



KNOWING & RECEIVING
THE WILL OF GOD

THE GLORIOUS GOSPEL COMMENTARY SERIES

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INTRODUCTION

Knowing God's will is a central concern for many Christians. We often find ourselves asking, "What does God want me to do?" Or, "Am I in His will?" These are common concerns, and they reflect a genuine desire to please God and live according to His purposes. But these questions unanswered can also lead to anxiety, confusion, and a sense of striving. What if we approached God's will not as a mystery to be solved or a list of tasks to complete, but as an inheritance we have already been given through our Lord Jesus Christ?

This book, *Knowing and Receiving the Will of God*, is born out of the conviction that understanding God's will is crucial for living a life of peace, purpose, and fulfillment in God. The purpose of this book is to help you shift your perspective from striving to receive God's blessings to resting in the assurance that you already have everything you need for life and godliness, through Christ. By viewing a big part of God's will as an inheritance, you can move from anxiety and uncertainty to confidence and joy in your relationship with Him.

Overview

In this book, we will explore what it means to live in the reality of God's will as your inheritance. Each chapter builds upon this foundational truth, leading you to a deeper understanding of how God's will impacts your daily life.

- **Chapter 1:** We begin by reconsidering how we view God's will, not as something to be earned or figured out, but as a rich inheritance we have already received through Christ.
- **Chapter 2:** This chapter challenges the common notion that God's will is only about making the right decisions. Instead, it invites you to embrace the broader perspective of living in the fullness of what you have already received in Christ.
- **Chapter 3:** Here, we delve deeper into the biblical concept of inheritance, both Old and New Testaments, and how it shifts our mindset from scarcity and striving to spiritual abundance and assurance.
- **Chapter 4:** This chapter further explores specific aspects of our inheritance, such as forgiveness, acceptance, and the indwelling

of the Holy Spirit, and how living in these truths transforms our daily lives.

- **Chapter 5:** Finally, we reflect on the spiritual gifts we have received through Christ, including peace, joy, purpose, and meaning, and how they guide us to live for God's glory.

Personal Journey of Discovering God's Will

In my own walk with God, I have often struggled with understanding His will. There were times when I felt uncertain if I was on the right path. I struggled to discern God's will for my life, often worrying about making the wrong decisions and missing out on His plan. I focused more on the specifics of what I should do rather than on deepening my relationship with Him. Over time, I realized that God's will is more about walking with the Lord and allowing Him to lead, than about the specific steps we must take to figure things out. It is about receiving what He has already given us in Christ and living in the fullness of that reality. It is an invitation to embrace the inheritance that is already yours and walk confidently in the will of God. I pray that as you read, you will be encouraged, equipped, and empowered to live in the reality of God's will, knowing that He has already provided everything you need for life and godliness. God's will is not a burden; it is a blessing. It is not something to be earned but something to be received and lived out every day.

A Call for Discernment

As we explore what it means to know and receive God's will, it is essential to approach this journey with discernment. Not all teachings or books about God are rooted in biblical truth. To help discern whether a teaching generally aligns with Scripture, we can use the simple acronym, "GATE."

This acronym created by pastor Jason Dennett, has helped me. As a tool it helps evaluate whether a teaching is biblically sound:

1. **G** - Gospels: Did Jesus teach it in the Gospels?
2. **A** - Acts: Is this teaching found or practiced in the Book of Acts?
3. **T** - Typology: Is this teaching represented in typology in the Old Testament?
4. **E** - Epistles: Is this teaching taught or practiced in the Epistles?

If the answer to all four questions is yes—Jesus taught it in the Gospels, if it was practiced or taught in Acts, represented in typology in the Old Testament, and affirmed in the Epistles—you can rest assured that it aligns with biblical truth and is worth studying and praying about.

This "GATE" approach encourages us to be discerning as we encounter various teachings, ensuring that we remain grounded in the truth of God's Word. As you journey through this book, I encourage you to use this tool to weigh what you read here and elsewhere, keeping your heart aligned with the promise inheritance we have in Christ.

1

UNDERSTANDING GOD'S WILL AS YOUR INHERITANCE

**“to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you.”
- 1 Peter 1:4 (NKJV)**

In life, we constantly face decisions. Regardless of who we are, where we live, or who we are with. Choices are always before us—choices about what to do and what to avoid. For Christians, one of the most pressing questions is whether our actions align with God's will. We often find ourselves wondering, “Is this something God desires for me, or should I avoid it?” These concerns stem from our deep desire to live in accordance with God's will, yet they can sometimes lead to confusion, uncertainty, and even paralysis.

God's will is often taught as something we must perform, but rarely is it explained as something we must receive; something He has given and desires for us to walk in. This idea can be a foreign concept for many who have never walked the path of writing a will or being an inheritor of another's will.

To better understand the significance of truly knowing and receiving God's will, consider the story of a young man who inherited a seemingly insignificant item from his deceased aunt—a dusty old book that sat on his shelf for months. One day, driven by curiosity, he opened the book and discovered a rare U.S. paper dollar in pristine condition, literally worth a fortune. This unexpected treasure, hidden within something so ordinary, serves as a powerful reminder that our spiritual inheritance in Christ may also be overlooked if we don't take the time to explore and understand its true value.

Similarly, think about an individual who inherits a family heirloom, an antique watch passed down through generations. On the surface, it might seem like just an old, worn-out piece of jewelry. However, when examined closely, this watch contains intricate craftsmanship, a history of love and care, and even hidden messages engraved within, revealing a rich legacy that was always there but needed to be discovered.

These stories vividly illustrate how we too have been given an inheritance from God. But what exactly does this mean? In everyday terms, an inheritance is something valuable passed down from one generation to the next, typically after someone passes away. It might include money, property, or cherished possessions. The key point is that **an inheritance is not something you earn—it's something you receive**, often unexpectedly, simply because of your relationship with the person who left it to you. It's a way of them giving a part of their life to an heir.

In a similar way, our inheritance from God is like receiving a treasure chest filled with precious gifts—only these gifts aren't gold, jewels, or rare dollar bills; they are the spiritual blessings that come from knowing the Lord Jesus. Just as the young man in the story was initially unaware of the value of his inheritance, many of us might not fully realize how precious these spiritual gifts are. We possess God's Spirit living within us, forgiveness, grace, and eternal life, yet we might not fully appreciate what we have. The challenge for us as believers is to discover these treasures, understand their value, and start living in the reality of what God has already given us.

Imagine if you lived in a cramped, decrepit apartment, where every day felt like a struggle, and frustration was a constant companion because of your living situation. Then, one day, you receive an inheritance and are handed the keys to a brand-new house. The excitement of a fresh start is within reach, but what if you never actually move in? Instead, you continue to live in your old, cramped apartment, occasionally driving by your new house and admiring it from a distance. This is how many Christians live—aware that they have an inheritance in Christ, but not fully embracing and living in it. Just as it would be absurd to ignore a new house, it's equally tragic to neglect the spiritual riches we have in Christ.

Understanding our relationship with God as being His child who has been given an inheritance changes our perspective entirely. Take a moment to ask yourself:

- Are you neglecting what God has given you?
- Are you striving to earn God's favor?
- Are you trying to figure out His will in every detail of your life?

What if you could rest in the assurance that everything you need has already been given to you in Christ? How would that change the way you approach your daily decisions?

Moving from Anxiety to Assurance

This shift from striving to receiving is crucial as we explore what it means to live in God's will. When you stop striving to earn God's favor and start receiving what He has already provided, your relationship with Him transforms. You move from a place of anxiety and uncertainty to one of peace and assurance. I encourage you to pause and ask yourself; am I living in the fullness of what God has already provided for His children, or am I still trying to achieve or earn something that's already mine?

As we learn to shift from striving to receive God's favor to resting in what has already been given, it becomes clear that the posture of our heart plays a crucial role in understanding and embracing God's will. Jesus said,

5“Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.”
- Matthew 5:5 (NKJV)

This verse shows that inheriting God's promises is often tied to a certain posture or attitude—meekness, humility, and submission to God Himself. Living in God's will requires more than just knowing His plans; it requires a humble and receptive heart. A meek spirit does not try to force its own way but trusts in God's timing and provision. This is the attitude that allows us to inherit His promises and live fully in the spiritual inheritance provided to us.

By living with humility and a spirit of meekness, we draw closer to God's heart. Instead of striving to earn His blessings, we position ourselves to receive His power and might, walking in the path He has already prepared for us in Christ.

A Personal Shift in Understanding God's Will

For years, I viewed God's will mainly through the lens of daily decision-making, seeking to align every choice with what I believed He wanted. I saw **Ephesians 2:10** as a directive to avoid missing out on specific good works that God had prepared:

¹⁰“For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.” - Ephesians 2:10 (NKJV)

While this perspective had merit, I misunderstood it. I misunderstood God's will, reducing it to a series of pre-planned tasks to complete rather than embracing it as part of a relationship with Him.

But there is more to God's will than a checklist of tasks or a set of rules to follow. It's about a relationship that includes—an inheritance we've been given, not just responsibilities to fulfill.

Romans 8:17 (NKJV) tells us:

¹⁷“...and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ...”

This inheritance is a profound blessing that transforms the way we view our walk with God. As heirs, we are invited to explore and engage with His inheritance, discovering more of its value and depth as we grow in our relationship with Him.

Embracing the Inheritance Already Given

As you continue to explore what it means to live in the fullness of God's will, remember that His will is not a hidden puzzle to be solved with anxiety but a rich inheritance to be embraced with gratitude and trust. You are His child, and He has already provided everything you need for life and godliness. The question now is not; “What must I do to figure out His will?” But rather, “How can I live by faith in the abundance of what He has already given me?”

This inheritance is not static; it's a living, dynamic reality. Imagine an inheritance that grows in value the more you explore and engage with it. The more you draw near to God, the more you uncover the depth of your spiritual riches. This progression is not just about individual growth but about becoming more integrated into the body of Christ, which is truly functional only when believers are close to God.

As we delve deeper into the specifics of this inheritance in the following chapters, we will see how it shapes our lives, transforms our decisions, and ultimately leads us into the good works He has prepared for us. Let this be a journey not of striving, but of resting in the beautiful reality of all that is yours in Christ.

