

## **2013 Basic Doctrines (16)** **(The Will of God – Part 1)**

The Book of Ephesians was written by Paul to teach in doctrinal terms the importance of the Plan of God for the Christian way of life (CWL).

(Eph.1:18-19a) “I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, **so that you will know what** is the hope of His calling, **what** are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, **and what** is the surpassing greatness of His power towards us who believe.”

**(Eph.1:3-14) is one Greek sentence.** It sets the stage for a book of key Christian doctrines. Just pay attention to the use of the English **us, we, you, and our** as Paul personalize these basic doctrines in this Greek sentence (NAS).

- **This Greek sentence** declares that the plan of God was decreed before the “foundation of the world” (Eph.1:4) In Eternity Past at the Eternal Life Conference (ELC).
- **This Greek sentence** declares that all three members of the Godhead were involved in the design as well as the function of the Plan of God in human history (Eph.1:3-6) [God the Father] and (Eph.1:7-12) [God, the Son] and (Eph.1:13-14) [God the Holy Spirit].
- **This Greek sentence** declares that every Church Age Believer (CAB) enters into the Plan of God through salvation and into “the riches of His grace which He has lavished on us.” (Eph.1:7-8)
- **This Greek sentence** declares that the God decreed to “make know (gnorizo / a.a.ptc.nsm) to us the mystery of **His will** (to thelema / gsn), according to His kind intention which **He purposed** (protithemi / a.m.ind.3ps/**Plan of God**) in Him.” (Eph.1:9)

<b>This lesson will study four aspects of the doctrine of the Will of God.</b>
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### **1. There are three wills on earth that are worth mentioning.**

- **God’s will** (Divine Viewpoint)
  - Since mankind was created in the image according to likeness of God (Gen.1:26-27), mankind has free will (volition) after the divine model (Mark 3:35).
- **Satan’s will** (Cosmos Diabolicus, Worldly Thinking)
  - Satan’s will is identified in (Isa14:12-15) by the famous five “I wills” directed against the revealed will of God. Human volition (free will) is the target in the angelic conflict. (2 Tim.2:26).
- **Human will** (Will Power)
  - The other two spheres of wills influence human will (**Adam and Eve**). Adam and Eve were created with human volition to believe either God or the Devil (Gen.3; Gen.2:17; Rom.5:12; Gal.1:4; **Matt.21:28-32**).

## 2. The Word of God (The Canonized Bible) reveals the Decreed Will of God regarding the Plan of God.

(Luke 22:42) **Jesus:** “Father, if (1cc) [and it’s true] you are willing (boulomai / p.m.ind.2ps) [Your Decree], remove (paraphero / a.a.impv.2ps) this cup from Me; yet not My will (to thelema), but Yours be done (p.a.impv.3ps).” (John 4:34; Heb.5:7; Phil.2:8; Heb.12:2)

The struggle is often volitional (a choice), to surrender to the revealed Decreed Directive Will of God

(Eph.6:6). Inner peace comes when facing adversities of life with confidence, which is the result of cycling Bible doctrine by faith.

(1 John 5:4-5) “For whatever is born of God overcomes the world; and this is the victory that has overcome the world – **our faith**. Who is the one who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God.” (2 Cor.5:7)

(Phil.4:6-7) “Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your request be made known to God. And the **peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.**” (1 John 5:14-15)

(Ps.143:10) “**Teach me to do Your will**, for You are my God; Let Your good Spirit lead me on level ground.” (John 7:16-17)

## 3. There are three classifications of the Will of God in the Plan of God (Gen.22:1-19) [Abraham offering Isaac].

- **Directive Will of God**
  - What God specifically revealed about a Decree of the Plan of God to you (Gen.22:1-8).
- **Permissive Will of God**
  - What God allows regarding volition reacting to the Directive Will (Gen.22:9-10; Heb.11:17-19).
- **Over-ruling Will of God**
  - What God does not allow to interfere with the function of the Plan of God (Gen.22:11-18).

(James 2:21-22) “Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered up Isaac his son on the altar? You see that faith was working with his works, and as a result of the works, faith was perfected.”

What about Cain and Abel? God didn’t over-rule Cain killing Abel (Gen.4). Omniscience knew Seth would be the seed of Christ and not Abel in the Plan of God (Luke 3:38; 2 Pet.1:20-21).

## 4. There are three important categories to the fulfilling the Directive Will in the Plan of God.

These are never in conflict each other in the Plan of God. They must all line-up with the directive will.

- **Geographical will of God**
  - Where God desires His Directive Will to be performed (Jonah 1:2).
- **Operational will of God**
  - What God desires the believer to do in His geographical Will (Jonah 1:2; 3:2; 4:11).
- **Mental will of God**
  - How God desires the believer to think about the performance of His Directive Will. (Jonah 3:10; 4:9-11).