



FINDING PEACE

IN THE WILL OF GOD

A Six Day Devotional

The **Covenants**,
Christ,
and **You**

FINDING PEACE

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A few thoughts before you begin. . .

When you get right down to it, the “will of God” gets a bum rap. It is frequently associated with death and sickness, and it is often blamed for results contrary to our hopes and dreams. We seek His will when making big decisions and often interpret the absence of light shining from the heavens on one choice or the other as a big resounding “NO.” What if I told you there is something better revealed in God’s will. What if I told you that while acknowledging, seeking, and even submitting to God’s will is always good, it doesn’t exist for the sake of occasional usefulness. Would you need to re-consider how you view His will in order to be at peace with these statements?

Over the next several days, you will encounter Scriptures pointed directly at the will of God. You will not be given just one verse to ponder, but will instead be given a slightly larger context and the will of God statements will be given a bold font. After the Scripture excerpt, you will be given an exercise which will be exactly the same from one day to the next. The exercise is several centuries old and is a method of Bible study emulating the way Scripture was studied in the early Church. The components of the exercise are broken down like this:

1. Reading
2. Meditating
3. Responding
4. Receiving
5. Consideration

Each step will be given the same instructions each day. I urge you to read the instructions every day, as something different may stick out from one day to the next.

At the conclusion of each devotion, you will find statements and/or questions specifically focused on the will of God. These questions and statements come from my time studying Scriptural statements referencing the will of God. If you seek concrete answers from me, you’re going to be frustrated and, in all honesty, you’re on the wrong path. These are statements and questions that the Holy Spirit laid on my heart and used to confront my perceptions and convict me as I spent time with these Scriptures. I submit these questions/statements to you as I believe they are worthy of consideration, but I also yield to the Holy Spirit’s lead as you study on your own. May you be blessed as the Word of God illuminates you.

-Ryan Churchill

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Day 1

Delight

Psalm 40:6-11

*Sacrifice and meal offering You have not desired; My ears You have opened; Burnt offering and sin offering You have not required. Then I said, "Behold, I come; In the scroll of the book it is written of me. **I delight to do Your will, O my God; Your Law is within my heart.**" I have proclaimed glad tidings of righteousness in the great congregation; Behold, I will not restrain my lips, O LORD, You know. I have not hidden Your righteousness within my heart; I have spoken of Your faithfulness and Your salvation; I have not concealed Your lovingkindness and Your truth from the great congregation. You, O LORD, will not withhold Your compassion from me; Your lovingkindness and Your truth will continually preserve me.*

Reading

Gently read the passage from Psalm 40 aloud. If you're not comfortable doing so, write it out. Be mindful of each word and phrase. Read it with the full knowledge that God is present as you seek His Word. It may take multiple readings, but identify a word or short phrase that sticks out as important. This is a study on the will of God, so I've directed your attention toward "will of God" statements in bold font, but don't stop there.

Meditating

Spend a few minutes meditating on Psalm 40. Invite God's Word to search your heart, speak to you, and reveal His truths for you through the Scripture. Ask Him why these words or phrases are sticking out to you.

Respond

Take time to respond to God's Word with your own words. Express your thoughts about what He's revealing. There's no sense in being dishonest; just say what you need to say. Yes, He already knows, but He's ready to hear it and knows you need to say it. Any number of emotions could be in play, and all are fair game.

Receive

Just be silent and allow God to respond. If at this time you find yourself being labeled by your sin and without hope, you're listening to the wrong voice. God has not invited you to His presence to tear you down. He offers forgiveness, guidance, identity, and assurance in this moment.

As you enter the rest of your day, choose a few words from the passage to take with you. Consider them periodically throughout your day.

Consideration

There are questions which follow. They do not need to be answered right now, but before you begin tomorrow, make sure you have addressed these questions:

- What is your attitude toward God's will?
- Is God's will inherently in opposition to your own will?
- How do you view the will of God?
- Our attitude toward God's will is often rooted in fear and negativity but the Psalmist expresses delight. The difference in the attitude of delight versus fear and negativity is trust. Do you trust that God's will is good?

