

DIVINE GUIDANCE

I. Definition:

- A. Divine guidance is the doctrine for determining the will of God for your life in general things, specific things, and making clear the method of thinking for the believer.
- B. Divine guidance is the communication of God's will through God's means of revelation. The basis for divine revelation for the Church Age is the completed Canon of Scripture. In the Church Age there are no teaching angels, audible voice of God, divine dreams, or divine visions.
 - 1) Disaster and divine discipline are tools used by God to guide the reversionist, the emotional revolt believer and the carnal believer.
 - 2) Positive believers are not guided by disasters rather they are guided by the written Word of God. Discipline tells the reversionist he is on the wrong road.
- C. Discipline and disaster are the ways that God says "No, you are not agreeing with My will at this time and you are on the wrong track."
- D. You cannot know the will of God apart from the Word of God.
- E. Sovereign will of God: God cannot go against His attributes in the function of His sovereignty. God recognizes Himself as a person and decides, thinks, acts rationally and forms policy. His decrees are His policies, His immutable will and order of their occurrences.

Divine decrees are the statements how God will be glorified in time and eternity. Decrees are the ordering of events in history by God.

- 3) God's decrees have always existed and will always depend upon His grace.
- 4) The actions of God in time are the result of His decrees. Decrees are perceived by us through logical and revealed relations, *a fortiori* is part of this logical process.
- 5) God knows what could have happened in history and what does happen but He only puts what is going to happen in His decrees to avoid confusion. His pleasure or glory are the purpose of the decrees through the *a fortiori* principles.

6) God's decrees do not originate from His foreknowledge, they make nothing certain; the foreknowledge only foresees that which is certain, the decrees. Omniscience knows the knowable and the alternatives to what actually happened.

7) Guidance is related to the will of God and the justice of God. The will of God is to bless believers, but not all will be blessed due to reversionism.

8) Those who stay with doctrine will find blessing and those who do not will be chewed up by angelic conflict, the world system by becoming involved in human good and evil.

G. Determinative will of God, God has permitted volition to bring us to the place of blessing or cursing. Angels and humans have creature volition to respond to God.

H. Permissive will of God, negative volition is permitted but it is disciplined.

I. Preventative will of God, doctrine, establishment, discipline keeps volition in will of God.

J. God's will:

- 1) God's will is one all inclusive will and purpose.
- 2) It originates within Himself, for He does not receive ideas from anyone other than Himself. No one advises God.
- 3) Therefore, the plan of God is designed for His will and glory, and satisfaction.
- 4) Part of the GRACE POLICY is to bless mankind without contributing anything to that blessing.
- 5) The DECREES of God are expressed through divine actions of grace (imminent, intrinsic and subjective within the Essence we do not know about), and the actions of creation that are understood by angels and humans (extrinsic, transient, chronological, objective—objective means the justice of God functioning in our lives in a fair way).
- 6) God did not decree Himself into existence, God has always existed.

- 7) God's decrees are efficacious, which means all things are determined for all time. (Efficacious means that which is the direct work of God.)
- 8) Decrees of God relate to eternity past while actions of God in time are results of that decree, such as every function of history.

K. Differences between Laws and Decrees of God.

- 1) Decrees are the action and plan of God while laws simply regulate human function.
- 2) Laws of God are revealed in the Scripture, but decrees are only partially revealed.
- 3) Laws of God can be broken by human volition, but decrees cannot.
- 4) God foreknows what is going to happen for it is in the decrees. Decrees occurred first. Foreknowledge confirms what is in the decrees and foreknows all events. Omniscience of God is the overall subject, while foreknowledge is a small part of that Omniscience.

PRINCIPLE: Omniscience precedes all things, then comes the decrees of God which makes all things certain, then comes foreknowledge which perceives all things certain. Omniscience first... decrees second...foreknowledge last to observe.

PRINCIPLE: All things depend upon God's will and there is nothing certain apart from God's will. Divine guidance is finding and following God's will. Believers do not have to fear today nor tomorrow because of God's will and decrees.

