

UNDERSTANDING THE MYSTERY OF HIS WILL

PART 9 EPHESIANS CHAPTER ONE

Ephesians 1:9 **SLIDE**

... ⁹*Having made known to us **the mystery of His will**, according to His good pleasure which He purposed in Himself*

When I was about to leave school teachers and friends would ask ...

‘What are you going to do with your life?’

I would shrug my shoulders and say, ‘I just wanna play music ...’

So my parents arranged for me to see a **vocational guidance counsellor** ... who concluded that I should be a teacher ...

Problem was, my hair was growing long and I wouldn’t cut it ...

And in those days, that disqualified me from being a teacher!

Yet the question remained ... **WHAT WOULD I BE...? WHAT SHOULD I DO...?**

AND IF YOU HAD ANY SPIRITUAL INCLINATION, YOU ALSO

WONDERED ... ‘WHAT DOES GOD WANT ME TO DO?’

THE COMMON SAYING IS, ‘WHAT IS GOD’S WILL FOR MY LIFE’.

SLIDE *Of course this was all about ourselves.*

But, here in our text - **SLIDE** **‘THE MYSTERY OF HIS WILL’** IS NOT ABOUT **‘GOD’S WILL FOR MY LIFE’** ...

IT’S ABOUT **‘MY LIFE FOR GOD’S WILL’.**

IT’S ABOUT GOD’S ETERNAL WILL AND PURPOSE ...

AND MY LIFE FITTING INTO GOD’S ETERNAL WILL ...

AS OUR PROMO POSTER *SUGGESTED* -

SLIDE GOD’S WILL FOR YOUR LIFE

IS TO KNOW THAT YOUR LIFE IS FOR HIS WILL

GOD’S ETERNAL WILL TRANSCENDS ALL GENERATIONS

God’s will is bigger than me.

We think in one generation ... **God thinks in all generations.**

His will transcends all generations from **the beginning of time to the end of time** ...

So the best I can do ... is fit into God's will ... and be a part of something far greater than me.

**YOU WERE CHOSEN TO BE A PART OF 'GOD'S ETERNAL WILL'
BEFORE TIME BEGAN**

GOD'S ETERNAL WILL BEGAN BEFORE ALL TIME ...
AND YOU WERE CHOSEN TO BE A PART OF IT ... EVEN
THOUGH YOU WEREN'T BORN.

WE CAN SEE THIS CLEARLY HERE

Ephesians 1:4-5 **SLIDE** (redacted to bring out the point)

... *He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be ... according to the good pleasure of His will.*

(Exactly the same words as used in our text - Ephesians 1:9)

NB: We should 'BE' ... Not we should 'DO'.
WE MUST 'BE' ... BEFORE WE 'DO' ...

THE PROBLEM OF DOING BEFORE BEING

- *There are many, many Christians running around like **HEADLESS CHOOKS** ... flitting from here to there ... **TRYING TO DO** the will of God, **INSTEAD OF JUST BEING A PART OF HIS WILL** .
*They've never SEEN THE VISION THAT IS AFAR OFF (Hebrews 11:13)**
- *Many ministers burn out **TRYING TO DO** God's will **INSTEAD OF UNDERSTANDING THEY ARE A PART OF GOD'S WILL.***
- *Some ministers may even be taken home to Heaven because they are **TRYING TO DO** GOD'S WILL SO MUCH THEY ARE AGAINST God's will.*
- *I contracted cancer because I was **TRYING TO DO** the Will of God in my own strength ... And there the Father taught me He was sovereign ... and that His Eternal will was set.
I JUST NEEDED TO BE A PART OF HIS WILL.*

**HIS WILL BECOMES OUR WILL ...
INSTEAD OF OUR WILL BECOMING HIS WILL.**

HELEN'S FACEBOOK TESTIMONY: *Some of us have been wrongly taught in the past, as I was ... We were taught God's Will is something we strive to obtain daily, and when we fell short, we would condemn ourselves and try even harder the following day in our own strength to do better. How refreshing and encouraging is*

this Grace teaching as we discover the truth of God's Will from the book of Ephesians.

