

# The Rocky Road to the Will of God

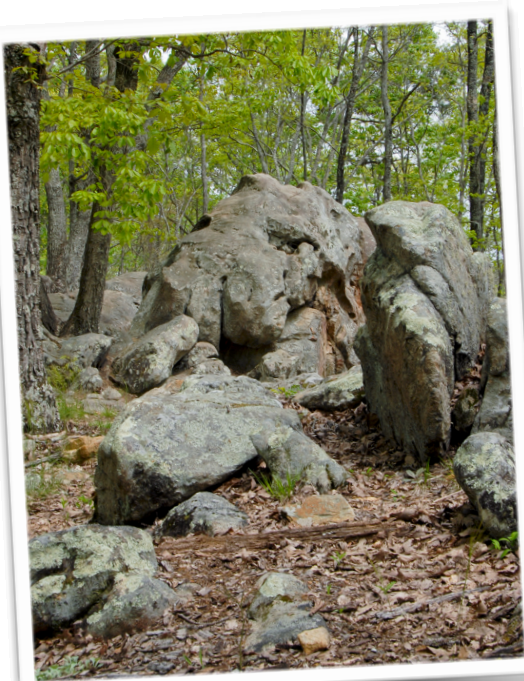
Are you in control of your destiny or does God control your destiny?



*Do you think about living in the will of God everyday?*

Matthew 2:1-12 KJV

[1] Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem, [2] Saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him. [3] When Herod the king had heard these things, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. [4] And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he demanded of them where Christ should be born. [5] And they said unto him, In Bethlehem of Judaea: for thus it is written by the prophet, [6] And thou Bethlehem, in the land of Juda, art not the least among the princes of Juda: for out of thee shall come a Governor, that shall rule my people Israel. [7] Then Herod, when he had privily called the wise men, enquired of them diligently what time the star appeared. [8] And he sent them to Bethlehem, and said, Go and search diligently for the young child; and when ye have found him, bring me word again, that I may come and worship him also. [9] When they had heard the king, they departed; and, lo, the star, which they saw in the east, went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was. [10] When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy. [11] And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense, and myrrh. [12] And being warned of God in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed into their own country another way.



## TO DISCOVER GOD'S WILL, WE MUST FOLLOW GOD'S DIRECTION

At times God uses the natural world to get our attention. In the case of the 3 wise men, God led them through natural phenomenon. Being mindful of the sovereignty of God, we know he is creator of all things and can use all things to declare his glory and to instruct us in his ways.

Psalms 19:1-4 KJV

[1] The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork. [2] Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night sheweth knowledge. [3] There is no speech nor language, where their voice is not heard. [4] Their line is gone out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world. In them hath he set a tabernacle for the sun,

Psalms 8:3-4 KJV

[3] When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained; [4] What is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest him?

## TO ACHIEVE GOD'S WILL WE MUST RESIST SATAN'S DISTRACTION

Satan uses subtly to appear on board with God's plan just enough to get us to begin paying attention to the details instead of remaining focused on God's plan. If we ask God to help us, he will show us all the snakes around us that seek to distract us from interfering with God's plan.

### *Distractions satan used in the nativity:*

HUMAN FEAR - Joseph was told his fiancé, Mary, must have been unfaithful and would never be accepted if he stayed with her.

HUMAN PRIDE - King Herod wanted to be the sole King.

HUMAN VIOLENCE - Destruction was a tool used to preserve power. Satan ultimately seeks destruction of God's elect.

## TO REMAIN IN GOD'S WILL REQUIRES COMPLETE DEVOTION

The wise men remained devoted to traveling to see the Christ child, their devotion prevented them from being distracted. Wise men worship Jesus. The message of the light will always irritate the dark.

1 John 4:1-3 KJV

[1] Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world. [2] Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God: [3] And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world.

## *Why don't I sense the will of God?*

### **1. SELF WILL**

*We are hesitant to give up control and turn over our course of life to God unconditionally*

### **2. INFLUENCE OF OTHERS**

*We ask God for his advice it then we seek out others just in case there's a "better way"*

### **3. IGNORANCE OF GOD'S PRINCIPLES**

*We use our own understanding to guess how God will act or how he wants us to act instead of relying on God to do his own will.*



# OBSTACLES THAT KEEP US FROM GOD'S WILL

## 1. WILLFUL KNOWN SIN

- Sin deafens our ears to what God is trying to tell me.
- Blinds our eyes to God's vision for us.
- Hardens our heart towards obeying the will of God.
- Dulls our conscious to the will of God.

## 2. DOUBT

We doubt God will make his vision known to us.  
Why would God care about me? What can I do, I'm just a ....?  
God has a plan for us from before he created us, each one of us

## 3. FEELINGS OF UNWORTHINESS

We doubt God has any use for us either because we question our abilities or we feel guilty of what we've done in the past or that it's too late in life to begin.

## 4. BUSYNESS

We allow ourselves to get distracted instead of doing what we know we should be doing. Hectic life becomes an excuse for not reading the word but it's never too hectic for going on vacation.

## 5. FEAR OF WHAT THE WILL OF GOD MAY REQUIRE

We all want the will of God for our life, but we only want it to be what we're willing to do, not necessarily what God wants us to do.



# *Are you in control of your destiny or does God control your destiny?*

## THERE ARE SEVERAL CATEGORIES OF HIS WILL FOR OUR LIFE

### ***HIS PREDESTINED WILL***

There are some things the Lord has predetermined to occur, and nothing or no one can change them.

