

# The will of God...

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## What is the will of God?

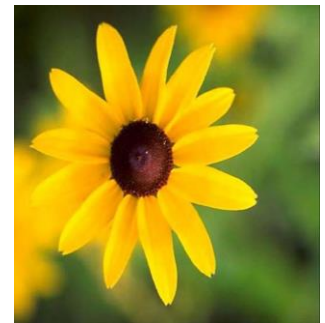
HIS will is to rule rightly in His kingdom of joy and peace... including to get all the willing participants to harmonize in the grand symphony He is writing... while He directs, while He picks out all the boogers -- no small task. In the last book of the New Testament... we hear the joyous chorus in all the heavens shouting:

You are worthy O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power: for **You created all things**, and **for Your pleasure they are and were created** -- Revelation 4.



The chief aim of mankind is to glorify God... who knows the beginning from the end something easy to say, but difficult to understand; nonetheless, He also acts in faith; God our Father is the greatest father. When He first acts, I'm sure it is from a heart full of love with the best intentions; and without coercion. His hallmark is love freely given... to secure the good of others. But I bet, He is also a quick learner.

God, to be God... has to be the most powerful Being... whether or not He is other things, such as: loving, merciful and gracious. On this subject, Dr. Dallas Willard of the University of Southern California... commented, if God's power is anything like electricity, then He is also dangerous... and we better learn how to approach Him correctly.



Paul wrote: Giving thanks unto the Father, who has made us fit to be partakers of the kingdom of His dear Son, in whom we have redemption... through His blood -- which is how we are made fit... the forgiveness of sins... who is the **image** of the invisible God -- Colossians 1; which is why God wasn't interested seeing anyone down here set up images interrupting the view... because He already had the one and only **image** in His mind that mattered: His dear Son... who He greatly loves.

Paul also wrote... the Spirit makes intercession for all the saints... according to the will of God, that all... work together for good -- Romans 8.

to them who love God, to them who are called -- and the call lovingly went out to many; but apparently, not all wanted to answer the call;

to them who are called according to His purpose -- His will, His desire.

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For whom He did **foreknow**, He did also **predestinate**... two words that have been rigidly translated and have lost any workable meaning to comprehend... for the youngest being taught by the Lord Jesus. So, try this better translation:



For whom He previously planned... He also determined -- God had a plan, and it was not arbitrary, that plan had fixed boundaries; not much different than if we plan in advance... to visit Grandma on the weekend... to bring her flowers... and take her to dinner.

For whom He previously planned... He also determined -- and what did God plan and determine?

Turn to the first page of the Bible; the plan hasn't changed... though it has been modified slightly.

**What is our purpose?** What is our destiny, our destination? What, if anything was pre-planned, you know, previously determined by God?



The LORD God said: **let Us make Adam in Our image and in Our likeness** -- Genesis 1.

That's it. That's the plan; it's **not** complicated, is it? That's the journey!

Thankfully, God lovingly keeps things simple for the children.

**Sadly, the 1<sup>st</sup> Adam messed up; but the 2<sup>nd</sup> Adam didn't!**

That is still our pre-planned destination; to walk with the LORD of love; to learn from Him, to guard His words in our hearts; to know what He knows, and to think like He thinks, in other words:

to be made in His image and likeness... something that will not be perfectly fulfilled, until we come to the perfect world; and that is not here... so keep on walking!



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Now, we might notice... for whatever reason... some do **not** want to go on the journey. I'm sure someday, He will honor their will, and dismiss them from His presence; maybe even give some a push; after all no need to postpone the inevitable. It is interesting, in his Sermon on the Mount, Jesus, the good Teacher... who was pretty smart, too... He said:



Many will say to Me in that day, Lord, Lord... so, quite energetically they will say, have we not done gobs of religious sounding stuff? And in your name, did we not do oodles of wonderful things?

And I will profess unto them, I never knew you. Depart / make your Exodus! you workers of **iniquity**... literally, you workers **with no law**. These people neither loved God; nor did they have love for one another. Wow! **So definitely they were not part of the original plan; they were not part of God's itinerary.** Jesus, the good Teacher... He is the hallmark of God's love; and He came to tell us all about His Father. For us, the journey is a lifelong opportunity to learn from the Best!

## What is the will of God?

Paul learned... what we as well should know, so that none of us should perish:

All things / all situations with the Spirit's help, all opportunities -- good or bad; fair or foul; rain or shine... work together for good, to them who love God, to them who are called according to His purpose. For whom He previously planned... He also determined... to be conformed / to be uniquely formed and fashioned... to the image of His Son -- **Romans 8:29**.



3,000 years ago, they were so smart; they sang this beautiful song: As for me, I will behold Your face in righteousness: I will be satisfied; when I awake -- one day, over there; maybe, even one day in the blink of an eye... when I awake with Your likeness -

- **Psalm 17** **When we see Him, we will be like Him.**

