

Grace to You :: *Unleashing God's Truth One Verse at a Time*

Daily Readings from the Life of Christ, Vol. 1 (5-24-2012)

May 24 - Three Aspects of the Divine Will

Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. - Matthew 6:10

God's Word reveals three aspects of His will. First is His will of purpose—His sovereign, ultimate plan for the universe. "Surely, just as I [God] have intended so it has happened, and just as I have planned so it will stand" (Isa. 14:24; cf. Eph. 1:9–11). It has been within God's purpose to allow sin to affect the world for a time. But that situation will end precisely according to His plan and foreknowledge.

Within God's will of purpose is His will of desire. This will is more specific but not always fulfilled in the present age. For example, Jesus desired His people, the Jews, to be saved. However, only a relative few believed in His message. Jesus prayed, "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together ... and you would not have it!" (Luke 13:34). Like the Jews, most Gentiles are also unwilling to come to Christ for salvation (John 5:40; cf. 1 Tim. 2:4; 2 Peter 3:9).

Third is God's will of command, which is His desire that believers obey Him fully, as only they of all people can, with the help of the Spirit (see Rom. 6:16–18). Pride is the great enemy set against all of God's will. But for us to obey His will, we must forsake self-will and "prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect" (Rom. 12:2; see also v. 1).

Ask Yourself

Understanding the many-layered aspects of God's will is not nearly as important as being obedient to every aspect you do know. Don't you long for His purpose, desire, and command to be met with full acceptance in your own life? Submit to Him in some new way today. Conform to His will.

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