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Day 2
Excellent
Behavior

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1 Peter 2:12-17

*Keep your behavior excellent among the Gentiles, so that in the thing in which they slander you as evildoers, they may because of your good deeds, as they observe them, glorify God in the day of visitation. Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every human institution, whether to a king as the one in authority, or to governors as sent by him for the punishment of evildoers and the praise of those who do right. **For such is the will of God that by doing right you may silence the ignorance of foolish men.** Act as free men, and do not use your freedom as a covering for evil, but use it as bondslaves of God. Honor all people, love the brotherhood, fear God, honor the king.*

Reading

Gently read the passage from 1 Peter 2 aloud. If you're not comfortable doing so, write it out. Be mindful of each word and phrase. Read it with the full knowledge that God is present as you seek His Word. It may take multiple readings, but identify a word or short phrase that sticks out as important. This is a study on the will of God, so I've directed your attention toward "will of God" statements in bold font, but don't stop there.

Meditating

Spend a few minutes meditating on 1 Peter 2. Invite God's Word to search your heart, speak to you, and reveal His truths for you through the Scripture.

Respond

Take time to respond to God's Word with your own words. Express your thoughts about what

He's revealing. There's no sense in being dishonest; just say what you need to say. Yes, He already knows, but He's ready to hear it and knows you need to say it. Any number of emotions could be in play, and all are fair game.

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Consideration

There are questions and statements which follow. They do not need to be answered right now, but before you begin tomorrow, make sure you have addressed these questions and statements:

- Is God's will inherently in opposition to your own will?
- Our attitude toward God's will is often rooted in fear and negativity. If you believe God's going to do what He wants without regard to you and you just hope it will work toward your favor, there is a disconnect. How would you be changed if you stopped viewing God's will as an excuse for bad things and began focusing on your roll as His representative regardless of a favorable or unfavorable circumstance?

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Would that change how others perceive your witness and testimony?

- Do you see yourself as a victim, or a vessel, of God's will?

- How we view surrender has everything to do with how we view the will of God.

Surrender is always done in a war from a position of weakness; it is a forfeiting of what you have; it is giving up things.

Surrender to God is not a loss. Biblical surrender is an entrance into covenant.

While worldly surrender is a recognition of defeat and loss; covenant is an invitation to relationship, purpose, and ultimate gain.

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Day 3
Thanks-
giving

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1 Thessalonians 5:14-23

We urge you, brethren, admonish the unruly, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with everyone. See that no one repays another with evil for evil, but always seek after that which is good for one another and for all people.

Rejoice always; pray without ceasing; in everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. Do not quench the Spirit; do not despise prophetic utterances. But examine everything carefully; hold fast to that which is good; abstain from every form of evil.

Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be preserved complete, without blame at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ

Reading

Gently read the passage from 1 Thessalonians 5 aloud. If you're not comfortable doing so, write it out. Be mindful of each word and phrase. Read it with the full knowledge that God is present as you seek His Word. It may take multiple readings, but identify a word or short phrase that sticks out as important. This is a study on the will of God, so I've directed your attention toward "will of God" statements in bold font, but don't stop there.

Meditating

Spend a few minutes meditating on 1 Thessalonians 5. Invite God's Word to search your heart, speak to you, and reveal His truths for you through the Scripture.

Respond

Take time to respond to God's Word with your own words. Express your thoughts about what

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As you enter the rest of your day, choose a few words from the passage to take with you. Consider them periodically throughout your day.

Consideration

There are questions and statements which follow. They do not need to be answered right now, but before you begin tomorrow, make sure you have addressed these questions and statements:

- God's will is: Purposeful: Relational: Not withholding: Spiritually nurturing: Transforming
- Do you view God's will as a negative result, contrary to your own personal interest?
- Is God's will for His own satisfaction or is it for the fulfillment of your purpose?
- Do you see yourself as a victim of God's will? If so, how else might you perceive yourself in His will?
- Read **Galatians 5:22-23**. How is God's will related to the fruit of the Spirit?

