

**Yes!**

**I Want to Be Aligned  
with God's Will**

**How can I better cooperate with  
God's will for me?**

**How can I be more useful for participating  
in God's plan for man?**

*by Robert Curry*

# **Bad News All Around? Don't Worry, God's Will Will Be Done**

**G**od rules His creation and will do His will even if agnostics or atheists or rebellious people think He doesn't exist or don't care what He wants.

“My counsel shall stand, and I will do all My pleasure” (Isaiah 46:9-10). And who can proclaim as I do?” (44:7).

Prophecy explains how God will keep His promises. No need to fear or be anxious about what's coming.

“Surely, as I have thought, so shall it come to pass, and as I have purposed, so it shall stand” (14:24).

“He removes kings and raises up kings” (Daniel 2:32). Queen Elizabeth II dies and King Charles III rises.

“And He has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, and has determined their preappointed times and the boundaries of their dwellings” (Acts 17:26). God is not baffled by the situation in Ukraine and what Russia might do.

God is able to bring His will to pass without violating man's freewill. We see this expressed in Judges 14:4: “But his [Samson's] father and mother did not know that it was of the Lord—that He was seeking an occasion to move against the

Philistines. For at that time the Philistines had dominion over Israel.” Samson didn’t need God or anybody else to make him desire to marry a Philistine woman!

Thank God the Supreme Power of the universe is good, kind, loving, forgiving and family-oriented. God’s will will be done regardless of what any human does.

**So why in Jesus’ model prayer, does He tell us to bother praying: “Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.”**

Yes, it will. And it sounds like a great idea since everything’s perfect in heaven! And “in His temple everyone says, ‘Glory!’” (Psalm 29:9).

“Now this is the confidence that we have in Him [the Son of God], that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him.”

God wants us to build our relationship with Him. And He wants us to learn to know His will.

# Learn to Know God's Will

“Till you know that the Most High rules in the kingdom of men, and gives it to whomever He chooses” (Daniel 4:25). Nebuchadnezzar had to live with the beasts of the field seven years till he knew it!

If you believe God wants His people to vote in the national elections, have you noticed this biblical advice about God's choice of candidates: “In order that the living may know that the Most high rules in the kingdom of men, gives it to whomever He will, and sets over it the lowest of men” (Daniel 4:17). Is that whom you're voting for! Then we might find ourselves voting against God!

We don't need to guess what we think God's will is. The best way is to daily study the Bible and pray for God's understanding to rightly divide it (2 Timothy 2:15).

“[Know] the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work” (2 Timothy 3:15-17).

## **Numerous scriptures say “this is the will of God” or “of the Father”**

and tell us aspects of it. Look up these examples for yourself:

- 1 Thessalonians 4:3-8: “For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you should abstain from sexual immorality.”

- 1 Thessalonians 5:18: “In everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.”
- 1 Peter 2:13-15: “For this is the will of God, that by doing good you may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men.”
- John 6:39-40: “This is the will of the Father who sent Me, that of all He has given Me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up at the last day. And this is the will of Him who sent Me, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in Him may have everlasting life, and I will raise him up at the last day.”

On a recent Sabbath, when I told a member I was studying about aligning ourselves with the will of God, he wisely pointed out to me that “We should base everything we do on a scripture.” He quoted Matthew 4:4: “Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.” Yes, we should live the Bible!

Paul prayed for the Colossian brethren that they be “filled with the knowledge of His will ... that you may walk worthy of the Lord ... for all patience and longsuffering with joy” (Colossians 1:9-11).

We build our relationship with God by praying for the All-Powerful God’s will to be done and coming to know what His will is. But beyond that, we also need to understand His will.

# Understand God's Will—By Obeying

“Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is” (Ephesians 5:17).

Not just be able to rattle off 10 points about what God's will is but actually understand why He wants us to do His way of life.

Adam and Eve in the Garden understood what God commanded but they didn't really get why. So they helplessly ended up heeding the wily serpent and choosing the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil instead of the Tree of Life. We their progeny have followed suit for 6,000 years.