### ***HIS MORAL WILL***

This could best be explained as God's righteous standards such as those revealed in the Ten Commandments and various other passages of Scripture. They prescribe what we are to do and not do in order to live as God desires. If we choose to obey the Lord's commands, we will enjoy the benefits of obedience. However, we can also decide to rebel against God's standards, and as a result, suffer the consequences that inevitably come with sin.

### ***HIS DESIRED WILL***

These are things the Lord desires for us. For instance, He wants us to walk obediently with Him and seek His guidance. The only way we will know God's desired will is by reading, believing, and heeding the Word of God. That is where we will discover who God is, what He approves, and how He wants us to live.

### ***HIS INTENTIONAL WILL***

This is what God intends for us. His plans were in place before we were even born, and they included the time and place of our birth, the families into which we were born, the skills, abilities, and spiritual gifts entrusted to us, our vocations, and many other details. Beginning very early in life, we should ask God to direct our choices. Relying on limited human knowledge, current emotions, or our own desires only leads us the wrong way. Ignoring God's will and determining our own course through life never brings the satisfaction we crave, but instead, leads us into our heavenly Father's chastisement.

### ***HIS CIRCUMSTANTIAL WILL***

There will be times in our lives when we fail and make wrong decisions. This is not what God desires for us; however, He doesn't cast us out but continues to work in our lives through these circumstances. Sometimes He may remove the consequences of our sin, but at other times He will leave them. In either case, He works for our good in order to bring us back to Himself and establish us on a path of obedience.

### ***HIS IMMEDIATE WILL***

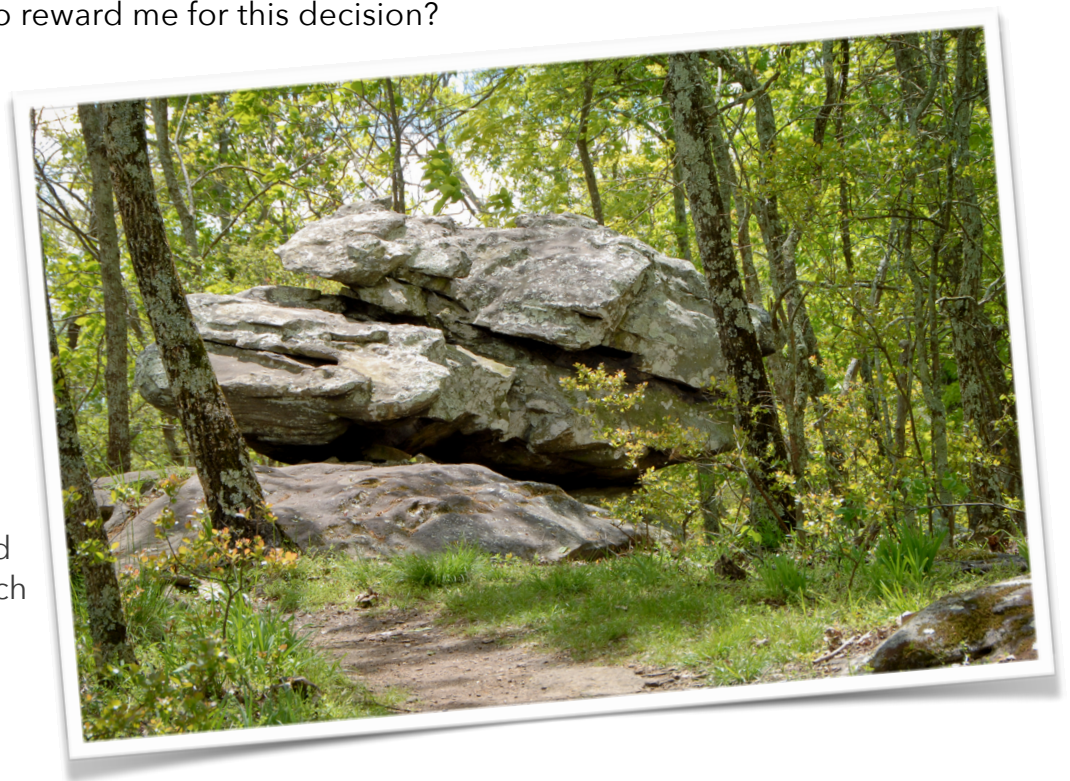
Yesterday is gone, and we cannot change the past, but God is still with us directing our path for today. James warns us not to boast about our future plans because we cannot know what tomorrow holds. Our lives are like "a vapor that appears for a little while and then vanishes away" (James 4:14). Instead, we ought to live in complete dependence on Him and say, "If the Lord wills, we will live and also do this or that" (v. 15).

## *Can we be sure of the will of God?*

### *A SEVENFOLD TEST TO CONFIRM GOD'S WILL:*

1. Is this decision consistent or in agreement with the word of God?
2. Is it a wise decision, what are the consequences?
3. Can I honestly ask God to enable me to achieve this, go through with this decision?
4. Do I have genuine peace about this decision? Is this the right timing?
5. Is this act consistent with what God is saying to me?
6. Does this fit who I am as a follower of Jesus?
7. Does this act fit God's overall plan for my life?
8. Will This decision honor God?
9. Will this decision result in unrest and regret for the rest of my life?
10. Can I expect God to reward me for this decision?

It's amazing to realize that the God who sovereignly rules heaven and earth is also interested in our individual lives. We are not living in a vacuum but in the presence of the living God. He has revealed His will in His Word and has promised to guide us through each day when we trust and obey Him.



### *RESPONSE*

Have you been living and making decisions with God's good and perfect will in mind, or have you been ruling your own life and relying on your own wisdom to guide you?

Are you willing to yield your life to the sovereign God who holds your future and has your best interest in mind? What changes do you need to make in order to follow God's will more obediently?