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Day 4

Life

John 6:32-40

*Jesus then said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, it is not Moses who has given you the bread out of heaven, but it is My Father who gives you the true bread out of heaven. **“For the bread of God is that which comes down out of heaven, and gives life to the world.”** Then they said to Him, “Lord, always give us this bread.”*

*Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life; he who comes to Me will not hunger, and he who believes in Me will never thirst. “But I said to you that you have seen Me, and yet do not believe. “All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will certainly not cast out. “For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me. “This is the will of Him who sent Me, that of all that He has given Me I lose nothing, but raise it up on the last day. **“For this is the will of My Father, that everyone who beholds the Son and believes in Him will have eternal life, and I Myself will raise him up on the last day.”***

Reading

Gently read the passage from John 6 aloud. If you're not comfortable doing so, write it out. Be mindful of each word and phrase. Read it with the full knowledge that God is present as you seek His Word. It may take multiple readings, but identify a word or short phrase that sticks out as important. This is a study on the will of God, so I've directed your attention toward “will of God” statements in bold font, but don't stop there.

Meditating

Spend a few minutes meditating on John 6. Invite God's Word to search your heart, speak to you, and reveal His truths for you through the Scripture.

Respond

Take time to respond to God's Word with your own words. Express your thoughts about what He's revealing. There's no sense in being dishonest; just say what you need to say. Yes, He already knows, but He's ready to hear it and knows you need to say it. Any number of emotions could be in play, and all are fair game.

Receive

Just be silent and allow God to respond. If at this time you find yourself being labeled by your sin and without hope, you're listening to the wrong voice. God has not invited you to His presence to tear you down. He offers forgiveness, guidance, identity, and assurance in this moment.

As you enter the rest of your day, choose a few words from the passage to take with you. Consider them periodically throughout your day.

Consideration

A few thoughts on Life, Purpose, and Worship: No, you haven't seen worship used thus far in this devotion today, but **do not make the common mistake of separating life from worship.** Worship is a lifestyle. Therefore, life and worship are not separate; they are not equal. They are one. If God wills life, He must will worship. Consider this as you answer the following questions on purpose:

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- Is God's purpose ultimately His will or is His will ultimately directed toward your purpose?
- Is God's will for His own satisfaction or is it for the fulfillment of your purpose?
- How do you view the will of God?
- What is your attitude toward God's will?

Learn more about a lifestyle of worship, [here](#).

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Day 5

Sanctify

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1 Thessalonians 4:1-7

*Finally then, brethren, we request and exhort you in the Lord Jesus, that as you received from us instruction as to how you ought to walk and please God (just as you actually do walk), that you excel still more. For you know what commandments we gave you by the authority of the Lord Jesus. **For this is the will of God, your sanctification;** that is, that you abstain from sexual immorality; that each of you know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honor, not in lustful passion, like the Gentiles who do not know God; and that no man transgress and defraud his brother in the matter because the Lord is the avenger in all these things, just as we also told you before and solemnly warned you. For God has not called us for the purpose of impurity, but in sanctification.*

Reading

Gently read the passage from 1 Thessalonians 4 aloud. If you're not comfortable doing so, write it out. Be mindful of each word and phrase. Read it with the full knowledge that God is present as you seek His Word. It may take multiple readings, but identify a word or short phrase that sticks out as important. This is a study on the will of God, so I've directed your attention toward "will of God" statements in bold font, but don't stop there.

Meditating

Spend a few minutes meditating on 1 Thessalonians 4. Invite God's Word to search your heart, speak to you, and reveal His truths for you through the Scripture.

Respond

Take time to respond to God's Word with your own words. Express your thoughts about what He's revealing. There's no sense in being dishonest; just say what you need to say. Yes, He already knows, but He's ready to hear it and knows you need to say it. Any number of emotions could be in play, and all are fair game.

Receive

Just be silent and allow God to respond. If at this time you find yourself being labeled by your sin and without hope, you're listening to the wrong voice. God has not invited you to His presence to tear you down. He offers forgiveness, guidance, identity, and assurance in this moment.

As you enter the rest of your day, choose a few words from the passage to take with you.

Consideration

Consider them periodically throughout your day. There are questions which follow. They do not need to be answered right now, but before you begin tomorrow, make sure you have addressed these questions:

- Do you see God's will as elusive?
- Is God's will for His own satisfaction or is it for the fulfillment of your purpose?
- Is submission to His will a posture of defeat, or an embracing of purpose?