Reflection Questions:

1. Take a moment to write down any areas in your life where you feel you are striving rather than receiving. How might your perspective change if you viewed these areas as part of God's inheritance for you? _____

2. In what ways can you begin to embrace the reality of your inheritance in Christ today? _____

A Call to Action

As we conclude this chapter, I want to leave you with a challenge—a call to action that will help you begin to truly embrace your spiritual inheritance. This week, take one practical step toward embracing the reality of your spiritual inheritance. Whether it's spending time in prayer, studying a particular scripture on our inheritance, or simply resting in God's promises. Commit to moving closer to the abundant life He has already provided for you. Remember, this journey isn't about striving; it's about first discovering and then receiving. So, as you take this step, do so with the confidence that you are already an heir to God's incredible riches in Christ.

2

EMBRACING GOD'S WILL BEYOND DECISIONS

Understanding God's will is often seen as a daunting task filled with questions like, "What should I do? Where should I go? How should I act?" While these questions are important, they can lead to anxiety and uncertainty. But what if God's will, is less about finding the "right" answer to every decision and more about living in the abundance of what He has already provided? It's common for Christians to ask what the Lord wants them to do when faced with various choices, fearing they might miss what God has meticulously prepared for them. While these concerns are valid, they often present an incomplete picture of what it means to live in the will of God.

Seeking God's Guidance

For example, choosing a meal can become a question of God's will: "Should I have the steak, chicken, or fish, Lord?" While this may seem exaggerated, it highlights how people sometimes approach decisions. Another example is choosing a job. "Should I work for one company or another?" The assumption is that choosing the wrong job might lead to catastrophic failure. Similarly, decisions about moving to a new place can raise questions like, "Where should we live? Should we live in one community or another? Will moving to the wrong community expose us to more sin?" These are indeed life-impacting decisions. The fear is that a "wrong" choice might lead one, "Out of God's will." This often reflects how some of us can become paralyzed with indecision over fear of missing God's will.

Yet, God is more concerned with other things. Regardless of the job we take, He wants to interact with others through us. Wherever we go, we take Him with us. If we don't go to one place, He can always reach that place through someone else. We can't be everywhere, and He doesn't expect us to be.

Examine your approach to seeking God. Are you primarily looking for answers, or are you pursuing a relationship with Him? Do your prayers focus more on what you want God to do, or do they also include praise for who He is and gratitude for what He has already done? Reflect on these questions, and let them guide you toward a deeper, more personal pursuit of God's heart as we continue.

Seeking God Beyond Guidance— Embracing a Relationship

Many people seek God primarily for information to improve their lives. They approach Him like a divine GPS, praying for specific guidance on what actions to take, which decisions to make, or which paths to follow, rather than seeking to know Him more deeply. Their prayers often become a list of requests—asking for direction, solutions, or blessings—while overlooking the importance of simply being in His presence, thanking Him for who He is, reflecting on what He has already provided, and participating with His life. This approach reduces God to a tool for navigating life's decisions, rather than a loving Father who desires an intimate relationship with His children.

Far too often, we neglect to praise Him for the greatest gift He has already given—His Son, through whom we have received eternal life and every spiritual blessing (**Ephesians 1:3**). Instead of approaching God with a heart of gratitude for the vast spiritual riches already ours in Christ, we tend to fixate on our immediate needs and desires, seeking the next step or answer as if our spiritual success depends on perfect decision-making.

Imagine standing at a crossroads, with several paths stretching before you. The anxiety of choosing the “right” one can feel overwhelming, as if one wrong step could distance you from God’s will or derail His perfect plan for your life. It’s easy to feel paralyzed by the fear of making a wrong move, believing that God’s will is a tightrope, and one misstep means falling out of His favor.

But what if, instead of narrow paths, you envisioned a wide-open field? In this field, you are not constrained by a single, rigid path but are free to explore and walk confidently in any direction. You are not bound by fear of making the wrong choice because you trust that within this field, God’s guidance and presence surround you. When God has something specific for you, He will clearly communicate it.

The Example of Paul and Barnabas: Seeking God Through Relationship, Not Just Direction

This understanding of God’s will is beautifully seen in the life of the apostle Paul and Barnabas in **Acts 13:2-3**. Instead of anxiously seeking specific instructions, they devoted themselves to ministering to the Lord, worshiping, fasting, and abiding in Christ. Their focus was not on finding the next mission or making the right strategic decision

but on enjoying God's presence and serving Him faithfully. It was in this context of relationship, not frantic searching for answers, that the Holy Spirit spoke clearly and specifically.

²“As they ministered to the Lord and fasted, the Holy Spirit said, ‘Now separate to Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.’ ³Then, having fasted and prayed, and laid hands on them, they sent them away.”

- Acts 13:2-3 (NKJV)

Paul and Barnabas weren't trying to "figure out" God's will; they were simply drawing near to God, worshipping Him, and the Holy Spirit made His direction known. This illustrates that God delights in revealing His specific plans to those who are primarily seeking Him, not just seeking His guidance.

Embrace the Journey: Trusting God's Guidance as You Walk

Rather than fearing the wrong choice or believing that God's will is a single, elusive path, imagine the joy of discovering new vistas and opportunities as you walk in the fullness of God's will, wherever you go. In this open field of His grace, every step can be taken confidently, knowing that God is with you, guiding you, and influencing your life, even when the path seems unclear. Trusting if we are going down a wrong path He will communicate it to us.

Your relationship with God is not a tightrope walk where one misstep means disaster. Instead, it is a dynamic, ongoing life with a loving Father who delights in walking with you, guiding you, and growing closer to you as you trust Him. When God has a specific assignment, He will make it known, just as He did with Paul and Barnabas. Until then, rest in His presence, enjoy His fellowship, and trust that wherever you are, you are already in the spacious and gracious will of God.

Scripture reminds us of God's faithfulness, even when we lack explicit direction:

³“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; ⁶in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths.”

- Proverbs 3:5-6 (NKJV)

This verse encourages us to trust God's character and presence rather than seeking every detail of His will before taking a step. Similarly, **Isaiah 41:10 (NKJV)** reassures us:

10“Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.”

God's guidance and support are constant, even when the way ahead is unclear.

Take A Moment to Reflect

Instead of fixating on what to do next, shift your focus to knowing God more deeply. Let gratitude for what **He has already done** fill your heart and let the assurance of His ongoing guidance bring peace to your life. Remember that God's faithfulness remains, even when we make decisions without explicit guidance. His grace covers us, and He is committed to leading us into His perfect plan, even when our path seems uncertain.

This shift from focusing on specific actions to embracing the broader inheritance we have in Christ is crucial to understanding what it means to live in God's will. As we abide in Him, He will guide us, sometimes correcting our course if necessary. But the starting point is a relationship with the Lord.

Escaping Through Fate and Blaming God

For people who do not know God, life often seems like a series of random events guided by “fate,” “destiny,” or some impersonal force that dictates their circumstances. Phrases like, “Everything happens for a reason,” or, “The universe is sending me signals,” are frequently used as explanations. These beliefs can serve as a convenient way to escape personal responsibility for decisions and actions. When people make bad or ungodly choices, they often look for an easy way out, saying, “It was fate,” or, “It was destiny.” This mindset often allows them to distance themselves from the consequences of their actions and avoid taking ownership of their choices.

It's not uncommon to hear, “It wasn't my fault; it was just meant to be,” or, “The universe had a plan.” These phrases are often employed by unbelievers to excuse themselves from the consequences of their actions, refusing to acknowledge that their choices, or the choices of

others, have real and tangible impacts. They can live recklessly, ignore moral responsibility, and still feel justified because they believe in some predetermined destiny that excuses their behavior.

Misusing the Will of God to Avoid Responsibility

Unfortunately, this mindset can also infiltrate Christian circles. Before we continue, I am in no way advocating that waiting upon God and seeking His thoughts and plan are not to be in the forefront of our walk with him. We should walk in faith, not in fear.

But consider a Christian who refuses to make a significant decision out of fear—such as taking a new job, moving to a new city, or ending an unhealthy relationship—until they receive a “sign” or a specific word from God. They may fear making the wrong choice and justify their inaction as, “Waiting on God.” This can seem spiritual, but it can often be an attempt to avoid the discomfort of stepping out in faith. They refuse to make decisions without a clear, unmistakable sign that it is God’s will, often waiting for a sense of divine approval before taking any action. In my opinion. This can be a form of unbelief. On the surface, this seems spiritual, but it can sometimes serve as a way to avoid responsibility for their choices. By insisting that every decision must come with a direct confirmation from God, they create a safety net that allows them to blame God when things don’t go as planned. If their decisions lead to failure or hardship, they can say, “Well, God, you told me to do this,” shifting the blame onto God instead of acknowledging their own role in the situation. It becomes an escape route: “It’s not my responsibility; I was just following God’s will.”

Walking in Faith: Making Decisions in the Expansive Will of God

This reluctance to take responsibility for decisions is one reason why God often doesn’t give explicit personal guidance as frequently as people might want. God desires that we walk by faith, make choices, and embrace the freedom He has given us within the expansive field of His will. He doesn’t want us paralyzed by the fear of making the wrong decision or living in constant expectation of a detailed, step-by-step plan for every aspect of our lives. And when things don’t go well, we can blame Him.

God’s will is not a narrow tightrope that we must fearfully tread, hoping we don’t fall off. It is a broad, open field of grace where He invites us to walk confidently in faith, make decisions, and trust that He is with

us. When God has a specific direction, He will communicate it clearly, just as He did with Paul and Barnabas in Acts 13. But in the meantime, He expects us to live responsibly, make choices, and step out in faith. This will help us realize that our lifestyles matter.

The Role of Wisdom: God's Will in Decision-Making

A key aspect of living responsibly within God's will is exercising wisdom and discernment. God's will is often found in wise decision-making, informed by Scripture, godly counsel, and the leading of the Spirit. **James 1:5 (NKJV)** reminds us,

5“If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him.”

Rather than waiting passively for a divine sign, we are called to actively pursue wise decisions, seeking insight through prayer and studying God's Word. God generously provides wisdom to those who seek it, enabling us to navigate the complexities of life with confidence and clarity. Wisdom is a vital tool God provides to help us make choices that honor Him and reflect His character.

