

# Meetings with God

## The Will of God

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**Today:** *This is the Second in a Series of Four Teaching Messages on Meetings with God: Holiness, Will, Power, Goodness. What is God really like?*

**Theology is the study of the nature of God... what is true about God.**

- Last week was *Holiness*
  - Holiness is perfect, complete, entire, flawless
  - Not the scary part — the comforting part
  - When we approach Him, He is always dependable
  - GOD IS LOVE

### The WILL of God

- **2 Corinthians 12:6-10**

<sup>6</sup> For though I would desire to glory, I shall not be a fool; for I will say the truth: but *now* I forbear, lest any man should think of me above that which he seeth me *to be*, or *that* he heareth of me. <sup>7</sup> And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure. <sup>8</sup> For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me. <sup>9</sup> And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. <sup>10</sup> Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong.

### CAN GOD DO EVERYTHING?

**This is one of the most important questions of life and eternity** — demands a bold and authoritative answer — biblically informed!

- He is not limited by His *power*.
- He **is** limited by His *character* and His *nature*.
- *His will for us is good*.

**The “problem” is His sovereignty — His authority — is God running everything — or not?**

**At this point in the service Dr. Rutland showed a video showing a capricious God controlling every single aspect of life. It created a terrifying picture of God.**

## If God is sovereign, is His will always done?

***FACT — His will doesn't always get done.***

Sometimes it is the satanic will of someone who has sinned — murder, robbery, violence.

We live in a fallen world where bad stuff happens — accidents, diseases, natural disasters (earthquakes) that are a part of this current earth.

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### What about prayer?

***What about Prayer? Do we live defenseless?***

- If we always want God's will to be done as *we want it to be done* — to turn out as we want it to — then we will be disappointed.
- We make our own decisions, and reap the consequences of our own sins and the sins of others.
- We want instant gratification.
- We don't get to run this world.
- He allows humanity to operate in the reality of our own free moral agency.
- God cannot be/act in contradiction to His nature.

**There is a theological balance in our prayers**

- **Fatalistic view** — “Thy will be done” — never ask God for anything — no interaction
  - **Hyper-faith** — ordering God around, reminding God of what He must do
  - **Balance** — interaction — come boldly before the throne of grace to make petitions known to God
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### Apostle Paul

The Apostle Paul, had been given revelations of Jesus, and was so preeminent in the early church that he might have become an idol in the eyes of others, or perhaps even in his own eyes. God allowed satan to give Paul a “thorn in the flesh.” Paul went to God in three separate seasons, pleading for God to remove it from him.

- knowing that God could do it
- knowing that God is good
- the only answer He received was, “My grace is sufficient”
- real tension between sovereignty vs. evil

## When things come into our lives we don't understand

- He sustains us
- Gives us His grace
- In some way He is glorified
  
- When I am weak
- God is glorified in my weakness

Pastor Brunson was imprisoned in Turkey for two years for preaching the gospel. Within 24 hours of being released — he found himself in the White House praying for President Trump. Pastor Brunson was not living in the anticipation of instant internet fame and glory upon his release. In his humility, he was living out **Romans 8:28**, *And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.*

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## The Will of God

**1. Seek the *heart* of God before you seek the *answer*.**

**2. Pray to want what He wants.**

Make me desire what you want me to desire.

Pray “Thy will be done in *my* earth as it is in heaven.”

**3. Pray in faith believing**

...avoiding arrogance of heart, presumption, entitlement

**4. When the miracle comes, be grateful**

**5. When the miracle doesn't come exactly as you wanted, be satisfied; be humble; filled with praise because of His goodness.**

**At the end of everything — God will make it right.**

**When He stops sin, He will stop all sin, including our own.**

**In the ultimate transcendent view, all of our questions, tears, and grief will be swallowed up in His presence.**

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## Discussion Questions

1. What does it mean that what God can do is limited by His character?
2. Do you struggle with God's sovereignty vs. man's free will/nature of the earth?
3. What is the healthy balance to find in prayer requests?
4. Have you experienced a situation in your life where you questioned God's “judgment”?
5. Can you testify to God being strong in your weakness? How?