

GOD'S WILL IS . . .

SCRIPTURE: Ephesians 5:17

God's Sovereignty

- *Sovereignty is God's control over His creation, dealing with His governance over it: Sovereignty is God's rule over all reality. (Dr Norman Geisler)*
- Nothing happens without God's knowledge
- What is included in God's sovereignty?
 - Works of God eg His plan for man's redemption
 - God's decrees
 - His secret will
- The **Sovereignty of God** is the biblical teaching that all things are under God's rule and control, and that nothing happens without His direction or permission. **God** works not just some things but all things according to the counsel of His own will (see Eph. 1:11). His purposes are all-inclusive and never thwarted (see Isa. 46:11); nothing takes Him by surprise. The sovereignty of God is not merely that God has the power and right to govern all things, but that He does so, always and without exception. In other words, God is not merely sovereign *de jure* (in principle), but sovereign *de facto* (in practice). *Theopedia.com*
- Psalm 115: 3 ***Our God is in heaven doing whatever He wants to do***
- Daniel 4:35 says ***All the inhabitants of the earth are accounted as nothing, But He does according to His will in the host of heaven And among the inhabitants of earth; And no one can^[a] ward off His hand Or say to Him, 'What have You done?'***
- Colossians 1:16 ***For^[x] by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things have been created through Him and for Him. ¹⁷ He^[y] is before all things, and in Him all things^[z] hold together.***
- God Himself tells us in Isaiah 46:10 ***Declaring the end from the beginning, And from ancient times things which have not been done, Saying, 'My purpose will be established, And I will accomplish all My good pleasure***
- God's will for us never changes because He Himself is unchanging. His purpose for us will not change.
- God's sovereignty includes:
 1. God's ways - which includes moral law or the revealed things from God. A good example is the Ten Commandments. Deuteronomy 29:29 ***The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but the things revealed belong to us and to our sons forever, that we may observe all the words of this law.***
 - We should focus on the revealed things because these are hard enough to fulfill and leave the secret things to God.
 2. God's will – we seek for guidance asking God *when, where, what and how*
 - Instead of focusing on God's will let us instead focus on God's ways
 - This may pose as a challenge to us as we learn to surrender control over what we want for ourselves and instead focus and what God wants to do in you and through you

- Colossians 3:17 says *In whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.*
- **GOD'S WILL IS. . . WHATEVER**
- 2 Samuel 22:31 & Psalm 18:30 says *As for God, His way is perfect. The Lord's word is flawless; He shields all those who take refuge in Him*
- Our part is to trust Him. Proverbs 3:5-6 *Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to Him, and He will make your paths straight.*
- Let us not be preoccupied in trying to figure out what God's will is instead let us live out God's ways and we will discover God's perfect will for us





OBSERVATION:

Study the passage. Who are the characters in the passage? What details stand out to you the most? You can also re-write the passage in your own words to make it more personal.

1. Read the bible verses cited above. Which bible verse spoke to you the most?
2. What is Scripture teaching you about God's sovereignty?
3. What reassurance did you receive from understanding God's will and sovereignty in your life?

APPLICATION:

Patently listen as God reveals where you can apply the passage's lesson in your life. Write down specific action points to what He has revealed to you.

	<p>Personal: Have you experienced God's sovereignty? What does it mean to you that God is sovereign? Do you follow God's will in your life?</p>
	<p>Family: How are you entrusting your family to God's sovereignty? Do you practice depending and trusting in God's will in your family?</p>
	<p>Discipleship: What do you believe God's purpose and will for you is? Is God prompting you to involve yourself in an intentional discipleship relationship?</p>
	<p>Church/ Ministry: Is God prompting you to work in His ministry? How can you best reflect God's grace and love in your community?</p>

PRAYERS:

Lift all the things that you learned back to God. Share your thoughts to Him. If He is impressing a sin in your life, confess it to Him. He is always ready to forgive.