Instead of waiting for a sign to excuse us from responsibility, God calls us to mature in our faith. We are not puppets on a string, waiting for every movement to be directed from above; we are children of God, empowered by His Spirit to live, decide, and act within the freedom of His will. So, let's resist the urge to blame God or fate for our decisions, and instead, embrace the responsibility and privilege, as a Christian walking by faith, in the wide-open spaces of His grace. Living our best by the general, “**Revealed will** of God,” which is for everyone to read in the black and white pages of the Scriptures. Once we focus on this, He will often reveal His, “**Specific will**,” for us individually.

Living Fully in God's Revealed Will Prepares Us for the Specifics

God's **general** will, as revealed in Scripture, provides a solid foundation for all believers. By committing ourselves to live by these principles, we not only honor God but also cultivate a life that is open and receptive to His **specific** guidance. The more we engage with **His revealed will**, the more we understand His heart and mind, making it easier to discern **His specific plans** for our lives. In essence, when we focus on faithfully living by what God has already shown us, He is

faithful to guide us in the specifics as we continue to walk in step with Him.

Moving Beyond Decisions to Embrace Inheritance

While decisions are a part of life, they are not the entirety of God's will for us. Instead of getting caught up in individual choices— "Lord, should I wear a green dress or a blue dress today, please tell me?"— we can embrace a fuller understanding: **God's will as an inheritance already given to us in Christ.** This perspective helps us move beyond the specifics of choice and into the vastness of what we have already received with confidence.

When we view God's will as a narrow path, every choice becomes a pressure point, an anxiety-ridden moment of potentially missing God's best. But when we see His will as an inheritance already given, we realize that our relationship with Him is about growth, exploration, and trust.

Challenges of Marriage and God's Will

Marriage is one of the most significant commitments a person can make, and for Christians, aligning this commitment with God's will is essential. But the real question isn't just whether we've made the "right" decision in choosing a spouse, but how we live out God's will within that relationship. This is where the truth of God's will as an inheritance becomes even more relevant, offering a biblical perspective that goes beyond the day-to-day choices and taps into the broader purpose of marriage in the Christian life.

Scripture offers counsel on what to look for in a spouse—qualities like: loving the Lord, faithfulness, loving others, and respect (**Ephesians 5:22-33**). While God may guide some **very specifically** in choosing a spouse, the focus is more on how we honor God within the marriage relationship, despite when and how the marriage started.

Some may think that marrying the "wrong" person justifies divorce, hoping to find the "right" one later. This perspective reflects a misunderstanding of God's will and overlooks His purpose for marriage.

While God desires reconciliation and growth in difficult marriages, He does not ignore complexities such as abuse or severe unfaithfulness, where separation may be necessary for safety and healing.

God's grace covers all situations, and He can redeem and work through any relationship that is surrendered to Him. Even if you feel you have made the "wrong" choice, God is in the business of restoration. Our inheritance in Christ includes the power to forgive, love, and rebuild broken relationships as we will see.

My wife and I were unbelievers when we married. Looking back, I realize that God's concern was not about our starting point but about how we would grow together in Him. It's not about how you start with the Lord; it's about how you finish.

A member of a previous congregation once believed she had married the wrong person. Convinced that she was "out of God's will," she left her husband and children and went through multiple marriages in search of what she believed to be God's true will for her. She claimed to have known before her wedding that she was, "Out of the will of God," but went through with it because the invitations had already been mailed, and she was too embarrassed to cancel the wedding. This story highlights the danger of having a partial view of "The will of God," where decisions are based on fleeting emotions rather than a grounded understanding of Scripture.

Many people are consumed with confusion and uncertainty about God's will for their lives, leading to a lack of peace and often more sin in search of relief. However, the will of God is described in several ways in Scripture. It's not just about specific choices, like whom to marry, where to live, what to eat for breakfast, what color socks to wear, but about the overall relationship, direction, and purpose God has for us—to love Him, love others, and grow in Christlikeness. When we make seeking God our primary focus, Jesus assures us that our needs (like food, clothing, and other necessities) will be provided for by God.

³³“But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you. ³⁴Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble. - Matthew 6:33-34 (NKJV)

Understanding God's will in marriage involves recognizing that while challenges are inevitable, they are opportunities for growth rather than signs of a wrong choice.

Applying God's Will in Marriage Challenges

Let's reconsider the story of the woman who left her husband and children because she felt unfulfilled and "out of the will of God." There was no abuse or infidelity in the marriage—she just felt unfulfilled and always doubted her choice. This decision reflects a misunderstanding of God's will and a lack of awareness of the inheritance she had already received through Christ.

If this woman had understood that God's will is not just a set of preplanned tasks she needs to find, but rather an inheritance she has already received through Christ, she might have realized that her deepest needs—to be loved unconditionally, to be accepted by God, to live in peace, and to feel secure—are ultimately met by God. Rather than relying solely on her husband to fulfill these needs, she could have turned to God, who has already provided these blessings through the Holy Spirit. Instead of leaving, she could have found strength in God's love, forgiveness, and acceptance, allowing Him to heal and fulfill her heart. This understanding could have empowered her to stay, nurture her family, and trust God to guide them through their difficulties.

When we realize that these blessings have been made available to us directly from God, it transforms how we approach our relationships and life's challenges. While God may not dictate every decision, such as whom we marry, He provides faith, wisdom and support throughout the process, guiding us to make choices that reflect our relationship with Him and our trust in His provision. Embracing her spiritual inheritance could have allowed this woman to find strength in God's love, forgiveness, and acceptance, enabling her to do God's will by staying and nurturing her family.

The Danger of Half-Truths

The devil is a master at twisting the truth, often using half-truths to sow doubt and despair. He takes the half-truths that many Christians have been taught and uses them to create confusion, leading people away from God. When believers are told that everything that happens is "God's will," they may begin to see God as a capricious ruler who allows suffering for no apparent reason. This distorted view of God's will leads to a fragile faith, easily shattered by life's inevitable hardships.

What's often missing in this teaching is the understanding of God's will as an inheritance—a gift that has already been given through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. When believers grasp this truth, they can begin to see their suffering in a new light. Rather than being a sign of God's abandonment, their trials can be seen as part of the process of living in a fallen world where God is still present, working for their good.

Avoiding Sin as Part of God's Will

In **1 Thessalonians 4:3-5 (NKJV)**, God's will is described in the context of avoiding sin and cultivating our sanctification:

"For *this is the will of God*, your sanctification: that you should abstain from sexual immorality; that each of you should know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honor, not in passion of lust, like the Gentiles who do not know God."

God's will is that we should not pursue sin. While this may seem obvious, it is crucial to understand that avoiding sin is not about adhering to rules but about resting in God's love, forgiveness, and acceptance. When we truly rest in these, we are less likely to desperately seek love or acceptance from others in ways that lead to sin. God's will is for us to trust Him to fulfill our deepest needs.

Abandoning the Will of God

Many Christians have faithfully attended church for years, only to find themselves hurt and stumbling in their faith, questioning God's goodness and love. This struggle is not due to any failure on God's part, but rather a consequence of the free will He has given each person. While God's will is for us to trust in His guidance, human failures, living in a fallen world, and spiritual challenges often distort this understanding. Many have been taught that everything—whether good or bad—is somehow "God's will," a Christianized version of fate or destiny. But when tragedy strikes, they grapple with questions like, "How could God allow this? How could this be His will?"

These questions aren't just abstract theological musings; they are cries of pain from those who have been deeply wounded, even by churches. Without a scripturally based understanding of God's will, many become vulnerable to the enemy's lies. They may begin to see God as distant or even the cause of their suffering.

It's crucial to understand that while God commands us not to lie, steal, hate, lust, or murder; people still choose to do so. These choices do not reflect God's will but rather the reality of human free will. God understands this better than anyone and has provided a way for us to receive His help, if we humble ourselves. Moments of pain and confusion often stem from a misunderstanding of God's will, which is less about Him controlling every event in our lives and more about living in His love. The Lord is a Father who guides, provides, protects, and supports those who abide in Him. Horrible things might happen to us because other people exercise their free will, but He is always there to help us through.

Giving Thanks in All Circumstances

Another example is **1 Thessalonians 5:18 (NKJV)**:

“In everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.”

This verse is often interpreted to mean that everything happening in your life is God's will. While this can be comforting, it can also be problematic, especially in the face of sin or harm. If someone is sinning against you, it would be cruel to suggest that this is God's will. Instead, the emphasis should be on finding a way to give thanks in all aspects of your life, including things that cause suffering, **without** feeling coerced to stay in harmful situations.

We can give thanks knowing that God can use circumstances to draw us closer to Him and develop our character. We shouldn't be thankful for suffering, loss, or sin against us, but we can give thanks for what God may do in the midst of those circumstances. This perspective is evident in the story of Joseph in the Old Testament. Though sold into slavery by his brothers and falsely accused and imprisoned, God worked behind the scenes to position him as a leader in Egypt, ultimately saving his family and many others (**Genesis 37-50**). Joseph's story illustrates that while the suffering caused by evil itself is not good, God can bring good out of even the most difficult situations. There is no better example of this than our Lord and Savior, who died at the hands of wicked men, but through His death came life for us.

This understanding invites us to a deeper level of trust, recognizing that God's will isn't about orchestrating every hardship but about redeeming even the worst circumstances for His glory and our growth.

Reframing the Search for God's Will

Many books and articles have been written on knowing God's will. One such approach is outlined in an article titled, "The Four C's for Knowing the Will of God," which suggests:

1. **Commandments:** What does the Bible say about it?
2. **Call upon the Lord:** Have you prayed about it?
3. **Circumstances:** What are the circumstances surrounding it?
4. **Christians:** What do other godly believers say about it?

While "The Four C's" approach is a helpful starting point, it often limits "Knowing God's Will" to a formula, or series of steps. Many of these books describe a partial understanding of how to know and receive the will of God. All the books I've read so far, often only focus on searching the scriptures, receiving godly counsel, prayer, and waiting for God's decision (all good things). Suggesting that God has something specific for you, and you must discover this mystery, is not complete.