In Matthew 21:28-31 Jesus gave a parable about which of two sons actually did the will of their father. The one who said “I go, sir, and did not.” Or the one who at first said “I will not but afterward he regretted it and went.”

One of the most significant verses in the Bible is Psalm 111:10: “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom: a good understanding have all those who do His commandments.”

**To understand God's will, we have to be obeying God as much as we know at that point**

Herbert and Loma Armstrong, God's leaders of the Philadelphia era of the Church of God, early on saw that it was God's will to keep His Holy Days of Leviticus 23, so they obediently kept them for seven years—and eventually understood why!

C.S. Lewis in His book *Mere Christianity* on page 76 wrote: “Image yourself as a living house. God comes in to rebuild that

house. At first, perhaps, you can understand what He is doing. He is getting the drains right and stopping the leaks in the roof and so on; you knew that those jobs needed doing and so you are not surprised. But presently He starts knocking the house about in a way that hurts abominably and does not seem to make any sense. What on earth is He up to? The explanation is that He is building quite a different house from the one you thought of—throwing out a new wing here, putting on an extra floor there, running up towers making courtyards. You thought you were being made into a decent little cottage but He is building a palace. He intends to come and live in it Himself.” And He is already living in us while He remodels!

So Jesus says: “Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother.”

But guess what! There is more than praying for God’s will to be done, knowing what it is, and understanding why it should be done. We need to be actually tuned to be in alignment with God’s will.

# Tuned to Be in Alignment with God's Will

**G**od has a plan to build His family and nobody can stop Him from completing it. The smart strategy is to be in tune with His will.

We communicate through prayer and God might show His will through circumstances that follow.

When Isaiah told King Hezekiah God said he was going to die, Hezekiah wept and asked God to remember all the good things he had done. God responded with 15 more years of life for him! Nehemiah had also asked God to remember what he had done in His service (Nehemiah 13:22).

We don't have to go around always saying it, but we should heed James 4:15 and brake our human nature with "If the Lord wills ..." Not arrogantly making own plans!

## **Here's some helpful insight from "Don't Quit, Keep Playing" by Terri Eddington:**

"Following God never 'just happens.' It takes a deliberate intention to be a disciple and give up our will, pick up our cross and follow no matter the cost.

"When we love God and His Spirit is dwelling in us, He works to prepare us for His coming Kingdom. Everything we experience is to transform us into the likeness of Jesus Christ and nothing is wasted.

"By praying in this prescribed way, I change how I think. It helps me to recognize God's priorities, keep my eyes on the higher purpose and modify my outlook to become more aligned with His."

Faced with crucifixion, Jesus had to get into alignment with the Father's will in the Garden of Gethsemane (Luke 27:42, Matt. 26:38). It was the very will



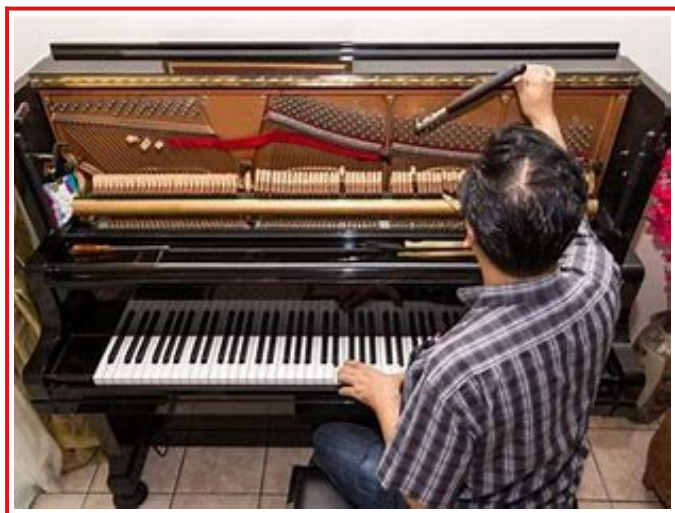
and plan He had made with God before creation and always been in perfect alignment with!

