

Remnant Life Church

June 25, 2017

**Healing Power:**

**The Will of God**

Exodus 19:1-6

- What is will?
  - As with many words there are a variety of definitions
  - A will can designate property and possession dispersment of a recently deceased person
  - Will is to consent as in “I will”
  - Will is also about the actions, events and desire of a person or event
    - Tomorrow I will go to the store
    - I have made up my mind to go and I will
    - Accidents will happen
    - You will do as I have said
  - So how does this relate to the Bible and, more importantly, the will of God?
    - Is God’s will the same as the will I have?
    - Does everyone have a will? (ask the parent of a 2-year-old)
    - How do we, can we, begin to comprehend the Will of GOD!?!?!

**READ – Ex 19:1-6**

- How does the Bible use the word “will”
  - In the NIV the word is found, in various forms, over 6000 times
  - In the OT Hebrew it is used with a verb in the imperfect tense
    - In other words it is an incomplete action with a future time component attached
    - I will go; I will take... - it has not been done yet but it will be
  - In the NT a new definition enters
    - You still have the same usage of “will” as in the OT
    - But now we begin to see the “will of God,” “your will,” and “God’s will”
      - (first time) **Matt 6:10** - ...*your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven*
      - Jesus prays in the garden that His Father’s will be done (**Matt 26:39**)
    - What brings about this change?
      - It is the person Jesus Christ
      - Prior to Jesus man’s relationship with God was one of fearful worship, the necessity of the priests as mediators, and multiple sacrifices for sin
        - **Ex 19:12** - *Put limits for the people around the mountain and tell them, ‘Be careful that you do not approach the mountain or touch the foot of it. Whoever touches the mountain is to be put to death.*

- Then Jesus came to live among man and everything changed
        - **I Tim 2:3-6** - *...God our Savior, who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth. For there is one God and one mediator between God and mankind, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all people.*
        - Jesus, by virtue of His life, death, and resurrection made a way for us to know God the Father on an intimate level
        - He made it possible for us to approach, ask, and know the will of God
        - This is why the prophets of the OT disappeared after Jesus came
          - God now spoke to us not through someone else
  - Yet He is still God!
    - The greatest evidence of the pride of man is our belief that we can control God
    - **Isa 29:15-16** - *Woe to those who go to great depths to hide their plans from the LORD, who do their work in darkness and think, "Who sees us? Who will know?" You turn things upside down, as if the potter were thought to be like the clay! Shall what is formed say to the one who formed it, "You did not make me"? Can the pot say to the potter, "You know nothing"?*
    - **Job 26; 36** – *"who can understand...?"*
    - The mind of man can never comprehend or understand the mind of God
  - Consider as it relates to healing and the will of God
    - When we pray we ask God to heal
    - There are times when He does but many times when He does not
      - At least not right then and at the moment we ask
      - Why? – why would God allow someone to suffer?
      - The simple answer – it is the will of God
      - But what does that mean? How do we find a way to, if not understand, at least make an attempt at a measure of awareness?
- What is the will of God?
  - Any effort to answer this, in the broadest sense of a definition, will fall short
  - To have any measure of understanding means that there must be some distinctions
- **It is constant and free**
  - **Constant** – with respect to Himself
    - His will must remain consistent with His nature
    - In other words, His will can never be contrary to that nature
    - Herman Bavinck - late 19<sup>th</sup> century Dutch theologian
      - "God's will is identical with His being, His wisdom, His goodness and with all His attributes. And it is for this

reason that man's heart and mind can rest in that will, for it is the will not of blind fate, incalculable fortune, or dark energy of nature, but of omnipotent God and merciful Father."

- Free – over all of existence
  - Creation, preservation, and salvation are free acts of God
  - It can be said that whereas God had to react against sin – because of His holy nature – He did not have to provide a way of salvation
  - Redemption (our deserved penalty for sin taken away), shown through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, are acts of God grounded in a will that is free and filled with His grace and love

○ **It is hidden and revealed**

- Hidden (sometimes called secret will) is what He has determined He will do and is known only to Him
  - It is the course by which all of His creation exists
    - **Deut 29:29a** - *The secret things belong to the LORD our God,*
    - **Psl 115:3; Dan 4:17; Rom 9:18-19; Eph 1:5**
- Revealed (sometimes called known will) is what tells us what to do, how to live, and gives direction to our lives
  - This is His will revealed in the Scriptures
    - **Deut 29:29b** - *...but the things revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may follow all the words of this law.*
    - **Deut 30:14; Matt 7:21; John 4:34; Rom 10:8**

○ **It is intentional, circumstantial, and ultimate**

- His offering of salvation through His saving grace is His intentional will for everyone
  - **Matt 18:4** – *...that not one should perish*
- Our free will, to choose to accept or reject His gift of salvation, comes under the circumstantial will of God.
  - Can this help to explain a passage such as **Rom 9:14-18** - *What then shall we say? Is God unjust? Not at all! For he says to Moses, "I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion." It does not, therefore, depend on human desire or effort, but on God's mercy. For Scripture says to Pharaoh: "I raised you up for this very purpose, that I might display my power in you and that my name might be proclaimed in all the earth." Therefore, God has mercy on whom he wants to have mercy, and he hardens whom he wants to harden.*
  - Can we say that God permits certain things without desiring them?

- Because of sin, God's circumstantial will is seen (permissive will?) encompassing the misfortunes and trials of life
  - But in all things know this...God will accomplish His ultimate will
    - **Job 9:10** - *He performs wonders that cannot be fathomed, miracles that cannot be counted.*
    - **Rom 11:33** - *Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable his judgments, and his paths beyond tracing out!*
- God's wish and His will are difficult for us, if not impossible, for us to understand
  - God did not wish for Joseph to endure the hardships of his life (brothers, Potiphar, prison) but He did will to permit to for the accomplishment of His ultimate will
  - God does not wish for any to perish, but He wills to permit it as the outcome of our choice
  - God does not wish anyone to walk in sickness or deal with disease
    - But the presence of sin is permitted through His will to remain (for at time)
      - So that we are presented with a choice
      - So that we grow in faith and dependence on Him
      - So that we can witness His love and mercy
    - Seeking, knowing, and doing the will of God is what the life of every Christian should be
      - His will is revealed to us in His Word
      - In our time spent with Him in prayer
      - In His work in and through the lives of others
      - In the voice of the Holy Spirit