I have found people using this approach, literally waiting for over two decades to discover what the will of God is for their life. And at the time of our conversation, they still had not received an answer. I have come to conclude that what is really happening is people want something in life or a certain type of life. They really want, "Their will to be done." They are trying to convince God to cooperate with their will. However, I believe many of these books miss the most important part of God's will.

Receiving God's Will as an Inheritance: A Complete Perspective on God's Will

A more complete perspective sees God's will as an already given inheritance in Christ, beyond mere decision-making. The church's focus should shift from merely seeking directions to living out the fullness of what has been provided through Christ.

God's will is not only about His desires for us but also about living in His inheritance provided for us. This shift from trying to decipher His day-to-day directives to embracing the broader inheritance we have in Christ is crucial. This is a complete paradigm shift. In **Hebrews 9:15-17**, our relationship with God is described in the context of a New

Covenant, inaugurated through the death of Christ. Through His death, He has left an inheritance in His will for His children:

¹⁵“For this reason Christ is the mediator of a new covenant, that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance—now that he has died as a ransom to set them free from the sins committed under the first covenant. ¹⁶In the case of a will, it is necessary to prove the death of the one who made it, ¹⁷because a will is in force only when somebody has died; it never takes effect while the one who made it is living.”

- Hebrews 9:15-17 (NIV)

This passage reveals that God’s will is like a Covenant—a legal document describing the eternal inheritance we as His children receive, as a result of Christ’s death. Think of it as a will that someone writes before they die. When that person passes away, their will goes into effect, distributing their possessions to their heirs.

In the same way, Jesus’ death on the cross triggered the transition from the Old Covenant to the New Covenant. And just as a will comes into effect after a person dies, God’s will—our spiritual inheritance—came into effect after Jesus died. This inheritance is not something we earn; it’s something we receive because of our relationship with Christ. We receive God’s Spirit into our hearts.

Adoption as Sons and Daughters

Galatians 4:6 (NKJV) reads:

⁶“And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, ‘Abba, Father!’”

When believers receive Christ, they are adopted into God’s family, becoming His children. **Ephesians 1:5 (NKJV) says,**

⁵“Having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will.”

Through faith in Christ, we move from “Adam’s family” (humanity) to God’s family, becoming heirs to His promises.

Romans 8:17 (NKJV) adds,

¹⁷“and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ...”

This inheritance is described as:

“...incorruptible, undefiled, and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven.” - 1 Peter 1:4 (NKJV)

It is the promise of eternal life and communion with God, untainted by the world's corruption.

The Holy Spirit as a Guarantee of Our Inheritance

¹³“In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise,¹⁴ who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.” - Ephesians 1:13-14 (NKJV)

These verses describe the Holy Spirit as a “guarantee” of our inheritance, we already have the complete inheritance, but only a foretaste of the full inheritance awaiting us in eternity.

Just as a person might receive a portion of their inheritance now while awaiting the full amount later, the Holy Spirit's presence in our lives today serves as a foretaste or guarantee of the complete and glorious life we will experience when we are freed from these earthly bodies.

To illustrate the point, I knew a man diagnosed with terminal cancer that passed away within one month of being informed he had cancer. During that time, he reached out to his attorney and the executor of his will with a specific desire: to give each of his children a significant portion of their inheritance while he was still alive. The attorney affirmed, “You are free to give your children money at any time you desire.” Acting on his wishes, the executor distributed this, “down payment,” a, “guarantee,” that more was to come to his children. After his passing, the children received the full inheritance that was far greater, and much more than they expected.

This family story helps us grasp the concept that, just as the initial gift was only a fraction of the full inheritance, the Holy Spirit within us now, is only a foretaste in these bodies, assuring us of the far greater glory that we will fully receive in eternity with Him.

Living with What We Have

Many people, continually strive for more, trying to acquire blessings outside of God's will. This approach significantly affects how we navigate our daily lives. God does not want us to live in constant pursuit of understanding His will, merely to maximize our experiences. Instead, He desires that we live according to what He has already given us.

Consider someone who spends their life collecting tools but never uses them. They have everything they need to create something beautiful, yet they keep searching for the "perfect" tool. As a retired carpenter, I can't tell you how many times I bought a new tool, only to realize I already owned the same one. Many Christians live this way—constantly seeking new blessings or revelations while neglecting the abundant resources God has already provided. It's time to pick up the tools we already possess and start building our lives with them.

A Story of Unclaimed Inheritance

Several years ago, a champion athlete I knew, passed away. He had meticulously prepared for this moment, ensuring all his affairs were in order, including a detailed will and trust. He had several children, and like many families, his relationships with some were strained. Conflicts that began during their teenage years remained unresolved, and over time, these old wounds deepened.

When he died, he left an inheritance for each of his children. Despite the unresolved conflicts, he wanted to ensure they were cared for after his passing—an expression of his enduring love. However, his eldest son, burdened by years of bitterness and indifference, was so estranged that he didn't even attend the funeral. The pain of the past had hardened into a barrier that seemed insurmountable. Over the years, the father had made several gestures to show his son that he was loved, but his son rejected every attempt at reconciliation.

Even after his father's death, the eldest son never claimed the substantial inheritance left for him. Whether out of indifference, lingering bitterness, or some deeper reason, he walked away from the final gift his father had prepared—a gift that could have been a bridge toward healing and restoration.

Imagine the son's internal struggle: Was it anger, grief, or resignation that kept him from accepting his father's final act of love? This story mirrors a common struggle many face in their spiritual lives: turning

away from the very blessings meant to heal and restore. It's a reminder that unresolved conflicts, pride, or deep-seated hurt can prevent us from embracing the gifts of grace and love that have the potential to transform our hearts and relationships.

Growing in Christ

A born-again believer will not grow as intended until they discover what they have already received from God. If they don't know what they have received, they can't apply it. If they reject what God has already given, they will miss the abundant life God had prepared for them. This is a significant challenge for many Christians. The focus of God's will for your life is not about figuring out specific actions or decisions He wants you to make. Instead, it is about deepening your relationship with Him and embracing the fullness of the inheritance you have already received through Christ Jesus. As you focus on this relationship, He will naturally reveal His will and guide you in the best direction for your life.

Reflection Questions:

1. Have you been like the older brother in the story, who rejected his father's inheritance, because of a conflict you've experienced at a church? Have you been hurt by one of God's children and find yourself blaming your Heavenly Father? _____

2. Are there blessings God has already provided that you may have overlooked or taken for granted? _____

3. How can you start living more fully in the inheritance you have received in Christ? _____

Conclusion

As you move forward, let this truth anchor your soul: In Christ, you have everything you need for life and godliness.

³”as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue,”
- 2 Peter 1:3 (NKJV)

Embrace your inheritance, live in the reality of God’s will, and experience the abundant life that Jesus came to give, free from the burden of anxiety over every decision. Trust that your loving Father has already provided everything you need and walk confidently in faith, the life He has set before you.

3

DISCOVERING GOD'S WILL AS YOUR INHERITANCE

The Anticipation of Inheritance

Have you ever anxiously waited to hear about something that could change your life—a job offer, a college acceptance, or the reading of a will? The anticipation, the uncertainty, the hope for something good—these emotions capture our experience of waiting for what could be a life-altering moment. Just as the anticipation of a will's reading can be nerve-wracking yet full of hope, our spiritual inheritance in Christ is not about waiting but about discovering and embracing the spiritual riches that are already ours.

Imagine yourself gathered with family, waiting anxiously for the reading of a will. The air is thick with tension as everyone anticipates what might be left to them. Now, consider another scenario: Instead of waiting passively, imagine that you've been given the combination to a safe, and inside lies the inheritance already promised to you. The excitement isn't in waiting for someone else's decision but in actively opening the safe, discovering the wealth that has been yours all along. This shift from passive to active engagement mirrors how we should approach our spiritual inheritance—it's not just something we receive at the end of life, but something to unlock and explore every day. This understanding profoundly influences most of our decisions and how we live daily.

What Does It Mean to View God's Will as an Inheritance?

Think of an inheritance in the natural sense—something valuable left to you by a loved one. It's a gift that you receive not because of anything you've done but because of your relationship with the person who left it to you. Now, consider that through Christ's death, we have been left an inheritance from God. This spiritual inheritance includes a New Covenant, a will with the blessings, promises, and privileges that are now ours because of the death of the Lord Jesus.

Ephesians 1:11 (NKJV) beautifully captures this truth:

11“**In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will.**”

This verse underscores the truth that our inheritance is intrinsically linked to God's will and His divine purpose. It is not something we earn; it is something that has been predestined for anyone that would surrender to Christ. Understanding this, shifts our mindset from striving to achieve God's favor to recognizing what has already been given to us as part of **His will**.

Born into an Inheritance

Imagine being born into a family like the Rockefellers, Waltons, or another great dynasty where wealth isn't just given to you at some future point; it's yours the moment you are born. This isn't just any inheritance—it's **a dynasty inheritance**, meticulously planned to endure for generations. You didn't work for it, earn it, or even deserve it based on anything you've done—it's simply yours by virtue of who you are and the family you belong to.

The wealth and privileges of being part of this family are vast and carefully planned long before you were even born. Your great-grandparents, with foresight and care, set up trusts, investments, and legal structures that would ensure every descendant would never lack, regardless of when they were born. From the moment you take your first breath, you are born into an inheritance that helps shape your identity, secures your future, and provides for your needs.

Now, translate that picture into the spiritual realm. When you become a Christian, you are born into an inheritance far greater than earthly wealth. As previously stated, the Bible tells us that through faith in Christ, we are made children of God and co-heirs with Christ (**Romans 8:17 NKJV**). This means that just like a child born into a wealthy family, you immediately gain access to all the spiritual riches that God has promised.

An Inheritance Planned Before You Existed

Just as wealthy families plan their estates for generations to come, God, in His infinite wisdom, prepared an inheritance for His children long before we ever existed. **Ephesians 1:11 (NKJV)** says,

¹¹“In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will.”

