

So What!

Chapter Twelve

Audio lesson: New Testament 42



Objective: To explore the mysteries of God's will and to learn how to find His will for our lives.



Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable his judgments, and his paths beyond tracing out! "Who has known the mind of the Lord? Or who has been his counselor? Who has ever given to God, that God should repay him?" For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be the glory forever! Amen.

—Romans 11:33-36

In Romans 9-11, Paul deals with some very deep truths and the mysteries of God's will. He specifically identifies Israel as an example that shows how God has the right to bless whomever He chooses. Although we may not understand His reasons, we can trust that He is infinitely wiser than we are. There are many things about God we do not understand, but He clearly tells us what He wants us to know and do.

Knowing God's will is a very common concern for believers who want to please God. Often our own will gets in the way of hearing from God about His will for us. When we center our lives on Him as the source of everything, commit our lives to Him and align with His desires, surrender our will and allow Him to transform us, and refuse to be conformed to the patterns of the world, God reveals His will for our lives.



1. True or false? God's plan for the end of human history will center around Israel.
2. True or false? God does not choose those who will love and serve Him. He waits to see who will come to Him.
3. True or false? God has infinite knowledge and wisdom, and He does not need for us to counsel Him.
4. True or false? God is obligated to do what we think is fair and right.
5. True or false? There are secret things about God that we will never understand, but He makes clear to us what He wants us to do.

Unless otherwise noted, choose one answer for each question.

6. What things work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to His purposes?
 - a. Good things
 - b. Only the things God chooses
 - c. The things of God's kingdom
 - d. All things
7. Who or what is the source of all things and the purpose behind all things?
 - a. The universe
 - b. The unity of humankind
 - c. Ourselves
 - d. God
8. What should we present to God as a living sacrifice?
 - a. The best of our flocks and herds
 - b. Our bodies, even our entire selves
 - c. Our spiritual awareness
 - d. Our best intentions
9. What kind of relationship does God have with us?
 - a. Personal
 - b. Impersonal
 - c. Casual
 - d. Distant
10. How can we know and experience the perfect will of God for our lives? (choose all that apply)
 - a. Center ourselves on God
 - b. Be committed to God
 - c. Be transformed by the renewal of our minds
 - d. Do not be conformed to the world
 - e. We cannot know. We can only guess and hope that we have found His will.

11. Why do our minds have to be renewed?

- a. Because we are not very smart
- b. Because God does not want us to use our minds, only our hearts
- c. Because God's thoughts are higher than ours
- d. So we can be omniscient like He is



Have you asked God to show you His will for your life? If so, how has He led you? If not, which of the steps to knowing His will do you need to take?

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.”

—Jeremiah 29:11-13



Thank God that He has a perfect will for your life. Ask Him to show you what it is. Tell Him you will commit to do whatever He leads you to do and that you want your mind to be transformed to know His thoughts. Ask Him to lead you in His will.



Going Deeper

1. Explain how God has a will about the little things and the big things in our lives. _____

2. Explain why you believe, when Paul says in 11:36, “God is the Source of all things,” that he means everything that happens in this world, or all the things he has written to us about in this letter. _____

3. How does the great passage at the end of chapter 11, in verses 33-36, relate to the exhortations in chapter 12? _____

4. In chapters 9-11, in what way is Israel an example of election, as well as an example of free will? _____

5. In chapter 8, how does Paul teach that the Providence of God is the most comforting teaching in the Word of God? _____

6. In 8:28, explain two prerequisites, and what they really mean, that we must meet before we can claim and apply the great promise of the verse. _____

7. Explain and interpret the prophecy (in 11:24, 25) that, when the full number of Gentiles come in, “all Israel will be saved.” _____