We must desire and do the will of God from the heart! (Eph. 6:6).

It's interesting how Psalm 125:4 puts it: "O Lord, do good to those who are good, whose hearts are in tune with you."

## **Are we in tune with God?**

We probably imagine so.



When we moved from California to our new home in Penrose, CO in 1990, the renters let us keep their piano so they didn't have to move it. They didn't know when it had been tuned. For about 30 years we played it, and it always sounded good enough to me.

Until I posted on Facebook my very inferior version of Burt Bacharach's "Raindrops Keep Falling On My Head." A dear friend blessed with perfect pitch kindly ignored my lack of ability but advised that our piano could use tuning!

The tuner meticulously went up—and down— each and every key to bring them back into perfect pitch with each other and with the whole keyboard. The old and tired hammers and strings had to be stretched! There didn't seem to be any key that didn't need realignment! Actually it was not capable of being completely restored to perfection without complete overhauling.

That makes quite a fitting spiritual analogy for us! As we await our change at the Seventh Trumpet to glorified members of the Family of God!

## **God is our standard**

We don't compare ourselves with others (2 Cor. 10:12). And we need our Father and Brother to change us; we can't spiritually tune ourselves.

Heb. 13:21 says, “make you complete in every good work to do His will, working in you what is well pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ.”

Each day! God's Way of Life is a daily one!

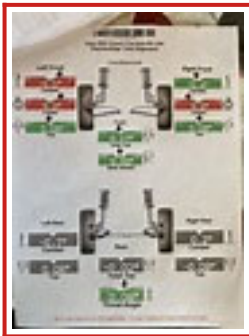
# Alignment with God's Will Is a Daily Task

**H**opefully you are passionate about wanting your will to be aligned with God's. This is something you will need to do daily.

Recently the four tires on our Jeep were failing the penny test. Nobody wants to fork over money for four new tires but it was time. But then the tire shop informed me that the uneven tread showed that the wheels were out of alignment. Wait, I countered, inspired by not wanting to cough up any more money, the Jeep doesn't seem to run out of alignment. It seems just fine.



Well, they won me over with the fact that not paying for an alignment would cause the four new tires to go bad the same way!



I got the report back of the successful alignment, and when comparing the before and after measurements, was surprised to see that some after measurements didn't seem that much better than the before. But I guess what counts is the overall key markers which showed a marked improvement and overall met the standard to say they were aligned.

That's probably a good analogy for how well we can be in alignment with God while we're still in the flesh, not yet resurrected to a God Being with perfect character.

Maybe we think, yes, but

**I'm only one degree off**

I wish I could actually create a graph showing how far off the mark only one degree off would take us but I don't remember my geometry for how to do it! But I'm guessing if we started out driving from San Francisco aiming for a spot somewhere in the middle of the East Coast, and were even only one degree off, we'd probably end up in southern Florida or in upstate New York! If my example is too exaggerated, please don't give me the third degree! I'm just trying to make a helpful point. Close only counts in you know what.

We know from the Bible that if we keep everything correctly but sin in only one matter, we are guilty of all. "For whoever shall keep the whole law, and yet stumble in one point, he is guilty of all" (James 2:10). Good thing we can seek alignment with God and be "judged by the law of liberty" (verse 12) and be granted mercy by God where "mercy triumphs over judgment" (verse 13).

Satan, who deceives the whole world (Revelation 12:9), is happy if he can get us in spiritual error in only one point. Because just one sin earns the penalty of death for eternity. Of course, none of us is perfect and we are saved by the grace of God applying Christ's shed blood to us.

We need to seek alignment with God's will each day. That's why Jesus said in the Lord's Prayer guide for us to pray—something we must do daily along with the other four tools in our Christian toolbox (Bible Study, Fasting, Meditation, Fellowship)—for God's will to be done on earth.

God's will will be done with or without us, but I know I want to be with it! We want to be participating in the Great Commission God has given His Church collectively and individually (Matthew 24:14, 28:18-20).

May God bless you in daily aligning with His will!



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