



ANSWERS: Unit 3: Christian Leadership

How to positively influence the attitudes and actions of others for Jesus Christ.

Lesson 14 Knowing God's Will

Day One Choosing God's Will

Read Genesis 2:15–17 and answer questions 1–5:

The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it. ¹⁶ And the LORD God commanded the man, "You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; ¹⁷ but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it you will certainly die." Genesis 2:15–17

1. Who took Adam, the man, and put him in the Garden of Eden (v. 15)?

God, LORD, or LORD God

2. Did Adam have a choice about being placed in the Garden? Yes No (Underline One)

3. Did Adam have a free choice to follow God's will in the Garden? Yes No (Underline One)

4. What was God's command and will for Adam (v. 16–17)?

Adam could eat from any tree in the garden; but he was not to eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil

5. What was the consequence of not following God's command, or His will (v.17)?

Death

Read Joshua 24:15 and answer questions 6–7:

"But if serving the LORD seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served beyond the Euphrates, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD." Joshua 24:15

6. What choice did the Israelites have?

To serve God or serve false gods (idols)

7. How did Joshua use his will in this verse?

To serve God, the LORD.

8. Read 2 Chronicles 26:16. King Uzziah started out seeking God and His will for the people. God had given him success and his fame spread as far as the border of Egypt. But after Uzziah became powerful, what happened?

But after Uzziah became powerful, his pride led to his downfall. He was unfaithful to the LORD his God, and entered the temple of the LORD to burn incense on the altar of incense.

2 Chronicles 26:16

He became prideful and unfaithful to God. He entered the temple against God's will with the intention of burning incense on the altar of incense.

9. Read 2 Chronicles 26:18. What seemed to be the motivation of the priests who confronted Uzziah?

"They confronted King Uzziah and said, 'It is not right for you, Uzziah, to burn incense to the LORD. That is for the priests, the descendants of Aaron, who have been consecrated to burn incense. Leave the sanctuary, for you have been unfaithful; and you will not be honored by the LORD God.'" 2 Chronicles 26:18

They wanted God's laws obeyed (i.e., God's will) and confronted the king in this sin. Also concerned for the welfare of their king.

10. Read 2 Chronicles 26:21. What were the consequences for King Uzziah seeking his own will and not God's?

King Uzziah had leprosy until the day he died. He lived in a separate house—leprous, and banned from the temple of the LORD. Jotham his son had charge of the palace and governed the people of the land. 2 Chronicles 26:21

King Uzziah lost his leadership position to son Jotham. Uzziah had leprosy, lived in a separate house, and was excluded from temple.

11. Consider how the use of your *free will* may affect yourself and others. What changes do you plan to make regarding your decisions, plans, and seeking after God's will?

Personal Answer

—End Day One—

Day Two

Forsaking Our Will

12. Read Isaiah 30:21. What is God saying to the Israelites (and to us) about knowing His will?

Whether you turn to the right or to the left, your ears will hear a voice behind you, saying, "This is the way; walk in it." Isaiah 30:21

God promises He will direct us in His will. He will show us the right path, no matter the situation.

13. Read Isaiah 14:24 and 46:10–11. What is God saying in these verses?

The LORD Almighty has sworn, "Surely, as I have planned, so it will be, and as I have purposed, so it will happen." Isaiah 14:24 (Sworn is defined as taking an oath or unwavering resolve.) I make known the end from the beginning, from ancient times, what is still to come. I say, 'My purpose will stand, and I will do all that I please.' ¹¹From the east I summon a bird of prey; from a far-off land, a man to fulfill my purpose. What I have said, that I will bring about; what I have planned, that I will do. Isaiah 46:10–11

Whatever God desires and plans, it will happen.

Read 1 Thessalonians 4:3–7 and answer questions 14–16:

It is God's will that you should be sanctified: that you should avoid sexual immorality; ⁴that each of you should learn to control your own body in a way that is holy and honorable, ⁵not in passionate lust like the pagans, who do not know God; ⁶and that in this matter no one should wrong or take advantage of a brother or sister. The Lord will punish all those who commit such sins, as we told you and warned you before. ⁷For God did not call us to be impure, but to live a holy life. 1 Thessalonians 4:3–7

14. Fill in the blank. It is God's will that you should be (v. 4:3a)_____ **sanctified** _____.

15. What are some of the ways apostle Paul teaches believers to live a sanctified life?

1. **Avoid sexual immorality** (v. 4:3b)
2. **Control own body in a way that is holy and honorable** (v. 4:4)
3. **Do not wrong or take advantage of others** (v. 4:6)

16. Fill in the blank. Pagans engage in passionate lust because they do not know **_God_** (v. 4:5).

17. How does God's will and sovereignty function with our free will and autonomy (self-rule)?

Various ways of saying or writing this answer but God has complete control over all and yet has given us certain freedoms within His created order. We can choose to follow God and His ways or not. However, He can and will use other people to establish His purpose and can overrule our choices if He desires.