Born into Privilege, Not Earned by Works

Just as the descendants of the ultra-wealthy are born into privilege, Christians are born again into a spiritual inheritance that isn't earned but is given freely by grace. This inheritance includes the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, forgiveness, and eternal life. It's not something you work for; it's received simply by becoming part of God's family.

Security and Identity in the Family of God

Wealthy heirs are secure in their identity because they belong to a prominent family, and this shapes their worldview and future. Similarly, being a Christian means that your identity is forever changed. You are no longer an outsider but a beloved child of God with an eternal inheritance that can never fade, spoil, or perish
(1 Peter 1:4).

Access to Riches Right Now

The child born into a wealthy family doesn't wait until adulthood to enjoy the benefits—they have access from day one. Likewise, Christians have immediate access to the riches of God's grace, His peace, joy, wisdom, and the power of the Holy Spirit. We don't have to wait to start living in the fullness of our inheritance.

An Inheritance That Shapes Your Future

Just as a wealthy inheritance shapes the opportunities, responsibilities, and future of its heirs, our spiritual inheritance shapes our purpose and calling. We live differently because we know who we are and what we have been given in Christ. Our inheritance isn't just a future promise; it's a present reality that empowers us to live as God's ambassadors on earth.

Just as heirs to a vast earthly fortune are born into their inheritance, when you become a Christian, you are born again into a spiritual inheritance prepared by God Himself. This inheritance is far more enduring and priceless than any earthly wealth because it comes from the eternal riches of God's grace and love. You didn't earn it; it's yours because of who you are in Christ. So, live confidently—you are part of the family of God, and your inheritance is secure, abundant, and eternal.

9“For this reason we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual

understanding; ¹⁰that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; ¹¹strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, for all patience and longsuffering with joy; ¹²giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light.” - Colossians 1:9-12 (NKJV)

Paul’s prayer for the Colossian church, expressing his desire for them to grow in spiritual wisdom and understanding. To be filled with the knowledge of God’s will and to partake in their inheritance, underscores its importance. This “inheritance” is a recurring theme in both the Old and New Testaments.

These passages helped me realize that my relationship with God wasn’t about working to earn His favor but about embracing and living out the blessings He has already provided. What about you? Have you been striving to know God’s will so you earn blessings from God, or are you recognizing and living in the reality of the blessings already given to you? As heirs, let’s challenge ourselves to shift our focus from striving to recognizing the richness of our inheritance in Christ.

Old Testament Foreshadowing of Inheritance

In the Old Testament, the concept of inheritance was quite different from what we see in the New Testament. For the Israelites, inheritance primarily meant receiving physical land and tangible blessings—similar to how we think of inheritances in a secular sense today. This idea of inheritance is deeply rooted in God’s Old Covenant relationship with His people.

A key element of this inheritance was the Promised Land. God promised Abraham that his descendants would inherit a specific land—a land described as, *“Flowing with milk and honey,”* (Genesis 12:7, 13:15 NKJV).

We see the specifics of this land as an inheritance described in Numbers 26:53-56 (NKJV):

⁵³“To these, the land shall be divided as an inheritance according to the number of names. ⁵⁴To a large tribe, you shall give a larger inheritance, and to a small tribe, you shall give a smaller inheritance. Each shall be given its inheritance according to those who were numbered of them.

⁵⁵But the land shall be divided by lot; they shall inherit according to the names of the tribes of their fathers.
⁵⁶According to the lot, their inheritance shall be divided between the larger and the smaller.”

This fertile and prosperous land could meet all the Israelites’ physical and emotional needs. It was a place where they could find cities already built by others. With abundant food and water, materials like wood and stone for building houses, and rich soil for farming and raising livestock, it had gold, silver, copper, and all commodities necessary for successful nation building. The land was a tangible expression of God’s blessing, providing security, sustenance, and a foundation for their community and growth. A land flowing with milk and honey typifies the idea of a happy life. What humans generally desire as, “The will of God for my life.” If all your physical needs are met in abundance, new house, new car, a lot of food, gold, and silver as money in abundance—life would be great, right? Not really. Without God living in our hearts, we can gain the whole world and lose our souls. It is impossible to experience the fullness of life.

This passage highlights the practical allocation of land among the tribes of Israel, demonstrating that the inheritance was not only a physical blessing but also a means of organizing and uniting the people according to God’s will. While the Promised Land provided for their physical needs, it also served as a typology, pointing to a greater need—a spiritual inheritance that would later be fulfilled in their Messiah, the Lord Jesus. He would meet the deepest needs of their hearts, as we will see.

The Unique Inheritance of the Levites

No matter how bountiful the land was, it could not fulfill their inner longing for acceptance and a personal relationship with God. This level of intimacy with God was not available on a large scale during the Old Testament period; the Holy Spirit would come upon people for specific purposes, but He did not dwell permanently in their hearts as He does today for every believer in Christ.

Yet, it serves as a typology and points to a greater need—a spiritual inheritance that would later be fulfilled in their Messiah, the Lord Jesus, as we will see.

What is essential to see is that while each tribe was given a physical land inheritance, the priestly tribe Levi did not receive a land

inheritance. The tribe of Levi, however, had a unique inheritance: **The Lord God Himself**.

Numbers 18:20 (NKJV) declares:

20“And the Lord said to Aaron: ‘You shall have no inheritance in their land, nor shall you have any portion among them; I am your portion and your inheritance among the children of Israel.’”

This special inheritance for the Levites was **God Himself**. This Old Testament account foreshadowed a deeper spiritual reality for all believers in the New Covenant. While the rest of Israel received a physical inheritance, the Levites’ portion was **God Himself**, symbolizing a more profound relationship that transcends physical blessings and meets the deepest spiritual needs of our hearts and lives.

Imagine a tribe living among a people who each have vast lands and wealth, yet this tribe has no physical land to call their own. Instead, their inheritance is far more profound: they get to live and work in the very presence of God, experiencing His provision and favor daily. Their daily bread isn’t from fertile fields but from the hand of God Himself. This is what it means to have the Lord as your portion. **As Christians today**, we are invited to this same kind of daily, intimate fellowship with God as our inheritance.

New Testament Fulfillment of Inheritance in Christ

Understanding our spiritual inheritance starting from the typology in the Old Testament to the reality in the New Testament helps us see the inheritance from the will of God that we currently have through Christ.

In the New Testament, we find that the Old Testament inheritance points to a richer, spiritual inheritance fulfilled in Christ. While the Old Testament inheritance provided physical blessings, the New Testament reveals a richer, spiritual inheritance through Christ. The shift from a land-based inheritance to a spiritual one highlights the transition from physical to spiritual blessings. From the Old Testament to the New Testament.

3“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus

Christ from the dead, “to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled” and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you.” - 1 Peter 1:3-4 (NKJV)

Here, Peter elaborates on our current inheritance, describing it as, “incorruptible and undefiled.” This contrasts with the Old Testament inheritance, which, despite its blessings, was ultimately temporary and subject to decay, left on earth when the person dies. Our spiritual inheritance in Christ is eternal and imperishable. Although it cannot be passed down to our children or heirs, we take it (Him) with us into His kingdom and into eternity with the Lord. In other words, it is an eternal inheritance that never fades away.

Peter goes on to specifically link this inheritance with the Old Testament Levitical inheritance that was God himself and not land.

1 Peter 2:5 (NKJV) says:

⁵“You also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.”

Peter presents a powerful metaphor that connects New Testament believers to the Old Testament Levitical priesthood.

Peter’s depiction of believers as a, “Holy priesthood,” underscores their new identity in Christ, building on the typology of the Old Testament Levitical priests. Instead of physical lands, temples, and sacrifices; God is constructing a church with believers who offer spiritual worship and service, fulfilling the priestly role through their relationship with Jesus Christ. This reflects a personal, intimate relationship with God, enabled by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. God Himself in us, is our inheritance.

The Fulfillment of the Royal Priesthood

⁹“But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;” - 1 Peter 2:9 (NKJV)

Again, Peter’s uses of this metaphor, “The royal priesthood,” described in **1 Peter 2:9**, fulfills what was foreshadowed in the Old Testament. The Levites unique relationship with God, now extended to all

believers. As believers, we are part of this, ***“Royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people,”*** and our inheritance is the Lord Himself. Our treasures are primarily spiritual, found in Christ. This is the essence of the inheritance we have received through the New Covenant.

²⁰“***...I am your portion and your inheritance.***”
- Numbers 18:20b (NKJV)

Consider the idea of inheritance in your own life. How might understanding your spiritual inheritance as God Himself living in your heart change your approach to your daily walk with God?

The Main Point

The main point God wants us to know: The land, ***“Flowing with milk and honey,”*** which represents meeting all human needs physically, can never bring the full life that God created us to have. Why? Because God originally created humanity to live in His creation. We are designed by God with certain needs that only He can fill; this is by design. God intentionally created humanity with needs that only He can fill. We can receive His Inheritance and choose to allow Him into our hearts, or we can refuse Him. Humans are like a host for His Spirit to dwell in our bodies, where we maintain autonomy and have union with Him. This is **ONLY** possible if He lives in our bodies, like a temple of His Spirit. God gave His life **for us** so that He might give His life **to us**, so that He might live His life **through us**. It is only in this will that the deepest needs of your heart and life be met. God gives every man the opportunity to receive His life and surrender to Him as their God, or continue to try and be like God and attempt to meet these spiritual needs apart from Him.

This is what Jesus meant when He said:

¹⁰“***I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.***” - John 10:10b (NKJV)

The Holy Spirit: The Guarantee of Our Inheritance

Our spiritual inheritance is a present reality, guaranteed by the Holy Spirit.

¹³“***In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed,***

you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, ¹⁴who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.” - Ephesians 1:13-14 (NKJV)

As you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, the moment you believed the Holy Spirit saw the faith in your heart and immediately entered. “Having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise.” You were saved and sealed the moment the Holy Spirit forgave you for your sin of unbelief. It is important to note the inheritance spoken of here is not just for the future when you die, as some wrongly teach. The moment you are born again you are given this inheritance through the will of God which continues into eternity.

The Holy Spirit assures us of the promise of heaven when we leave this world. The Lord is your inheritance, and His will is that you live with Him for eternity.

The promise of the Holy Spirit was foretold in the Old Testament.

