

WHAT EXACTLY IS GOD'S WILL?  
Taken from "Decision Making and the Will of God"  
By Garry Friesen  
Multnomah Press, 2004

That question and others related to it have puzzled the minds of theologians and preachers for years.

- Does God have a specific will for each individual Christian each of whom are exhorted in Scripture to understand and follow it?
- Does God specifically call a person into one of the various ministry vocations?
- If so, is that calling a lifetime calling?
- If there is a specific will of God for you, what happens if you miss some part of it along your life's pathway?

Over the next several weeks, we are going to present an alternative view on the subject of God's will. I think you will find it to be

- biblical
- refreshing
- freeing
- exciting
- challenging and maybe a whole lot more.

Let me introduce you to Garry Friesen.

- Graduated Dallas Theo. Sem. with ThM and PhD credentials
- Began teaching at Multnomah Univ. (formerly—Multnomah School of the Bible in 1976
- A C. S. Lewis enthusiast and scholar
- Retired from MU in 2013 and is now teaching full time at the Africa College of Theology in Rwanda.
- Mentored students in two personal ministry tracks which he called "Aslan's How" which is what he and his wife call their house and on campus in a track he called "The Eagle and Child" to which he invited seven faculty colleagues to meet and mentor each other.
- Wrote "Decision Making and the Will of God" originally in 1980 creating a huge stir among Christian theologians. 25 years later, he and a colleague revised and rewrote the book increasing its appeal to the church at large.

## WHAT IS THIS SERIES ABOUT: AN OVERVIEW

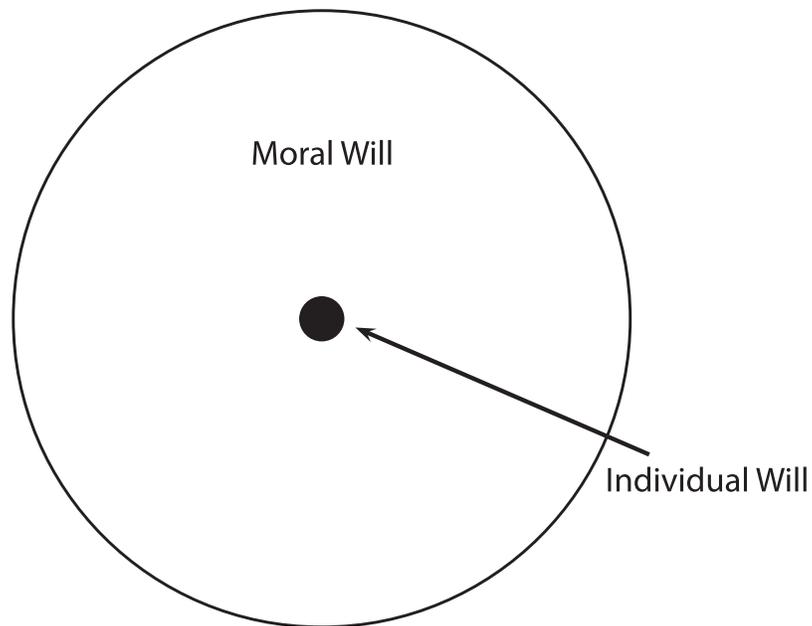
- I. God's \_\_\_\_\_ will
  - A. It is \_\_\_\_\_; known only to God
  - B. It \_\_\_\_\_ everything that happens in creation
  - C. It does not \_\_\_\_\_ a Christian's decision making
- II. God's \_\_\_\_\_ will
  - A. It is God's revealed \_\_\_\_\_ in Scripture
  - B. It teaches how men ought to \_\_\_\_\_
  - C. It must be \_\_\_\_\_
  - D. It does not affect many \_\_\_\_\_ a believer makes
- III. God's \_\_\_\_\_ will
  - A. It is God's \_\_\_\_\_ uniquely designed by God for each Christian
  - B. It is activated in a believer's life by the \_\_\_\_\_
  - C. It is to be \_\_\_\_\_ by the individual believer
  - D. Like God's moral will, it is to be \_\_\_\_\_

## DOES GOD REALLY HAVE THREE WILLS?

Well, we will seek to find a biblical answer to this question along with others in the next several weeks, but the traditional view says, "Yes, definitely." You have no doubt heard some of the expressions

- You have to discover what is God's perfect will for your life
- You have to be in the very center of God's will

### The Center of God's Will



- I. God's \_\_\_\_\_
- A. A \_\_\_\_\_ for all events in creation
  - B. A \_\_\_\_\_, known only to God
  - C. Believers are not \_\_\_\_\_ to know it as a part of the Christian life
  - D. Believers \_\_\_\_\_ miss it because it always comes to pass
  - E. It includes both \_\_\_\_\_
  - F. Can only be discovered by Christians \_\_\_\_\_
  - G. It ultimately leads to \_\_\_\_\_
- II. God's \_\_\_\_\_
- A. A body of general \_\_\_\_\_ for life
  - B. Believers are \_\_\_\_\_ to find it and obey it
  - C. Believers can miss out on God's \_\_\_\_\_ by failure to obey it
  - D. It is \_\_\_\_\_ to the believer in the Bible
  - E. Its instructions are \_\_\_\_\_, that is the same for all believers
- III. God's \_\_\_\_\_
- A. A \_\_\_\_\_ for all decisions in a believer's life
  - B. The believer \_\_\_\_\_ to find and know it
  - C. Believers are \_\_\_\_\_ to discover it as part of the Christian life
  - D. Believers \_\_\_\_\_

- E. It includes all that is \_\_\_\_\_ for the individual Christian
- F. Must be \_\_\_\_\_ before a decision is made
- G. Is always the \_\_\_\_\_ decision for the believer

#### WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

In future weeks, we'll be seeking biblical answers to the following questions:

1. Does the Bible teach that God has \_\_\_\_\_?
2. Does the Bible teach the " \_\_\_\_\_ " in the center of God's moral will?
3. If there is an individual will of God, why do I need \_\_\_\_\_?
4. If there is an individual will of God, why do I need the \_\_\_\_\_?
5. If there is an individual will of God, why do I have \_\_\_\_\_?
6. Then what does \_\_\_\_\_ say about how we make decisions?