Read Mark 14:34–36, memorize it and answer questions 18–23:

"My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death," he said to them. "Stay here and keep watch." ³⁵ Going a little farther, he fell to the ground and prayed that if possible the hour might pass from him. ³⁶ "Abba, Father," he said, "everything is possible for you. Take this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will." Mark 14:34–36

18. In your own words explain how Jesus felt the night before he was crucified (v. 34)?

Personal answer based on Jesus' soul being overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death.

19. What did Jesus do when He was overwhelmed to the point of death (v. 35)?

He fell to the ground and prayed that if possible the hour might pass from him.

20. In His prayer to the Father, what three things did Jesus say to Him (v. 36)?

1. Everything is possible for you
2. Take this cup from me
3. Yet, not what I will, but what you will

21. If faced with intense suffering, will you say: "*Yet not what I will, but what you will?*"
Yes No Unsure (Underline One)

Personal Answer

22. Explain your answer to #21 about facing intense suffering:

Personal Answer

Action Step

23. Memorize Mark 14:34–36.

24. Read Jeremiah 17:9. Why do we have to be careful with what our hearts desire?

The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it? Jeremiah 17:9

Because the heart is deceitful above all things.

Read Romans 8:26–27 and answer questions 25–27:

In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans. ²⁷And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for God's people in accordance with the will of God. Romans 8:26–27 (*Intercede* means to plead, intervene, or make an appeal.)

25. Who intercedes for God's people in accordance with the will of God (v. 26)?

The Holy Spirit.

26. Who searches our hearts and knows the mind of the Spirit (v. 27)?

God

27. Take time to thank the Holy Spirit for interceding on your behalf in accordance with God's will. I thanked the Holy Spirit. Yes No (Underline One)

Personal answer, but hopefully yes.

—End Day Two—

Day Three

Rewards for doing God's will

Read Matthew 12:49–50 and answer questions 28–29:

Pointing to his disciples, he said, "Here are my mother and my brothers. ⁵⁰ For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother." Matthew 12:49–50

28. Jesus says: "For whoever does the _____ **will** _____ of my ____ **Father** _____ in heaven is my brother and sister and mother (v. 50)."

29. What point do you think Jesus is making?

Whoever listens and obeys God the Father has a closer personal relationship with Jesus, just like a family member.

Read Matthew 16:21–23 and answers questions 30–31:

From that time on Jesus began to explain to his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things at the hands of the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life. ²² Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. "Never, Lord!" he said. "This shall never happen to you!" ²³ Jesus turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; you do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns." Matthew 16:21–23

30. What apostle tried to keep Jesus from God's will?

Peter

31. How do you keep in mind the concerns of God and not merely human concerns?

Personal answer, but some ideas are prayer, fasting, reading the Bible, seeking God.

32. Read John 15:5. How do we bear much fruit (have meaningful kingdom work)?

"I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing." John 15:5

In order to bear fruit, we must remain in Jesus and He in us. We have meaningful kingdom work by living in Jesus and doing what He desires. Obedience to Jesus is also being obedient to the Father's will. They are one.

Read Romans 8:28–29 and answer questions 33–34:

And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. ²⁹For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters.

Romans 8:28–29

33. When you choose God's will for your life, what promise, or assurance do you have when things look bleak (v. 28)?

That in all things God works for the good for those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose.

34. What is the good that God will work out for those who love Him (v. 29)?

That we should be conformed to the likeness or image of God's Son, Jesus.

35. Read Jeremiah 29:11. The Lord has plans to _____ **prosper** _____ you and

not to _____ **harm** _____ you, plans to give you hope and a _____ **future** _____

"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." Jeremiah 29:11

36. Action Step: Lookup, read, and meditate on Proverbs 11:18; Isaiah 40:10; Matthew 5:11–12; Ephesians 6:7–8; Hebrews 11:24–26 and Revelation 22:12. Summarize what God taught you about rewards from these verses:

Personal Answer

Bible references in Action Step #36:

A wicked person earns deceptive wages, but the one who sows righteousness reaps a sure reward. Proverbs 11:18

See, the Sovereign LORD comes with power, and he rules with a mighty arm. See, his reward is with him, and his recompense accompanies him. Isaiah 40:10

"Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me.¹² Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you." Matthew 5:11–12

Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not people,⁸ because you know that the Lord will reward each one for whatever good they do, whether they are slave or free.