²⁸“And it shall come to pass afterward That I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh; Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, Your old men shall dream dreams, Your young men shall see visions. ²⁹And also on My menservants and on My maidservants I will pour out My Spirit in those days.” - Joel 2:28-29 (NKJV)

This prophecy speaks about a future outpouring of God’s Spirit on all people, which is cited in the New Testament as being fulfilled at Pentecost in **Acts 2:16-18 (NKJV)**.

¹⁷“the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you.” – John 14:17 (NKJV)

Living in the Fullness of Our Inheritance

Consider you’ve inherited a house full of priceless treasures. You don’t have to work to earn those treasures—they’re already yours because of your relationship with the person who left them to you. But you do have to recognize what you have and learn how to live in that house and use those treasures.

Conclusion

Living in the reality of God's will is about embracing the spiritual inheritance we have already received in Christ. It's not about waiting for something new but discovering and living in what is already ours.

This week, spend time reflecting on the inheritance you have received in Christ. Start by reading **Ephesians 1:3-18** and making a list of all the spiritual blessings Paul says are yours in Christ. Then, ask God to show you how to live more fully in these truths, trusting that He has already provided everything you need for life and godliness. Let this be a source of great joy and motivation, knowing that you are loved by your Heavenly Father, and that all you need has already been given to you by a loving Father who desires nothing more than for you to live in the fullness of His will.

4

LIVING IN THE REALITY OF GOD'S WILL

³²“Do not fear, little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom.” - Luke 12:32 (NKJV)

Building on our foundation of understanding God’s will as our inheritance, we now begin to explore the specific blessings we have received through Christ. These blessings are not abstract concepts but tangible realities shaping our daily lives and spiritual growth. We have received everything necessary for life and godliness because of what Christ has done for us. Our growth and maturity in Christ depend significantly on understanding and applying what we already have in Him. Many believers spend time and effort trying to obtain things from God, unaware of what they already possess. In some cases, they even reject what God offers and ask for what He is not offering them.

The Gift of Forgiveness

One of the most crucial aspects of our inheritance in Christ is the forgiveness of sins. Understanding and embracing God’s forgiveness is the foundation for knowing and receiving His will. This is why I am dedicating nearly an entire chapter to this vital truth. Without a proper grasp of God’s forgiveness, we risk struggling in every other area of our spiritual growth, as forgiveness is the gateway to living fully in His grace and purpose.

Forgiveness of our sins is one of the most profound and liberating gifts we have received, yet it is often misunderstood and underappreciated in our Christian Walk. Many believers carry a burden of guilt, unaware that Christ has already paid the price in full.

Imagine a person who has been burdened with a heavy debt for years, constantly striving and struggling to pay it off. One day, they receive a letter informing them that their debt has been completely forgiven—not only the past arrears, but all the future payments – past, present, future - not because of anything they have done, but because someone else has paid it in full. The relief, the joy, and the freedom that come from this realization are immense.

Just as a person who has been relieved of a heavy debt would feel an overwhelming sense of freedom, so should we in the knowledge that our sins are forgiven. God no longer holds your sins against you once

Christ enters your heart. This is the kind of freedom and joy that Christ offers us through the forgiveness of sins.

Many Christians today do not fully grasp this and spend much of their lives trying to obtain or maintain forgiveness, often through a human religious mediator. But when Jesus died on the cross, He dealt with the sin issue completely. In **Colossians 1:14 (NKJV)**, Paul wrote:

¹⁴“In whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.”

Ephesians 1:7 (NKJV) states:

⁷“In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace.”

Because of His death, we already have the forgiveness of sins. This is not something we need to obtain daily, monthly, or yearly through a human religious mediator. If you are born again, you already have this forgiveness.

³⁰“So when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, “It is finished!” And bowing His head, He gave up His spirit.” - **John 19:30 (NKJV)**

The Lord Jesus did not say, “I am finished,” and then die, He said, “It is finished!”

The Lord Jesus is the complete satisfaction for our sins. The full and final payment for the sins of the world was complete, paid in full, finished. John the Baptist, the Lord’s forerunner proclaimed...

²⁹“...Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!” - **John 1:29b (NKJV)**

When Jesus died on the cross, He died for the sins of the world, even for those who do not believe. The New Covenant did not begin when Jesus was born, it was ratified when He died. Understanding this is essential to understand the words of Jesus. The shift from the Old Testament to the New Testament frees us from constant striving for forgiveness (under the Old Covenant) and allows us to live in the reality of what Christ has already accomplished, through His indwelling Spirit. For more on the topic of forgiveness, you can read my book, ***“Forgiven: A Journey to Freedom.”***

The Lord on the Sermon on the Mount

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus taught under the Old Covenant law, primarily addressing the Jews. This context is crucial for interpreting His teachings accurately. Jesus' statement to, "Forgive or you will not be forgiven by God," (**Matthew 6:14-15**, paraphrased) reflects the Old Covenant context in which He lived. **Leviticus 19:18 (NKJV)** commands:

¹⁸"You shall not take vengeance, nor bear any grudge against the children of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the Lord."

Jesus' teaching on love and not holding a grudge, emphasized the necessity of forgiving others to receive forgiveness within the framework of the Old Covenant.

In contrast, the New Covenant, as taught in the book of Ephesians, reveals a complete reality. Paul writes:

³²"And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you."
- **Ephesians 4:32 (NKJV)**

The verb "forgave" is in the aorist tense in the original Greek, indicating a past action that is completed and not ongoing. Paul affirms that God's forgiveness of believers under the New Covenant in Christ is a finished act that does not depend on our current or future actions.

Paul reinforces this in **Colossians 3:12-13 (NKJV)**:

¹²"Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; ¹³bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do."

The aorist tense here emphasizes the completed nature of Christ's forgiveness, urging believers to extend forgiveness as a reflection of the complete forgiveness they have already received.

As Paul wrote in **1 Corinthians 13:5b (NKJV)**,

⁵"...Love keeps no record of wrongs."

This quality of love (from **Leviticus 19:18**) mirrors God's forgiveness. Christ has removed the weight of our sins, and we are called to live in this freedom. He is not holding a grudge against you. He loves you and has already forgiven you.

Consider a heavy backpack filled with rocks, each representing a past sin. Though Christ has emptied the backpack, many continue to carry it as if it's still weighed down. Alternatively, imagine dragging a cart loaded with unnecessary items—worries, regrets, and doubts. Despite being told you can let go; you hold on out of habit. Christ has already removed the weight, and it's time to walk in the freedom He offers. God loves you; He accepts you as His own child in Christ, and He no longer holds your sins against you.

What would it look like to finally set that backpack down and believe that Jesus is God manifested in the flesh? That He paid for all your sins, the sins of the world and even the sins of your enemies? How would that look for you to live in the freedom that's already yours? You can start right now with a simple prayer from your heart to the Lord Jesus.

Salvation and the Restoration of Life

Some might ask, "If Jesus died for everyone's sins, then why isn't the whole world saved?" This confusion arises because many people equate salvation with the forgiveness of sins. But **forgiveness is what makes salvation possible**. Salvation is not only getting our sins forgiven. Jesus died for the sin of **the world**, removing the sin barrier, which then made salvation possible.

After His resurrection, Jesus sent His Spirit into the hearts of **those who believed Him**. **Salvation involves the restoration of life**—it is receiving Christ's Spirit into our hearts.

When Adam and Eve sinned, they lost the life of God within them. Salvation is about restoring that life, the life of God, that was lost. Not ONLY having our sins forgiven, but we must also be born again, which happens by receiving the Lord Jesus into our heart.

³"Jesus answered and said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." - John 3:3 (NKJV)

Unless a person is born again, they cannot see the kingdom of God, much less go there!

The apostle Peter continues to emphasize this in his 1st epistle:

²³“having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever,” 1 Peter 1:23 (NKJV)

Romans 5:8-11 (NIV) explains the complete forgiveness of sins well:

⁸“But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. ⁹Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God’s wrath through him! ¹⁰For if, while we were God’s enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life! ¹¹Not only is this so, but we also boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.”

Forgiveness by His blood is essential, that is for everyone, but much more than that, we are, “**Saved through His life.**” Salvation involves receiving His Spirit, the life of God within us, which makes eternal life a reality. Forgiveness alone does not save us, that is what Jesus accomplished for the world.

Many people know Jesus died for their sins but refuse to receive His life into their hearts. Many people who read the bible and have attended church all their lives get angered when confronted with this truth. They were wrongly taught that Christ’s forgiveness was salvation. They reject the idea of being saved by His Life. I know this very well as a pastor. As an example, in **John 5:40 (NKJV)**, Jesus says:

⁴⁰“But you are not willing to come to Me that you may have life.”

In this passage, Jesus is speaking to the **Jewish leaders** who were unwilling to accept Him as the Messiah despite the evidence and the testimony given about Him. Obviously, these people were already alive. He points out their refusal to come to Him and receive Him, which is necessary for receiving **eternal life**. **John 10:10b (NIV)** says:

¹⁰“...I have come that they may have life and have it to the full.”

They were already alive when the Lord Jesus told them this; "...I have come that they may have life..." Who is He referring to? Living religious people, who are spiritually dead. To graphically illustrate the importance of having Christ in you, Jesus told a massive group of **disciples** the following:

⁵³"Very truly I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. ⁵⁴Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise them up at the last day."

- John 6:53-54 (NIV)

Jesus uses the metaphor of eating His flesh and drinking His blood to vividly illustrate the deep, personal union that believers are called to have with Him. Salvation is not merely that Jesus died for your sins and seeking forgiveness through personal or mediated prayers. True salvation occurs when we receive the Lord Jesus Christ into our hearts, allowing Him to dwell within us. Just as bread must be consumed and taken into our bodies, so must we receive Jesus into our heart, as the Bread of Life. Salvation is not found in outward actions, like asking for forgiveness, but in a personal relationship with Christ, where He becomes our very life. We are saved by His indwelling presence—His life in us.

¹⁰"For if, while we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to Him through the death of His Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through His life!"