**WHEN YOU SURRENDERED YOUR LIFE TO CHRIST ...
YOU ALSO SURRENDERED TO HIS WILL**

**YOU HAVE NOW BEEN ASSIGNED AS
AN AMBASSADOR OF GOD'S ETERNAL WILL**

SLIDE OF TIMELINE

**This is God's eternal purpose and it spans from eternity to eternity ...
And every incident that happens in, between hangs off His eternal
purpose and relates to it.**

***For example - Abraham Lincoln / Winston Churchill etc ... were a
part of it.***

I DON'T MAKE GOD'S WILL HAPPEN

**GOD'S WILL IS HAPPENING ALL AROUND ME ... all over the world.
And it will be accomplished regardless of sin, Satan and
circumstance ...**

Isaiah 46:10 Berean Study Bible **SLIDE**

***I declare the end from the beginning, and ancient times from what
is still to come. I say, 'My purpose will stand, and all My good
pleasure I will accomplish.***

GOD DOESN'T NEED US ... HE'S CHOSEN TO INCLUDE US

JESUS SAID –

Matthew 3:9

... God is able to raise up children to Abraham from these stones.

**SO YOU ASK, HOW DO I PLAY MY PART IN GOD'S ETERNAL
WILL?**

THE PRIORITY OF KNOWING BEFORE DOING ...

**BEFORE WE CAN FIND OUR PLACE IN THE ETERNAL WILL OF
GOD ... WE MUST FIRST FIND OUT ABOUT THE ETERNAL WILL OF
GOD ...**

PROBLEM IS ... **we don't know that the unknowable can be known.**
And therefore we remain ignorant and stumble along in all
ignorance using Christian clichés such as -

'God works in mysterious ways' ... 'Who has known the mind of the Lord' ... 'His ways are past finding out' ...
And we stumble on ...

YOU CAN KNOW THE UNKNOWABLE

Ephesians 1:9 **SLIDE**

... **Having made known** to us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure which He purposed in Himself

- **JESUS KNEW THE FATHER'S FINISHED PLAN & FULFILLED THE WILL OF THE FATHER ...**
(As well as the Demands of the Law)

SLIDE Note carefully Jesus prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane -

Luke 22:42

'... Father ... not My will, but Yours [Your will] be done.'

I always thought this meant Jesus was surrendering to the Father's will in going to THE CROSS.

Now I see it as far more than the surrender of His will TO THE CROSS

JESUS WAS SURRENDERING HIS WILL TO THE ETERNAL WILL AND PURPOSE OF THE FATHER - FAR BEYOND THE CROSS ...
AND THE CROSS WAS A PART OF HIS ETERNAL WILL.

JESUS SURRENDERED HIS HUMAN WILL TO THE FATHER'S ETERNAL WILL ... HE SAW IT ... HE KNEW IT ... HE LOVED IT ...

JESUS SAW BEYOND THE CROSS & WAS ABLE TO SURRENDER HIS WILL FOR THE JOY SET BEFORE HIM. (See Hebrews 12:2)

NB: As a man, Jesus was aware of His own will.

Yet **He lived a life of constant rest and surrender to the Father's will ...**

John 6:38

For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me.

[Hebrews 10:7](#) Berean Study Bible

Then I said, 'Here I am, it is written about Me in the scroll: I have come to do Your will, O God.'

WE, TOO, CAN KNOW SOMETHING OF THE GLORY AND THE FULFILLMENT OF THE FATHER'S WILL ...

'DOING' WITHOUT 'KNOWING'

Without knowing the Father's eternal will ... we get ourselves horribly mixed up ... worn out ... discouraged ... and we can even sink into error ... Because we do not know what God has for us to do ...

For example: **PAUL THE APOSTLE**, formerly Saul of Tarsus -

Saul was dramatically converted on the Road to Damascus ... when He saw Jesus and was blinded ...

*But after he was Born Again ... he immediately preached the gospel to those around him **to try and bring the message to the Jews**. He ended up being lowered over the city wall and escaping for his life ... BECAUSE PAUL HAD NOT SEEN THE ETERNAL WILL OF GOD OR FOUND HIS PLACE IN IT.*

[See Acts 9:3-8, 17-18 & 20-21]

Acts 9:23

After some time had passed, the Jews plotted to kill him, ²⁴but their plot became known to Saul. They were watching the gates day and night so that they might kill him; ²⁵but his disciples took him by night and let him down through an opening in the wall, lowering him in a basket.

After 14 years of waiting on God (Galatians 2:1), Paul saw this truth ...