- 1) God has given us 24 hours a day and the ability to perform what He wants us to do each day.
- 2) The mature believer does not have to sit and ponder the will of God for he knows what is right and he does it. The mature believer would never have to say, "Is it God's will for me to go to Bible class tonight or spend time with my Christian friends? You don't have to pray about it, the will of God plainly tells us to be in Bible class getting doctrine—bring your friends with you.

- 3) The mature believer spends limited time in prayer and most of his time doing the will of God. He does not spend hours a day in prayer, wondering what the will of God is but rather he knows the will of God and he does it.

It is always those who are immature and are never in class that want me to pray for them and I usually do. I would rather that the believer learn the will of God in Bible class, receive the answers they need, and make decisions based upon it. I do not know every believer's status with the Lord so it is hard to know what exactly to pray for.

- 4) The mature believer knows there is no mystery to the Christian life. It is simply learning what the Bible says and then doing it.

If the believer is immature or in reversionism and they do not have a frame of reference regarding the will of God, then they need to invest the time and study to learn it. Pastors will often pray for their flock that they pass their tests, mature in grace doctrine, and serve the Lord.

**I was asked to pray for a woman's cat that died. She wanted me to make sure that it was in heaven and then have a funeral for it. I declined to pray for the cat but I did pray that she would learn what the Bible teaches about soul life, eternal life, and heaven.

5) When human will, through understanding doctrine, lines up with God's will, then we have divine guidance. The believer is led in this way.

6) The decrees of God include the lake of fire for fallen angels and unbelievers. It is not God's desire that any should go into the lake of fire but it is decreed so He cannot go against His own Sovereign decision.

II. Relationship between the will of God and decrees of God.

- A. God's will or decrees are all comprehensive.
- B. Not the slightest uncertainty could exist as to one of the smallest events without confusion to all. Human history was known to God in eternity past and bound together in one decree.
- C. Therefore, all events of human history are interwoven and interdependent, Ephesians 2:10-11.

- D. God is eternal and God is not gaining in knowledge. We learn a lot about people as we go along in life, but God already knows all things.
- E. God is perfect, therefore the will of God is perfect.
- F. The freewill or sovereignty of God reflected in the decrees of God will be complemented with regard to His creatures by Greater Grace. God's desire is for us to die under dying grace, but if you want to, you may go out under the sin unto death.
- G. God is bound by His justice, truth and faithfulness to complete what He has started.
- H. The principle of the will of God is GRACE and it is revealed in the dispensations throughout human history.
- I. After salvation the believer is assigned a certain amount of time to live so that he may take in doctrine and mature, thus utilizing the maximum grace provision of God in time. This is what gives Him more glory than anything. Judicial imputations set you up with imputed righteousness, then real imputations in time are the blessings that God has for you.
- J. The divine decree of God is the divine dispensation for all of history so that the will of God may be revealed to man under various circumstances.
- K. The divine objective is the preservation of believers in any given period of history.
- L. The work of God is also called "PROVIDENCE," in which He molds all events to accommodate to His will.
- M. The will of God defined:
 - 1) Directive, God has a plan for your life and knows volition may operate against Him or for Him.
 - 2) Determinative, God permits volition to bring us to blessing or cursing.
 - 3) Permissive, painful discipline, justice hits hard.
 - 4) Preventative, doctrine, laws of divine establishment, divine discipline

to keep believer in the will of God.

- III. 1 John 3:23 is the axiom for divine guidance for the entire human race.
- A. God's will is for all men to believe in the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior. It's His will.
 - B. The desire of God is His will and that is to believe in Christ as Savior.
 - C. The second desire of God is to confess sins when we commit them.
 - D. The third desire is that all men exploit the righteousness in them and take in Bible doctrine and mature under grace teaching; this glorifies Him in time.
 - E. The decrees of God set up the absolutes for man's decisions. If man believes he is saved. If he does not believe in his salvation then he needs to trust in Christ as his personal Savior.

