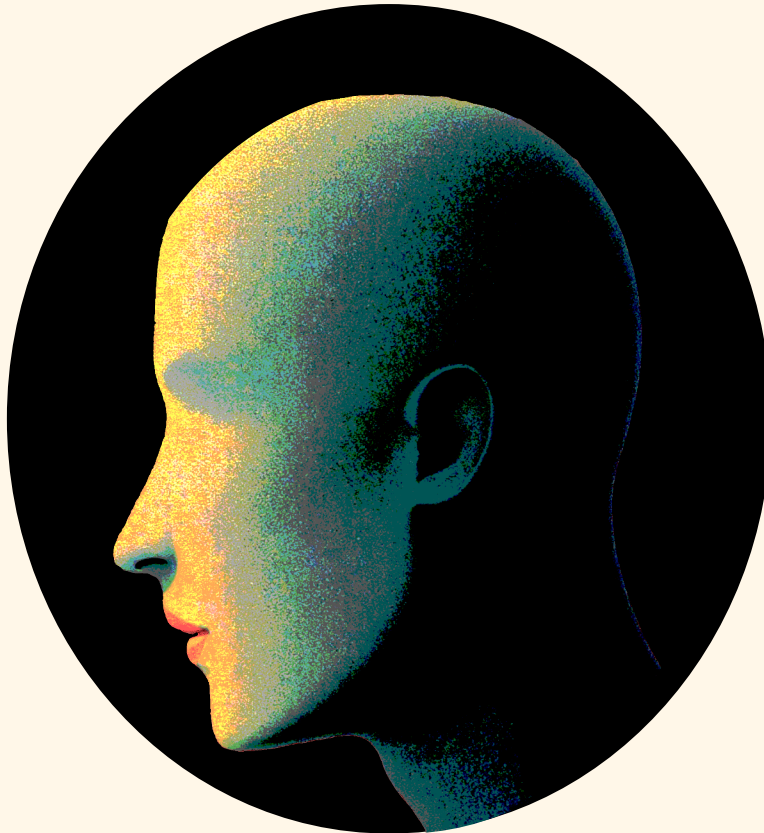


WHEN MY WILL IS TO DO GOD'S WILL ...



... I KNOW HIS TEACHING

- The person whose will is to do the will of God has entered into a submissive relationship with God by which he is transformed and cleansed in heart, mind, soul and spirit and is able to know and receive the truth of God free from the contamination of self-will and self-determination.

I. When my will is to do God's will, I will know whether the teaching is from God, 7:14-18.

- (John 7:14–18 ESV) About the middle of the feast Jesus went up into the temple and began teaching. 15 The Jews therefore **marveled**, saying, “How is it that this man has learning, when he has never studied?” 16 So Jesus answered them, “**My teaching is not mine, but his who sent me.** 17 **If anyone's will is to do God's will, he will know whether the teaching is from God or whether I am speaking on my own authority.** 18 **The one who speaks on his own authority seeks his own glory; but the one who seeks the glory of him who sent him is true, and in him there is no falsehood.**

A. The person whose will is to do God's will knows teaching that is from God.

- i. He knows the teaching is from God.
- ii. He knows this because he has fully surrendered his will to the authority of God and his word with the intent to receive and obey the teaching by which he can do the will of God.
- iii. He knows the teaching is from God because he is no longer impaired by his sinful, self-seeking, glory-seeking nature.
- iv. This allows him to receive truth from God and removes the confusion and contention that corrupts the ability of the rebel to know and receive truth.
- v. From his position of full surrender the Holy Spirit develops his discernment in identifying those who speak from their own authority (opinion) and who seek their own glory.
- vi. He also learns to recognize the dysfunction, confusion and deceit of those who halfheartedly pursue God's will for their lives.

B. The person whose will is to do God's will is able to evaluate spiritual reality because he has the mind of Christ and is no longer restrained by or conformed to the judgments and conclusions of this world regarding the reality of life.

- (1 Corinthians 2:15–16 NLT) **Those who are spiritual can evaluate all things**, but they themselves cannot be evaluated by others. 16 For, “Who can know the LORD's thoughts? Who knows enough to teach him?” **But we understand these things, for we have the mind of Christ.**
- (Philippians 2:3–5 ESV) **Do nothing from**

selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. 4 Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. 5 **Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus.**

C. In this transforming process of possession (having the mind of Christ) and renewal this person is able to discern the actual will of God.

- (Romans 12:2 ESV) Do not be conformed to this world, but be **transformed by the renewal of your mind**, that by testing **you may discern what is the will of God**, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

D. This person reaches the status of friend of God and Christ makes the Father's will known to him.

- (John 15:15 ESV) No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; **but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you.**

E. This person submits every anxiety and issue in life to God because he trusts that God is working his sovereign will in his life.

- (Philippians 4:6 ESV) **Do not be anxious about anything**, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving **let your requests be made known to God.**
- (Romans 8:27–28 ESV) And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, **because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.** 28 **And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good**, for those who are called according to his purpose.
- (Philippians 2:13 ESV) For **it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.**

II. When my will is to do God's will, I do not judge by appearances, 7:19-24.

- (John 7:19–24 ESV) Has not Moses given you the law? **Yet none of you keeps the law.** Why do you seek to kill me?” 20 **The crowd answered, “You have a demon! Who is seeking to kill you?”** 21 Jesus answered them, “I did one work, and you all marvel at it. 22 Moses gave you circumcision (not that it is from Moses, but from the

fathers), and you circumcise a man on the Sabbath. 23 If on the Sabbath a man receives circumcision, so that the law of Moses may not be broken, are you angry with me because on the Sabbath I made a man's whole body well? 24 Do not judge by appearances, but judge with right judgment."

