

"True Faith and the Will of God"

James 4:13-17

Part 1

Introduction: Today we shall enter into a new section of the 4th chapter of James. The section we are stepping into today will deal with the will of God in our lives.

Before we get into the passage which is before us I want to show you why it is so important to consider the will of God for our lives each and every day.

Jeremiah 1:4-7

⁴ *Then the word of the LORD came unto me, saying,*

⁵ *Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee, and I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations.*

⁶ *Then said I, Ah, Lord GOD! behold, I cannot speak: for I am a child.*

⁷ *But the LORD said unto me, Say not, I am a child: for thou shalt go to all that I shall send thee, and whatsoever I command thee thou shalt speak.*

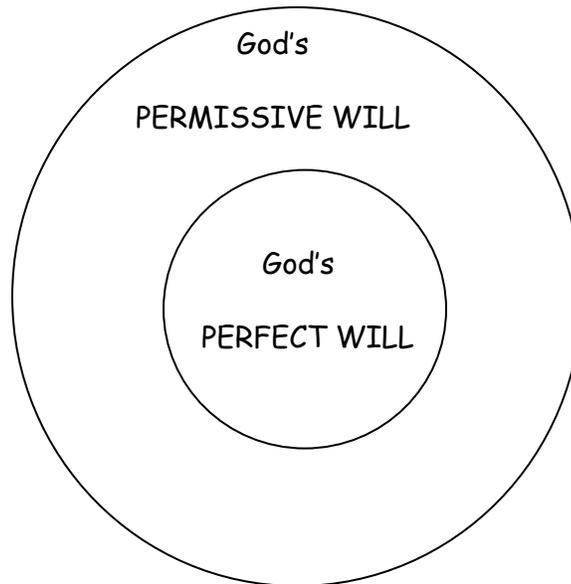
I show you these verses from the book of Jeremiah because in these verses we can see that God had a plan for the life of Jeremiah that was laid out in the mind of God long before Jeremiah was ever born.

Let me just take a moment here and tell you this is one of the reasons why abortion is so wrong. For every baby that is conceived God has a plan for their lives. With that said it makes me wonder how many preachers, evangelists, missionaries, presidents, doctors, and teachers have been killed because someone seen them as an inconvenience.

Let me get you back to the thought now. God had a plan for Jeremiah's life and in God's will for his life is where Jeremiah would be effective.

The same is true for our lives as well. God has a plan for our lives and in His will is where we will be effective.

Let me show you something that will help you to better grasp the importance of considering the will of God every day.



These 2 circles represent the 2 wills of God for our lives. The inner circle is the PERFECT WILL of God for our lives. This is where He desires for us to live. It is in the PERFECT WILL of God that we will accomplish the most for God and it is in the PERFECT WILL of God that we are the most content. This is represented by the INNER circle.

The OUTER circle represents the PERMISSIVE WILL of God. We can go outside the INNER circle but we cannot go outside the OUTER circle. But to live in the OUTER circle is what I would call a WASTED LIFE.

Remember Abram in Genesis 12 when he was faced with the famine when he arrived in Canaan?

Genesis 12:8-10

⁸ And he removed from thence unto a mountain on the east of Bethel, and pitched his tent, having Bethel on the west, and Hai on the east: and there he builded an altar unto the LORD, and called upon the name of the LORD.

⁹ And Abram journeyed, going on still toward the south.

¹⁰ And there was a famine in the land: and Abram went down into Egypt to sojourn there: for the famine was grievous in the land.

Abram walked out of the will of God when the famine hit as he went down to Egypt. Now let me show you the next chapter.

Genesis 13:1-3

And Abram went up out of Egypt, he, and his wife, and all that he had, and Lot with him, into the south.

² *And Abram was very rich in cattle, in silver, and in gold.*

³ *And he went on his journeys from the south even to Bethel, unto the place where his tent had been at the beginning, between Bethel and Hai;*

Here we see that he went right back to where he was at the beginning. The entire time in Egypt was wasted time for Abram.

So it is for us also when we are out of God's will for our live.

In the Sermon on the Mount Jesus spoke of how we are to pray for the will of God as we face each day.

Matthew 6:9-13

⁹ *After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.*

¹⁰ *Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.*

¹¹ *Give us this day our daily bread.*

¹² *And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.*

¹³ *And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.*

This is an outline given by our Lord for us to build our prayers on. When we build our daily prayers we are to be sure to pray for God's will and be willing to accept God's will.

Now let us get the book of James. James is writing to Jewish believers and some of these people did not see the importance in following the will of God and therefore James wrote to them to help them to see the SIN of excluding God and His will from their daily lives.

I. The Sin of Denying God's Will

Notice James 4:13

The words "Go to now" would be like someone saying to us, "Hey you who are planning without God, listen very closely to what I am going to tell you!"

When I read this verse I can see several points about the people James was writing to.

