

# The Right Outlook on Life

We want to be in God's will, to do God's will, but how do we really know what God's will for us is? Let's sort out biblical truth from worldly assumptions. Believe it or not, the answer isn't as mysterious as you may think.



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## INTRODUCTION

To kick off our series, we first set a foundation of understanding the Biblical view of God's sovereign will, His directive will, and our decisions.

## STARTER QUESTION

We are faced with an inordinate amount of choices in daily life, even down to choosing which of over 4000 cereals to eat. What "minor" choices – like choosing the right cereal – are difficult for you to make, and why do they seem like such a big deal?

## INTO THE WORD

Read Daniel 4:35; Deuteronomy 29:29; John 4:34; Genesis 50:20. How do these verses show that God's sovereign will is: absolute; only completely known to Him; always at work to bring good for those who follow Him? Why would it be inappropriate for us to seek or pry into knowing His sovereign will?

Read 1 Thessalonians 4:35 and 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18. How do these verses reveal God's directive will of his commands and desires for us? Using our understanding of both God's sovereign *and* directive wills, how would we then process either a trauma in our own life or minister to those around us suffering?

*The Bible* says that God gives us many choices in which to follow His will. Genesis 2:15-17 is a good example of how we don't have to make one perfect decision. The world view, however, implies that following God's will is similar to: making one perfect choice; having a winning lottery ticket; or following a diet that is good for you but not enjoyable. Why do so many people view God's will incorrectly? How might a person fight against taking any of these three stances?

## APPLICATION

Based on 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18, what practical things can we do to increase our connection with God? How would you mentor someone to exercise these practices so they can increase their connection to God?

What is the difference between making God Lord of our lives and seeking his advice? In what area of life do you most want to know God's will? Conversely, in which area do you think God most desires lordship?

Placing the source of our joy in God enables us to rejoice always. How do you place your joy in God? How might you explain this to someone who's joy stems from someone/something else?

## PRAYER

Father, thank you for your sovereign will, which is always at work for our good. Let me rejoice in You always. Let me stay connected with You constantly, so that you will inform my daily decisions. I will give thanks and glorify you in all circumstances so that your will, not mine, be done.