The Greek word for "sanctification" is "hagiason," meaning, **the believer being progressively transformed by the Lord into His likeness (similarity of nature); the process of advancing in holiness.**

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As you read the following Scriptures, focus on one portion of the definition of hagiason, “similarity of nature”:

- **2 Thessalonians 2:13**

- But we should always give thanks to God for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God has chosen you from the beginning for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and faith in the truth.

- **Titus 3:4-7**

- But when the kindness of God our Savior and *His* love for mankind appeared, He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that being justified by His grace we would be made heirs according to *the* hope of eternal life.

- **John 17:17**

- Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth.

When you are done, re-read the questions for reflection.

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Day 6

Temptation

Luke 22:39-46

*And He came out and proceeded as was His custom to the Mount of Olives; and the disciples also followed Him. When He arrived at the place, He said to them, “**Pray that you may not enter into temptation.**” And He withdrew from them about a stone’s throw, and He knelt down and began to pray, saying, “**Father, if You are willing, remove this cup from Me; yet not My will, but Yours be done.**” Now an angel from heaven appeared to Him, strengthening Him. And being in agony He was praying very fervently; and His sweat became like drops of blood, falling down upon the ground. When He rose from prayer, He came to the disciples and found them sleeping from sorrow, and said to them, “Why are you sleeping? Get up and **pray that you may not enter into temptation.**”*

Matthew 6:9-13

*Pray, then, in this way: Our Father who is in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. ‘Your kingdom come. **Your will be done,** On earth as it is in heaven. ‘Give us this day our daily bread. ‘And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And **do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil.***

Reading

Gently read the passages from Luke and Matthew aloud. If you’re not comfortable doing so, write it out. Be mindful of each word and phrase. Read it with the full knowledge that God is present as you seek His Word. It may take multiple readings, but identify a word or short phrase that sticks out to you as being important. This is a study on the will of God, so I’ve directed your attention toward “will of God”

statements in bold font, but don’t stop there.

Meditating

Spend a few minutes meditating on the passages from Luke and Matthew. Invite God’s Word to search your heart, speak to you, and reveal His truths for you through the Scripture. Ask Him why these words or phrases are sticking out to you.

Respond

Take time to respond to God’s Word with your own words. Express your thoughts about what He’s revealing. There’s no sense in being dishonest; just say what you need to say. Yes, He already knows, but He’s ready to hear it and knows you need to say it. Any number of emotions could be in play, and all are fair game.

Receive

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Consideration

It is interesting that the two times Jesus tells His Father, “Your will be done,” we can find statements about not entering into temptation

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very close by. On Day 1, you were asked the following questions for consideration:

- What is your attitude toward God's will?
- Is God's will inherently in opposition to your own will?
- How do you view the will of God?
- Our attitude toward God's will is often rooted in fear and negativity but the Psalmist expresses delight. The difference in the attitude of delight versus fear and negativity is trust. Do you trust that God's will is good?

Go back over these questions again and think about how your answers may be different from Day 1 to today, Day 6. Furthermore, reflect on the various topics, "**Delight**," "**Excellent Behavior**," "**Thanksgiving**," "**Life**," and "**Sanctification**."

- How does your understanding of God's will in these areas shape your understanding of, and desire for, submitting to His will versus falling victim to temptation?
- Does your understanding lead you to place of peace in the will of God?



Ryan Churchill, author of *The Covenants, Christ, and You*, is first and foremost a lover of God's Word. While working on his master's degree, he co-led a small group Bible study where he often found himself tweaking lesson plans and writing supplemental lessons to "fill in the gaps" on pre-packaged Bible studies. Curious by nature and a teacher at heart, Ryan set out on a path to quench his desire for deeper understanding about the Bible and a way to share his findings with others. What he found was a deeper personal relationship with the Living God and a true identity in Jesus Christ.

In everything Ryan writes his aim and passion is to encourage others to read God's Word as a pathway to worship and intimacy with their Creator. His methodology is designed to open your heart and mind to the invitation of the

Holy Spirit to lead you, guide you, and commune with you through this study. Ryan's heart is to teach others to engage Scripture with a new lens so they can see themselves through their Father's eyes, through the eyes of covenant.

You can learn more about *The Covenants, Christ, and You*, view supplemental materials, and read Ryan's blog at www.thecovenantschristandyou.com