1. They were entangled in the world's financial system.

They were people who were willing to pick up and move into a city and stay there as long as they could buy and sell and get gain. Then they would move on. So when I look at this I see that their entire world revolved around finances and not God.

Application:

Let me ask you a question, "What is it that is in the center of your world?" You may be able to say, "Well, I am not like these people because money is not the center of my world." But before you relax too much let me remind you that there are many other things in this world that can be the center of your life. I will not give you a list but I will tell you what should be the controlling influence in your life and that is the WILL OF GOD.

2. They never sought the will of God in their plans.

These people never once sat down and prayed about what God wanted them to do. They were focused upon satisfying their own personal desires and therefore GOD'S WILL was never a consideration.

Application:

Let me ask you 2 more questions if I may, "Do you seek the will of God every time before you make a move?" "Are you living to satisfy your own personal desires or are you living with the will of God as the guiding motivation in your life?"

To not seek the will of God in our lives and seeks to use God's will as the guiding factor in our lives is a very serious matter for several reasons.

1. It is a sin to deny the will of God.

Remember what I told you in the introduction today and that is that God has a will for our lives. It is our responsibility to seek Him on a daily basis in order that we might walk in His will.

2. Being outside the will of God can bring heartache for 2 reasons:
 - a. Outside the will of God we are walking in spiritual darkness.

Let me take your mind back to the 2 circles again. The inner circle is where we walk in God's light. But outside the inner circle is spiritual darkness and in that darkness it is very difficult to identify the spiritual traps placed by Satan. Let me show you something we talked about several weeks ago.

In Exodus 17 we find the very first battle which Israel faced after they came out of Egypt. They were attacked by the Amalekites.

Exodus 17:8

⁸ *Then came Amalek, and fought with Israel in Rephidim.*

Now at first glance this does not seem like there is much for us in this attack. But there is when we continue to search.

In Deuteronomy we have the details of the attack.

Deuteronomy 25:17-18

¹⁷ *Remember what Amalek did unto thee by the way, when ye were come forth out of Egypt;*

¹⁸ *How he met thee by the way, and smote the hindmost of thee, even all that were feeble behind thee, when thou wast faint and weary; and he feared not God.*

Amalek attacked those in the back or I could say those who were the greatest distance from their leader. He smote those who were feeble and weak.

I point this out to you because when a believer lives outside the will of God they drift farther away from the Leader, Jesus Christ. Outside the will of God you become spiritually feeble and weak and you are then an easy target for the enemy.

1 Peter 5:8

⁸ *Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:*

So there are believers in this world that are experiencing heart ache because they chose to deny the will of God and they are under the attack of the enemy. They have become weak and feeble spiritually and have very little strength to fight.

b. Outside the will of God we will be chastened by God.

Hebrews 12:6

⁶ For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth.

Let me show you what this can look like in our lives.

Jonah 1:1-5

Now the word of the LORD came unto Jonah the son of Amittai, saying,

² Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and cry against it; for their wickedness is come up before me.

³ But Jonah rose up to flee unto Tarshish from the presence of the LORD, and went down to Joppa; and he found a ship going to Tarshish: so he paid the fare thereof, and went down into it, to go with them unto Tarshish from the presence of the LORD.

⁴ But the LORD sent out a great wind into the sea, and there was a mighty tempest in the sea, so that the ship was like to be broken.

⁵ Then the mariners were afraid, and cried every man unto his god, and cast forth the wares that were in the ship into the sea, to lighten it of them. But Jonah was gone down into the sides of the ship; and he lay, and was fast asleep.

Let me show you how far you can sink if you chose to live outside the will of God.

Jonah 1:7-12

⁷ And they said every one to his fellow, Come, and let us cast lots, that we may know for whose cause this evil is upon us. So they cast lots, and the lot fell upon Jonah.

⁸ Then said they unto him, Tell us, we pray thee, for whose cause this evil is upon us; What is thine occupation? and whence comest thou? what is thy country? and of what people art thou?

⁹ And he said unto them, I am an Hebrew; and I fear the LORD, the God of heaven, which hath made the sea and the dry land.

¹⁰ Then were the men exceedingly afraid, and said unto him. Why hast thou done this? For the men knew that he fled from the presence of the LORD, because he had told them.

¹¹ Then said they unto him, What shall we do unto thee, that the sea may be calm unto us? for the sea wrought, and was tempestuous.

¹² And he said unto them, Take me up, and cast me forth into the sea; so shall the sea be calm unto you: for I know that for my sake this great tempest is upon you.

Jonah had sunk so far that he did not care if he lived or died.

Conclusion:

Living in the will of God is so important for those of us who are believers. It is not an option it is a command. Let me just encourage you to be sure to seek God's will in all you do. To step out of the will of God can be very painful.

- II. The Sin of Ignoring God's Will
- III. The Sin of Disobeying God's Will
- IV. The Blessing of Walking in God's Will