Ephesians 6:7–8

*By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be known as the son of Pharaoh's daughter.
25He chose to be mistreated along with the people of God rather than to enjoy the fleeting
pleasures of sin.26He regarded disgrace for the sake of Christ as of greater value than the
treasures of Egypt, because he was looking ahead to his reward. Hebrews 11:24–26*

*“Look, I am coming soon! My reward is with me, and I will give to each person according to
what they have done.” Revelation 22:12*

—End Day Three—

Day Four

Ways for Discerning God's will

37. Read John 7:17. Explain what Jesus is saying in your own words.

*Anyone who chooses to do the will of God will find out whether my teaching comes from God or
whether I speak on my own. John 7:17*

Action Step

38. Do you sincerely want to follow God's will? Yes No Sometimes (Underline One)

Personal Answer

39. If there is anything keeping you from submitting to God's plan for your life, please explain?

Personal Answer

40. How do you think asking the question, *Who will receive the glory for my actions?* help you follow and remain in God's will?

Personal Answer

41. Read Philippians 4:6. Why should we not be anxious about seeking God's will?

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. Philippians 4:6

God tells us in His Word not to be anxious about anything, but to seek Him in everything by prayer with thanksgiving.

42. Read John 14:16-17a. When you are seeking direction and not sure what to do, who is your advocate, defender, intercessor, helper, comforter and encourager?

And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever—¹⁷ the Spirit of truth. John 14:16–17a

The Holy Spirit, the Spirit of truth, God's Spirit, or Christ's Spirit.

43. Read 2 Timothy 3:16–17. How are you, a servant of God, thoroughly equipped for every good work?

All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, ¹⁷ so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work. 2 Timothy 3:16–17

Believers are equipped for every good work through Scripture.

44. What if someone approached you seeking guidance and said, *I have become a Christian, but my spouse refuses to believe in Christ. I think God is leading me to divorce my spouse and become a missionary.* What advice would you give this person? (See 1 Corinthians 7:12–17.)

Personal answer but God will not lead someone against His Word. God has already spoken through the apostle Paul on this subject (1 Corinthians 7:12–17). We could also tell the person to continue praying, reading the Bible, and seeking God.

To the rest I say this (I, not the Lord): If any brother has a wife who is not a believer and she is willing to live with him, he must not divorce her. ¹³ And if a woman has a husband who is not a believer and he is willing to live with her, she must not divorce him. ¹⁴ For the unbelieving husband has been sanctified through his wife, and the unbelieving wife has been sanctified through her believing husband. Otherwise your children would be unclean, but as it is, they are holy. ¹⁵ But if the unbeliever leaves, let it be so. The brother or the sister is not bound in such circumstances; God has called us to live in peace. ¹⁶ How do you know, wife, whether you will save your husband? Or, how do you know, husband, whether you will save your wife? ¹⁷ Nevertheless, each person should live as a believer in whatever situation the Lord has assigned to them, just as God has called them. 1 Corinthians 7:12–17

Read Colossians 1:9–10 and answer questions 45–47:

For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you. We continually ask God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives, ¹⁰so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God . . .
Colossians 1:9–10

45. What is the apostle Paul continually asking God regarding the believers at Colossae (v. 9)?

Paul is continually asking God to fill the believers with the knowledge of His will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives. The “we” includes Timothy whom Paul lists at the beginning of the letter to the Colossians.

46. What is the reason the apostle Paul is asking God to fill the believers with the knowledge of His will through all the wisdom and understanding the Spirit gives (v. 10)?

So that they may live a life worthy of the Lord and please Him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God.

47. Pray the Colossians 1:9–10 prayer for other believers as the Lord leads.

Everyone prays as the Lord leads.

Read Philippians 2:13 and answer questions 48–49:

. . . for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose.
Philippians 2:13

48. Are you confident that you are in God's will at the current time? Yes No (Underline One)

Personal Answer

49. Explain your answer to #48 of being in God's will:

Personal Answer

Accountability: Be prepared to share #48–49 with your team.

—End Day Four—

Day Five

Exercising your free will

50. Read Romans 12:1–2. How can you use your *free will* to know God's will?

Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship.² Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will. Romans 12:1–2

Personal answer along these lines: I can determine how I think and act in any given situation. I can decide to renew my mind. I can take my old patterns of ungodly living and replace them with God's truth. God's Word is truth (John 17:17). When one desires and determines to be shaped and changed by God, they will be able to discover and interpret His will.

51. Read Jonah 1:1–2. How do you know God's will was revealed clearly to Jonah?

The word of the LORD came to Jonah son of Amittai:² "Go to the great city of Nineveh and preach against it, because its wickedness has come up before me." Jonah 1:1–2

Because the Bible says that the word of the LORD came to Jonah and records His clear instructions.

52. Read Jonah 1:3. Jonah knew God's will for him and yet, what did he do?

But Jonah ran away from the LORD and headed for Tarshish. He went down to Joppa, where he found a ship bound for that port. After paying the fare, he went aboard and sailed for Tarshish to flee from the LORD. Jonah 1:3

He ran away.