If a Christian confesses sin he is forgiven, if he does not confess sin then he is under divine discipline.

If a Christian matures he is blessed, if not then he is under the sin unto death.

F. Wills of God:

- 1. Viewpoint will of God—what does God want me to think?, Bible doctrine and divine viewpoint.
- 2. Operational will of God—what does God want me to do? Follow His leading through the Holy Spirit and written Word.
- 3. Geographical will of God—where does God want me to be? God will place you in the right location to best serve Him.

ALL OF THESE CROSS AT ONE POINT AND THAT IS THE WILL OF GOD FOR YOU.

IV. Classification of the Will of God:

A. The Life of Balaam is an example:

1. Directive will, or Divine desire, Numbers 22:12, “don’t go with them.” This is what God desires.
2. Permissive will, Numbers 22:20, “go ahead and go but you will only say what I want you to say,” not God’s will but He allows bad things to happen to teach the believer.
3. Overruling will of God, God would not permit Balaam to curse Israel, Numbers 23:5, 8, 23, 25, 26.

V. Academic concept of divine guidance.

A. God wants all believers to learn Bible doctrine and mature then enter into service.

1. The believer has both the indwelling Holy Spirit and the Adamic Nature in his body which causes a war for domination of the soul. When Bible doctrine is resident in the soul and being applied then the Holy Spirit is winning battle, Psalm 32:8; Isaiah 58:11; Proverbs 3:1-6. God wants to prosper us in the devil’s world.
2. Capacity for life is what promotes us or stops our promotions. If we have capacity for life gained through spiritual maturity then we will be promoted by the Lord.
3. God’s ultimate divine will in time and eternity will be to give us a resurrection body minus the Adamic Nature.

B. Filling of the Spirit is the second principle of the will of God, Ephesians 5:14-18.

Verse 14, “Sleepers,” reversionists who have rejected doctrine, no capacity for life. (“dead ones,” refer to the reversionist under the sin unto death).

Verse 15, “walk accurately” means to walk in doctrine through the filling of the Holy Spirit.

Verse 16, “redeeming the time” accomplished in the will of God through Bible doctrine and the filling of the Holy Spirit.

Verse 17, “Stop being ignorant,” APHRONES, ignorant of doctrine and easy targets, “understanding the will of God,” purpose of God.

Verse 18, “stop becoming drunk...but be filled with the Spirit,” how to redeem time.

- C. Third principle: The combination of the filling of the Holy Spirit plus the intake of Bible doctrine equals spiritual growth to Greater Grace. 2 Peter 3:18, “grow by grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.”

Hebrews 11:7, Noah constructed the ark through doctrine he had and condemned the corrupt world. He had God’s righteousness in his soul through faith applied to his circumstances. The blessings imputed to Noah were the result of his capacity for life, love for God and adversity in time, and his attitude condemned the whole world.

6. Mechanics of the will of God are stated in Acts 11.

- A. Prayer as in Acts 11:5.
- B. Thinking, Acts 11:6, you must have doctrine to think .
- C. Divine revelation or Bible teaching, or doctrine recalled, Acts 11:7-10.
- D. Providential circumstances, Lord Jesus Christ controlling history .
- E. Holy Spirit guides, Acts 11:12.
- F. Christian fellowship and comparison of spiritual data, Acts 11:13-14.
- G. Recalling doctrine, Acts 11:16.

7. As true humanity Jesus Christ, the God-man, has free will, yet He was also deity.

- A. Human volition plus Divine sovereignty, Matthew 20:22; 26:42; Hebrews 10:7, 9.
- B. If Christ did not have free will then there is no freewill in mankind, and there would be no issue in the angelic conflict.
- C. Man possesses a freewill, created by God, designed to resolve the angelic

conflict.

8. The ultimate will of God for the believer is gaining spiritual maturity and entering into service for Christ. 2 Peter 3:18

* Information taken from the teachings of Pastor R. B. Thieme, Pastor Ken Jensen, and Pastor Ralph Braun,