- A. Every form of legalism attempts to justify the self-effort of the rule keeper.
- B. The person whose will is to do God's will not fall into the self-justifying trap of legalism.
- C. Legalism is a system of spirituality or morality in any form that is determined and measured by outward appearances and results in confusion and hypocrisy.
 - i. For instance they were given the law by Moses but they did not keep the law.
 - ii. Legalists adapt God's teaching of the law to human rules and traditions to justify themselves.
 - (Romans 3:20 ESV) For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin.
 - (Mark 7:8-9 ESV) You leave the commandment of God and hold to the tradition of men." 9 And he said to them, "You have a fine way of rejecting the commandment of God in order to establish your tradition!"
 - iii. The deadly flaw of legalists is self-righteousness.
 - (Romans 10:3 ESV) For, being ignorant of the righteousness of God, and seeking to establish their own, they did not submit to God's righteousness.
 - iv. Legalists attempt to demonstrate righteousness by the law which runs contrary to the law's actual purpose which is to reveal their sinfulness.
- D. The example of hypocrisy: These people had determined that it was okay to circumcise an eight day old boy on the Sabbath but not okay to restore the health of a man who had suffered for 38 years.
 - (John 5:9-10 ESV) And at once the man was healed, and he took up his bed and walked. Now that day was the Sabbath. 10 So the Jews said to the man who had been healed, "It is the Sabbath, and it is not lawful for you to take up your bed."
- E. The person whose will is **not** to do God's will depends on and is deceived by outward appearances.

F. He is blind to the reality of and incapable of the ability to make right judgments about his life and the world in which he lives.

- (John 7:24 ESV) Do not judge by appearances, but judge with right judgment.

G. The person whose will is to do God's will does not judge by appearances but judges with right judgment.

III. When my will is to do God's will, I understand the difference between marveling at the words of Jesus and doing the will of God.

A. The many instances recorded in Scripture of people marveling and being astonished at the words of Jesus are often misunderstood and misinterpreted.

- (John 7:15 ESV) The Jews therefore marveled, saying, "How is it that this man has learning, when he has never studied?"
- (John 7:46 ESV) The officers answered, "No one ever spoke like this man!"
- (Matthew 7:28-29 ESV) And when Jesus finished these sayings, the crowds were astonished at his teaching, 29 for he was teaching them as one who had authority, and not as their scribes.
- (Luke 4:22 ESV) And all spoke well of him and marveled at the gracious words that were coming from his mouth. And they said, "Is not this Joseph's son?"
- (Acts 4:13 ESV) Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated, common men, they were astonished. And they recognized that they had been with Jesus.

B. To only marvel at the words of God is inadequate and deceitful as there is an infinite gap between marveling at the words and doing the will of God.

- (Matthew 12:50 ESV) For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother. (Cf. Mark 3:32-35)
- (Matthew 7:21 ESV) Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.
- (1 John 2:17 ESV) And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever.

C. God gives the person whose will is to do God's will a

pure heart—a clean heart—free of the contaminants of self-will and self-determination.

- (Matthew 5:8 ESV) **Blessed are the pure in heart**, for **they shall see God**.
- (Psalm 51:10 ESV) **Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.**
- (Jeremiah 24:7a ESV) **I will give them a heart to know that I am the Lord**, and they shall be my people and I will be their God.
- (Ezekiel 36:26 ESV) **And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you.** And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.

i. This person lives with a heightened awareness of what is unseen and eternal.

- (2 Corinthians 4:18 ESV) **As we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen.** For the things that are seen are transient, **but the things that are unseen are eternal.**

ii. The aim of the pure in heart is to please God in everything he or she does.

- (2 Corinthians 5:7–9 ESV) **For we walk by faith**, not by sight. 8 Yes, we are of good courage, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. 9 So whether we are at home or away, **we make it our aim to please him.**

iii. The aim of the pure in heart is to live in a manner worthy of the Lord and fully pleasing to him.

- (Colossians 1:9–10 ESV) And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking **that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding,** 10 **so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him:** bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God.

D. To do the will of God is the spiritual food by which the person whose will is to do God's will thrives.

- (John 4:34 ESV) Jesus said to them, **“My food is to do the will of him who sent me** and to accomplish his work.”

E. Those who hunger and thirst for righteousness—doing the will of God—shall be satisfied.

- (Matthew 5:6 ESV) Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, **for they shall be satisfied.**

IV. The half-hearted, insincere curiosity seekers continue in their confusion, 7:25-31.

- (John 7:25–31 ESV) Some of the people of Jerusalem therefore said, “Is not this the man whom they seek to kill? 26 And here he is, speaking openly, and they say nothing to him! Can it be that the authorities really know that this is the Christ? 27 **But we know where this man comes from**, and when the Christ appears, no one will know where he comes from.” 28 So Jesus proclaimed, as he taught in the temple, “You **know** me, and you **know** where I come from. But I have not come of my own accord. He who sent me is true, and him you do not know. 29 **I know him, for I come from him, and he sent me.**” 30 So they were seeking to arrest him, but no one laid a hand on him, because his hour had not yet come. 31 **Yet many of the people believed in him.** They said, “When the Christ appears, will he do more signs than this man has done?”

A. They thought they had the facts about Jesus but they certainly did not.

B. They were probably not true believers but only those who marveled at the words and works of Jesus.

- (John 2:23–25 ESV) 23 Now when he was in Jerusalem at the Passover Feast, **many believed in his name when they saw the signs that he was doing.** 24 **But Jesus on his part did not entrust himself to them, because he knew all people** 25 and needed no one to bear witness about man, **for he himself knew what was in man.**

CONCLUSION: Do you know what you know? Do you have confidence in your standing before the Lord God Almighty?