53. How do you think *you* would respond if the LORD commanded you to arise, go to Iraq, and begin preaching against the wickedness of the terrorist group Al-Qaeda¹?

Personal Answer

¹ Al-Qaeda (Arabic translation —*The Base*) is an international alliance of militant Sunni Jihadist organizations. Its roots can be traced back to Osama Bin Laden and others around the time of the Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan in 1989. Al-Qaeda's objectives include the end of foreign influence in Muslim countries and the creation of a new Islamic Caliphate. Al-Qaeda has been labeled a terrorist organization. <Al-Qaeda - Wikipedia> (accessed 3/10/2022)

Read Jonah 4:2 and answer questions 54–57:

54. What was the reason Jonah gave for running away from the Lord's will?

He prayed to the LORD, "Isn't this what I said, LORD, when I was still at home? That is what I tried to forestall by fleeing to Tarshish. I knew that you are a gracious and compassionate God, slow to anger and abounding in love, a God who relents from sending calamity." Jonah 4:2

Jonah did not want God to be merciful to Israel's enemy. Jonah did not want his enemy to repent from his preaching. He wanted disaster to strike the Ninevites.

55. Do you think Christians struggle with showing mercy and goodness to their enemies? Yes No Sometimes (Underline One)

Personal Answer

56. Explain your answer to #55, whether or not Christians struggle showing mercy to enemies.

Personal Answer

57. What are some ways that *you* could help yourself and others to have more compassion and love for enemies?

Personal answer, but from the lesson: Remembering how much we have been forgiven is always a good place to start (Luke 7:47) in showing mercy to enemies. When we recognize the mercy and goodness of God in our own lives and how we have been rescued from eternal damnation, our hearts begin to soften. We can also pray for ourselves and others. *O Lord help me to have Your love, compassion, and mercy. Make me a forgiving person. Conform everyone I know to be like Jesus! Amen.*

58. Read Psalm 33:11. How long do the Lord's plans and purpose stand firm?

But the plans of the LORD stand firm forever, the purposes of his heart through all generations.
Psalm 33:11

Forever and through all generations

Action Step

Read, meditate, and ask God to speak to you through the following Scriptures on God's will from your Bible and answer questions 59–62. (Psalm 37:23–24, 55:22, 147:10–11; Matthew 6:9–10; Romans 8:26–27, 12:1–2; Ephesians 5:17–20; 1 Peter 3:17; Jude 1:24)

59. What did God say to your spirit or impress upon you?

Personal answer but the truth is that God loves us. As we seek and fear Him, He will not allow us to fail or miss His purpose or will for our lives.

60. What did you say to God in response to what He impressed upon you from your Scripture reading?

Personal Answer

61. What would you tell someone who is overly anxious about *missing* God's will?

Believers are righteous in Christ. God's Word says:

Psalms 37:23–24: The Lord upholds the righteous.

Psalms 55:22: The Lord sustains the righteous and they will never be shaken

Psalms 147:10–11: The Lord delights in those who fear him, who put their hope in his unfailing love.

Matthew 6:10: God's will, will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Romans 8:26–27: The Spirit intercedes for God's people in accordance with the will of God.

Romans 12:1–2: Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is..

Ephesians 5:17–20: The Lord's will is to be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit.

1 Peter 3:17: Sometimes we suffer for doing good and it is God's will.

Jude 1:24: God is able to keep us from stumbling and therefore in His perfect will.

62. What is God's will for your life? Are you following it, and if not, why not?

Personal Answer

Bible references in Action Step #59–62:

The LORD makes firm the steps of the one who delights in him; ²⁴ though he may stumble, he will not fall, for the LORD upholds him with his hand. Psalms 37:23–24

Cast your cares on the LORD and he will sustain you; he will never let the righteous be shaken.
Psalm 55:22

His pleasure is not in the strength of the horse, nor his delight in the legs of the warrior; ¹¹the LORD delights in those who fear him, who put their hope in his unfailing love. Psalm 147:10–11

... your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Matthew 6:10

In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans. ²⁷And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for God's people in accordance with the will of God. Romans 8:26–27

Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. ²Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will. Romans 12:1–2

Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is. ¹⁸Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit, ¹⁹speaking to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit. Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord, ²⁰always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.
Ephesians 5:17–20

For it is better, if it is God's will, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil. 1 Peter 3:17

To him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy— Jude 1:24

63. Read Ephesians 6:6–8. How are we to do the will of God and serve Him?

Obey them not only to win their favor when their eye is on you, but as slaves of Christ, doing the will of God from your heart. ⁷Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not people, ⁸because you know that the Lord will reward each one for whatever good they do, whether they are slave or free. Ephesians 6:6–8

We are to do the will of God from our hearts and serve Him wholeheartedly.

—End Answers Day Five and Lesson 14—

Next—Lesson 15: Spiritual Warfare, Unit 3: Christian Leadership

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