Look at how Paul announces himself after this time -

Ephesians 1:1 **SLIDE**

*Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus **by the will of God** ... to the saints who are at Ephesus and who are faithful in Christ Jesus*

(Also in - 1 Corinthians 1:1 / 2 Corinthians 1:1 / Colossians 1:1 / 2 Timothy 1:1)

IT IS VITAL FOR US AS BELIEVERS, IN TIME & UPON THIS PLANET, TO UNDERSTAND THE ULTIMATE WILL OF GOD BEFORE WE DO ANYTHING FOR GOD.

IT'S NECESSARY TO KNOW GOD'S ETERNAL WILL ...
BEFORE WE CAN DO GOD'S SPECIFIC WILL ...

GOD HAS MADE IT POSSIBLE TO KNOW & ENJOY HIS WILL
ENJOYING THE PLEASURE OF HIS WILL

Ephesians 1:9 SLIDE

... Having made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure which He purposed in Himself ...

‘Good pleasure’ = (eudokian) Noun – HIS DELIGHT ... KINDNESS

WHY DID & WHY DOES GOD ESTABLISH HIS WILL?

GOD PLANS WHAT HE PLANS, OUT OF ABUNDANT DELIGHT ...

NB: WE DO NOT READ ‘FOR HIS GOOD PLEASURE’ ...
BUT ‘ACCORDING TO’ HIS GOOD PLEASURE’.

God doesn't do things to make Himself happy ...
His happiness causes Him to do things.

If God did anything to make Himself happy, it would mean God is not complete in Himself and He needs some external action to complete Him.

This is not the case. God is complete in Himself and already has abundant delight.

God's will doesn't bring about His delight ...
God's delight brings about His will.

We do things to make us happy ...

At Christmas ... we arrange for the family to come over ... We give presents to the children ... And when we see the joy on their faces as they unwrap our gifts we get a great sense of delight ...

We cook a great lunch and we see everyone enjoying the food and one another's company and conversation, and we get a great sense of delight ...

GOD GLIDES UPON THE WINGS OF HIS GOODNESS ...
GOD ACTS IN THE JOY OF HIS LOVE ...

GOD GIVES ACCORDING TO THE RICHES OF HIS GRACE ...
AND HERE WE SEE GOD HAS ESTABLISHED HIS WILL ACCORDING
TO HIS DELIGHT.

WE CAN ENJOY THE DELIGHT OF GOD'S WILL

I want to suggest, that in our time upon the earth, we experience a small sample of the delight God already has within Himself, as we walk and rest in His eternal will.

IN **THE REVELATION OF GOD'S WILL**, WE SHARE IN GOD'S 'GOOD PLEASURE' – **HIS DELIGHT** ... WHICH MAKES US WANT **TO DO HIS WILL** ...

Psalm 40:8 **SLIDE**

I delight to do your will, O my God ...

- David speaks here with prophetic insight about our Lord Jesus while He was on the Earth.

NB: I don't do His will to receive delight ...

I delight in Him before I do His will.

His will is done out of delight ...

WE ENTER INTO HIS DELIGHT ... WHICH IS OUR MOTIVATION TO DO HIS WILL ...

WE DON'T DO HIS WILL TO ACHIEVE HIS DELIGHT.

THERE IS NO GREATER JOY IN THIS LIFE ... NO DEEPER SATISFACTION ... THAN TO KNOW WE ARE WALKING IN GOD'S WILL ... FOR WITH IT COMES HIS DELIGHT ... **IN HIM IS JOY.**

WE MUST ACCEPT THE SOVEREIGNTY OF HIS WILL

Ephesians 1:9 **SLIDE**

*... Having made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure which **He purposed in Himself** ...*

THIS IS GOD'S PURPOSE ... NOT OURS

THE CHOICE OF TWO WILLS

YOUR BEST LIFE IS GOD'S LIFE ...

You can live your own life for your own goals ...

But is it your best life ...? the best you could have ...?

You will never be fully fulfilled ... even if your own pursuits are fulfilled ...

There will always be something missing ...

**YOU WILL ONLY BE FULLY FULFILLED WHEN GOD'S WILL IS
FULFILLED IN YOUR LIFE.**

SLIDE SEEING THE FINISHED MODEL

God's Eternal Will and Purpose is the model, the goal we look to and rejoice in, that we are made a small part of. From this position, our lives and the good works prepared for us (see Ephesians 2:10) come into focus.