary of Bible Themes: The Accessible and Comprehensive Tool for Topical Studies*. London: Martin Manser.