- Romans 5:10 (NIV)

The death of God's Son reconciled the world to God, but this does not mean the world is automatically saved. Christ's death dealt with the sin issue, making salvation possible, but salvation itself requires more—it requires His life within us. Jesus rose from the dead to send His Holy Spirit into the hearts of those who believe and receive Him. Just as bread enters our bodies to sustain physical life, so must Jesus enter our hearts to sustain spiritual life. Without this indwelling Presence, we remain spiritually dead.

⁶⁶"From that time many of His disciples went back and walked with Him no more." – John 6:66 (NKJV)

This verse is a tragic response by some of His disciples because they totally misunderstood – thinking Jesus was teaching cannibalism. Jews couldn't eat pork, much less humans.

Living in the Truth of Our Salvation

Ephesians 2:8 (NKJV) emphasizes that salvation is a gift from God, received through faith:

8“For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God.”

Salvation is a gift we receive because we have believed Jesus died for the sins of the world, including all mine, yours, and the unbelieving world. When we believe Him, we receive the gift of eternal life. If we do not believe we will perish, although already forgiven.

Many Christians doubt their salvation, wondering if they are truly saved. But if you have believed the Lord Jesus is God who paid for the sin of the entire world, if you receive Him, you are saved. Live your life trusting in this truth, “It is finished!”

1 John 2:1 (NKJV) reminds us that Jesus is our advocate, continually interceding for us:

1“My little children, these things I write to you so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.”

Jesus advocates on our behalf whenever we sin, reminding us that He has already dealt with our sins, they are paid in full. Imagine having a lawyer who not only represents you in court but also takes the penalty for your crime. This is what Jesus does for us—He stands in our place, having taken the punishment we deserved, and continually intercedes for us before the Father. Knowing this, how can one not live in the assurance of salvation? There are only four ways:

1. They have never heard the gospel (**Romans 10:14-15**).
2. They are saved but have not understood the gospel (**Acts 18:24-26**).
3. They have believed a false or incomplete gospel (**Galatians 1:8-9**).
4. They rejected the gospel (**2 Corinthians 4:4**).

The Assurance of Our Inheritance in Christ

Understanding the fullness of our inheritance in Christ involves recognizing the contrast between a heart that seeks God's will and one that misunderstands or rejects it. In the Parable of the Wicked Tenants, Jesus tells a story that serves as a cautionary truth about the danger of misunderstanding God's inheritance. In **Mark 12:7b (NKJV)** and **Luke 20:14b (NKJV)**, we read:

"...This is the heir. Come, let us kill him, and the inheritance will be ours."

In this parable, the tenants represent Israel's leaders, and the heir symbolizes Jesus. The tenants mistakenly believe that by killing the heir, they can seize the inheritance for themselves. This story highlights a profound misunderstanding: the belief that God's inheritance can be taken by force or stolen.

Instead, the true inheritance in God's Kingdom is not about seizing or earning what rightfully belongs to someone else. It is about receiving by grace and living in alignment with God's will. Jesus' death was not an opportunity for the world to claim what was never theirs by force; rather, it was an invitation to become heirs through faith and acceptance of His sacrifice.

To be an heir in God's Kingdom is to embrace His grace, mercy, and love, recognizing that our inheritance comes not from our efforts but from our relationship with Him. The assurance of our inheritance is rooted in this understanding—that God's blessings are freely given to those who trust in His promises and follow His will.

The Word of His Grace and Our Inheritance

The, "Word of His grace," is foundational to understanding and living in our inheritance. **Acts 20:32 (NKJV)** says:

³²"So now, brethren, I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified."

This verse beautifully ties in with the idea that our spiritual inheritance in Christ is not just a future promise but a present reality that builds us up and sanctifies us. The, "Word of His grace"—God's message and promises—are the very means by which we grow and mature in our

faith. It is by leaning into this grace, understanding His promises, and allowing His word to shape our lives that we experience the fullness of our inheritance.

Living in the Reality of God's Gift

Understanding this frees us from the constant striving for forgiveness and allows us to live in the reality of what Christ has already accomplished. Instead of the focus being on us, it is on Him. Recognizing forgiveness as part of our inheritance—something we already possess because of Christ's sacrifice—enables us to stop living as though we need to earn it or maintain it. But how often do we forget this truth in our daily lives? Think about the last time you felt burdened by guilt or unworthy of God's love. What if, in that moment, you reminded yourself that forgiveness is already yours? Instead of striving for what has already been given, how would your life change if you chose to live confidently in what you have received?

As you reflect on this, consider how embracing this truth could transform your relationship with God and others. Instead of focusing on the penalty, focus on the promise:

| ³⁰“...It is Finished.” John 19:30 (NKJV)

We don't have to keep trying so hard to be forgiven or earn God's approval—it's already ours because of what Jesus did. Instead of chasing after what we think we need, we can start enjoying what we already have, transforming how we live every day.

Imagine you're running a race and suddenly realize you've already crossed the finish line, but you kept running because you didn't know the race was over. This is how many Christians live—striving for something that's already been accomplished. It's time to stop running and start celebrating the victory Christ has already won for us.

If you are born again, you already have the forgiveness that Christ secured through His sacrifice. Jesus has fully satisfied the demands of justice for all our sins.

The finality of the cross and Christ's work frees us from the need to strive for forgiveness. Instead of living as though we lack something, we should embrace the reality of what Christ has already accomplished. This shift in understanding transforms how we approach our daily lives, moving from striving to resting, from seeking to living in the fullness of what we already possess.

A Call to Live in the Fullness of God's Will

As you continue your journey, let the truth of what you have already received in Christ guide you into a deeper, more fulfilling relationship with God. Trust that His provision is complete, and His love for you is unchanging.

5

LIVING IN THE FULLNESS OF GOD'S GIFTS

It's vital to reflect on the impact that living in the reality of our spiritual inheritance can have on our daily lives. This inheritance is not just a promise of future blessings but a present reality that transforms our everyday experiences. Each of these gifts—rooted in our relationship with God—represents a divine provision that meets our deepest needs, far surpassing anything the world can offer. As we delve into these truths, let's not just understand them intellectually but actively apply them, inviting the Lord to shape our actions, thoughts, and decisions.

1. The Gift of the Holy Spirit: God Himself Within Us

The Holy Spirit is not merely an influence; **He is our inheritance**—God Himself dwelling within us. He is our Creator, Comforter, Counselor, and Encourager. Jesus promised that the Holy Spirit would be our Helper:

**“And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever.”
- John 14:16 (NKJV)**

The Holy Spirit guides us into all truth, as Jesus said:

“However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth.” John 16:13 (NKJV)

Moreover, the Holy Spirit is our Encourager:

**“But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.”
- John 14:26 (NKJV)**

God Himself lives within you. Just like your life-giving blood is in your veins but isn't always felt, so too does the Holy Spirit live in you, although His presence might not always be felt. How does this truth change the way you approach your day? When you need comfort, counsel, or encouragement, remember that the Holy Spirit is there for you, guiding and supporting you.

Who better in this world could be and provide all we need? Consciously seek His guidance in your decisions and rest in the knowledge that He is with you, sharing His life with you. What greater inheritance could we ever have! To know Him is to have His will for our lives.

2. The Gift of Acceptance: Unconditional Love from the Father

One profound implication of having the Holy Spirit within us is the assurance of God's acceptance. This acceptance is only possible if we have received full and complete forgiveness for all our sins—past, present, and future. If God were to hold even one sin against us, we would not have full acceptance from our perfect and holy God. This is why understanding God's forgiveness through Christ is essential.

As social and spiritual beings, we naturally seek acceptance from others. However, once we believe in Christ's forgiveness, we can begin to experience His acceptance. Our heavenly Father loves us, accepts us in our current condition, and delights in us.

Consider a baby who poops its diapers, screams in the middle of the night, and disturbs our sleep. Despite these inconveniences, we love and accept the baby just as it is. Similarly, God loves and accepts us, with all our flaws and imperfections.

Now, think about a pet, like a dog, that might chew on furniture, bark at odd hours, or make a mess in the house. Despite these challenges, we still love and cherish our pets. We accept them with all their quirks and imperfections because of the joy and companionship they bring into our lives. In the same way, God loves and accepts us, regardless of our shortcomings. He delights in us and enjoys being a part of our lives.

Yes, the Lord enjoys watching over you and participating in your life, just as we enjoy and cherish the presence of a baby or a beloved pet in our homes.

If the Creator of the universe lives within us and promises never to leave us, we can experience perfect acceptance with God. This acceptance transforms our lives fundamentally.

Ephesians 1:6b (NKJV) reminds us,

| **6”He made us accepted in the Beloved.”**

Notice Paul says, **"He made us."** This is not about us making ourselves acceptable to God.

Our acceptance is not something we earn, but a reality of our relationship with Christ. Our worth is grounded in God's acceptance rather than in our personal achievements or external validation. Understanding God's acceptance fosters a positive identity as His child, giving us resilience and hope.

Consider a child who constantly seeks approval from their parents. If that child knew they were already deeply loved and accepted, their behavior would change significantly. Similarly, when we fully understand God's acceptance, we are freed from seeking validation elsewhere. This freedom allows us to live confidently in His love.

Hebrews 13:5b (NKJV) assures us of God's constant presence:

| ⁵**"I will never leave you nor forsake you."**

This aligns with **John 14:16 (NKJV)**, where Jesus promises that the Holy Spirit will be with us forever, and **Matthew 28:20 (NKJV)**, where He says, ***"I am with you always, to the end of the age."*** These promises reinforce that God's acceptance is unwavering and eternal. Embracing this truth allows us to stop seeking acceptance from the world and to rest in the assurance that we are already accepted by God. This divine acceptance is part of our spiritual inheritance and liberates us from the pressure to earn others' approval.

I wish someone would create a tee-shirt that simply says, "Accepted"

Stop seeking acceptance from the world, and rest in the assurance that you are already accepted by God. That is part of your inheritance and the will of God. Those who reject you and Christ in you will one day give an account to God.

3. The Gift of Grace: Unmerited Favor and Strength

Grace is God's unmerited favor, and His divine influence on our hearts, given to us freely in Christ. Grace is not only the foundation of our salvation but also the power by which we live the Christian life:

8“For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God.”

- Ephesians 2:8 (NKJV)

My personal definition of **“Grace”** is simply this: **“God did it.”** When we think about the universe, God did it. When we consider this world, God did it. He accomplished it all without our help and without anyone else's assistance. When we sinned, because of His immense love for us, He sent His Son to die for us. God did it—He died; He rose. It was all His doing, not ours. All we can do is receive the grace of God through faith. God saves us; He died for us; He rose from the dead. He did it, and He enters our hearts when we realize this and believe in Him.

1“You then, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.” - 2 Timothy 2:1 (NIV)

This verse is part of Paul's letter to Timothy, encouraging him to rely on the grace found in Christ Jesus for strength and perseverance in his ministry.

John the Apostle speaks about victory over the world. In his first epistle, he writes that those who are born of God overcome the world through their faith in Jesus as the Son of God. Specifically, in **1 John 5:4-5 (NKJV)**, he states:

4“For everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith.

5Who is it that overcomes the world? Only the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God.”

Additionally, in **John 16:33 (NIV)**, Jesus says:

33“I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.”

The Lord emphasizes that through faith in Him, believers have victory over the worldly influences and challenges they face.

God's grace empowers us to live victoriously, enabling us to do what we could never do in our own strength. When you face challenges, whether in relationships, work, or spiritual growth, remember that God's grace is sufficient for you. Rely on what He has done, His grace in every situation, knowing that His power is made perfect in your weakness (2 Corinthians 12:9). Allow grace (what He has accomplished) to be the driving force in your life, sustaining you through every trial and empowering you to live in victory.

4. The Gift of Peace: Jesus' Own Peace

The Lord told His disciples:

"Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you." - John 14:27 (NKJV)

The peace we receive is not just a feeling but the very peace of Jesus Himself. Notice Jesus says, "My peace I give to you." This is not human peace, but supernatural peace—the peace of Jesus:

This is His peace, a spiritual peace that only Jesus can give us. It is not something the world can offer. The angels proclaimed in the Gospel of Luke, "Peace on earth and goodwill to men." On an individual basis, this means a person can have peace and goodwill with God on earth. Jesus, the "Prince of Peace," brings this peace on earth. He is the "God of peace" who blesses. Humanity desperately needs peace on earth, and it is only in the "Prince of Peace" that we can receive it and experience Him personally.

This peace surpasses all understanding and guards our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus (**Philippians 4:7**). It is a peace that is not dependent on circumstances but rooted in our relationship with God. When anxiety or fear threatens to overwhelm you, turn to your inheritance, remember that you have Christ, and the peace of Christ within you. It is His peace over your heart and mind, and trust in His presence. Embrace His supernatural peace and allow it to guard your heart and mind, knowing that it is a gift directly from Jesus Himself.

In fact, this peace is one of the ways God directs us in life. We are led by His peace. My wife and I wait on Him and make decisions when we are led by His peace. Often, we know the will of God in a situation simply because of His peace in us.

5. The Gift of Joy: The Joy of the Lord

The joy we receive is not based on external circumstances but is the joy of the Lord, which is our strength. Notice again, Jesus says, “**My joy.**” This is not human joy, but supernatural joy—His joy. This is spiritual joy, eternal joy:

**¹¹“These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full.”
- John 15:11 (NKJV)**

This is spiritual joy, it is His joy, a deep, abiding sense of well-being that comes from knowing God and being in a right relationship with Him. Even amid trials, this joy remains because it is rooted in our connection with Jesus. The world cannot give this joy, nor can it take it away. When faced with difficulties, remember the inheritance you have received, choose to focus on God’s goodness and faithfulness, allowing His joy to be your strength. Let the joy of the Lord be your constant companion, sustaining you through every trial.

6. The Gift of Spiritual Rest: Rest for Your Souls

Jesus offers us rest in a world filled with busyness, stress, and exhaustion. He invites us to come to Him for a deep, spiritual rest that refreshes our souls:

²⁸“Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. ²⁹Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.” - Matthew 11:28-29 (NKJV)

Notice He says, “***I will give you rest.***” This is a spiritual rest that can only be found in Him. Many Christians today are exhausted with the busyness of life—both spouses working full-time jobs, raising kids, and dealing with all the hustle and bustle. People are tired. But as Christians, we must remember that Jesus gives rest. This rest is, in part, ceasing from our own works to live life, ceasing from our efforts to earn God’s blessings. It means ceasing from your works and resting in His works on your behalf. This is the spiritual rest we need—to believe that Jesus’ work on the cross is complete. He is seated at the right hand of the Father, resting; we should be seated at His feet, praising and worshipping Him. Not trying to be forgiven but trusting that you are forgiven and loved.

⁴²“**but few things are needed—or indeed only one. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her.**” - Luke 10:42 (NKJV)

As Christians, we must remember that true rest is found in Jesus. We do not have to strive endlessly to please God or gain His favor, for God Himself is our inheritance. Rest in the completed work of Christ on the cross, which provides full and complete forgiveness of your sins. Trust that He is enough. “It is finished.”

7. The Gift of His Love: Experiencing God's Unconditional Love

The gift of God's love—His unconditional, sacrificial, agape love. Jesus Himself said:

¹³“**Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends.**” John 15:13 (NKJV)

And we see the depth of God's love for us in **John 3:16 (NKJV)**:

¹⁶“**For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.**”

If you were to ask me, “As a Christian, should I be more of a loving person, or be loved more?” I would say this is an issue that is often misunderstood when taught.

Many Christians are really trying to love like God loves, but what happens when you keep loving others—your husband, kids, neighbors, everyone at church? You quickly find yourself running out of love. You become burnt out, wanting to separate from those you should be loving because you feel the need to be loved.

I believe it is more important that you be loved by God than to focus on loving others in your own strength. You need to be loved by your God! You need to bow to Him and allow Him to fill you with His love.

⁹“**As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love.**” - John 15:9 (NKJV)

Notice, Jesus uses, “**My love,**” to refer to His own love for His followers, which is as profound as the love the Father has for Him. This is supernatural, divine love that only God can give you. When you receive His love, then you can give love to others.

But if you do not stop running to love everyone, your love will end, sometimes leading to relational breakdowns or even divorce. Let God love you; He can fill your heart with His supernatural love in a moment. Like a nuclear powerplant that will empower you all day and for the rest of your life!

Living Out These Gifts Daily

As we reflect on these wonderful spiritual gifts, it is crucial to ask ourselves how we are living in the fullness of what God has already provided. Are we allowing the Holy Spirit to guide us, resting in God's acceptance, living by His grace, embracing His peace and joy, and finding spiritual rest in Him?

The key to living out these gifts is to move from simply knowing about them to actively applying them in our daily lives. This means trusting God in good times and in difficult times, relying on His grace when we feel weak, seeking His presence when we need peace, and living out our purpose with intentionality.

Consider the following practical steps to help you live in the fullness of God's gifts:

- Start each day by surrendering to the New Covenant. Ask the Holy Spirit to guide your thoughts, actions, and decisions throughout the day.
- Make a habit of thanking God for His mercy, acceptance, grace, peace, joy, and love.
- Spend time talking to God about these issues, search the scriptures to learn and grow in your relationship with Him. Take note of the type of relationships the Lord had with different people, and use this as a basis for better understanding the types of people and relationships He is interested in, and the type he is not interested in.

Reflection Questions:

- Which of these spiritual gifts do you find most challenging to embrace fully in your daily life? Why? _____

- How can you practically apply one or more of these gifts

in your relationships, work, or personal life? _____

- What changes can you make to live more intentionally in the fullness of what God has already provided for you? _____

Embracing the Fullness of God's Will

As we conclude this chapter, remember that living in the fullness of God's will means actively embracing the spiritual inheritance that is already yours in Christ. God's will is about more than just making the right decisions; it's about living fully in what Christ has already provided. This inheritance is not merely a theological concept but a dynamic, daily reality that transforms how you live, think, and relate to God and others. Each gift—whether the Holy Spirit, acceptance, grace, peace, joy, spiritual rest, or His love—serves as a constant reminder of God's deep desire for you to live abundantly and securely in His love. May you continue to walk boldly in this inheritance, allowing these gifts to shape every aspect of your life and draw you closer to His heart.

Let your life be a testament to the richness of God's inheritance, reflecting His love, grace, and glory to the world around you.

CONCLUSION: LIVING IN THE FULLNESS OF GOD'S WILL

As we bring this book to a close, remember that knowing and receiving the will of God is not about striving to figure out God's plan for our lives. It is about a love relationship with Him; it's about receiving what He has done, receiving the inheritance that was made available through the death of His Son. The inheritance that you received the moment you were born again into God's family. The gift of the Holy Spirit, forgiveness of sin, acceptance, grace, peace, joy, purpose, and meaning are all part

of the rich inheritance we have in Christ. They are not just theological concepts but living realities that shape our everyday lives.

God has shown us that even if we possess all the physical wealth and prosperity this world can offer, our hearts will still feel empty without Him. We would not be complete. This is evident in the Old Testament, where the nation of Israel was given an inheritance—“***A land flowing with milk and honey.***” Yet, this could never meet the deepest needs of their hearts. Only God living in our hearts can fulfill our deepest needs: to be loved unconditionally, to be completely forgiven and accepted, and to experience His love, peace, joy, purpose, and meaning in life. This is our inheritance.

Understanding God’s will as an inheritance changes the way we live daily. This perspective should free us from the anxiety of decision-making because we can rest in the assurance that everything we need for life and godliness has already been provided. Instead of worrying about every decision, we can trust that as we walk in the fullness of our inheritance, God will guide us naturally. This shift from striving to resting is the key to living in the reality of God’s will. You don’t need to earn these gifts. This inheritance is yours because of your relationship with Jesus. It is an inheritance that will **NEVER** be depleted with time or circumstances, nor lose its value. It’s eternal. Live in the fullness of what God has already provided, and let these gifts transform the way you approach every aspect of your life.

As you move forward, let this truth anchor your soul: In Christ, you have everything you need for life and godliness. Embrace your inheritance, live in the reality of God’s will, and experience the abundant life that Jesus came to give, free from the burden of anxiety over every decision. Trust that your loving Father has already provided everything you need and walk confidently in the path He has set before you.