

Trusting, Planning, and Deciding

James 4:13-17, Matthew 4:1-7

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3 lessons regarding trusting God

- Trusting God excludes arrogance (Jas 4:13-14, 16).
 - Arrogance is self-dependent.
 - Arrogance is God-independent.
 - Arrogance is delusional.
 - Re: Uncertainty of life.
 - Re: Brevity of life.

3 lessons regarding trusting God

- Trusting God excludes arrogance (Jas 4:13-14, 16).
- Trusting God involves making plans (Jas 4:15).
 - Our plans are to be in submission to God.
 - Our plans are to exist.
 - Our plans are to be specific.

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3 types of people

Unbiblical lack of planning	Biblically proactive planning	Unbiblically arrogant planning
"Whatever God wants."	"If God wills, I will ____."	"I will ____."
(No plans)		(No God)

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Trusting God vs. testing God

Trusting God	Testing God
Believing that God will do what He has promised to do	Believing that God has to do what He has never promised to do
Believing that God will faithfully provide when you obey His commands	Believing that God will conveniently provide when you follow your own ideas
Believing that God will do great things as He sees fit	Believing that God must do great things as you see fit

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3 lessons regarding trusting God

- Trusting God excludes arrogance (Jas 4:13-14, 16).
- Trusting God involves making plans (Jas 4:15).
- Trusting God excludes testing God (Mt 4:5-7).

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The will of God

	Traditional view	Wisdom view
God's sovereign will	✓	✓
God's moral will	✓	✓
God's individual will	✓	X

The will of God

God's sovereign will	God's moral will
"Unrevealed," "secret," "hidden"	"Revealed"
All that has ever occurred and ever will occur	What God commands that we do and not do
Includes sin	Does not include sin
Unknown to us until it has already occurred	Has been revealed to us in the Bible
Always comes to pass. Impossible to violate.	Often violated
Deut 29:29a, Eph 1:11b, Rom 9:19, etc...	Deut 29:29b, Mt 7:21, Mk 3:35, etc...
"The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but the things revealed belong to us and to our sons forever..." (Deut 29:29)	

The will of God

- When a child is murdered by a serial killer, was that God's will?
 - It was part of God's sovereign will.
 - It was *not* part of God's moral will.
- When someone accepts Christ as Savior, was that God's will?
 - It was part of God's sovereign will.
 - It was part of God's moral will.

The will of God

- God's individual will??
 - God's detailed plan for your life (e.g. education, career, marriage, etc...) **that you are to discover in order to make decisions.**
 - Discerned by the believer through:
 - Past experience
 - Inner witness of Holy Spirit
 - Circumstances
 - Hearing God's silent voice
 - Prayer
 - Sense of peace
 - Counsel of others
 - Results of the decision

The will of God

- Problems with the concept of the individual will of God:
 - 1) Scripture does not teach it.
 - Scriptural passages typically cited involve God communicating supernaturally, unmistakably, and/or audibly (e.g. Ex 3:1-6).
 - The above is not normative for believers today.
 - Even during Bible times, the above occurred only for key people and at critical points in God's overarching program.

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The will of God

- Reasons to reject the concept of the individual will of God:
 - 2) The methods used to discern God's will are entirely subjective in nature (and in most cases themselves arbitrarily chosen).
 - 3) It arbitrarily differentiates between "ordinary" and "special" situations and arbitrarily advocates discerning God's individual will only for the latter.
 - 4) It promotes immature thinking and immature decision-making.

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The will of God

- John MacArthur:
 - It is God's will that we:
 - 1) Be saved (1 Tim 2:3-4),
 - 2) Be Spirit-filled (Eph 5:17-18),
 - 3) Be sanctified (1 Th 4:3),
 - 4) Be submissive (1 Pet 2:13-15), and
 - 5) Suffer (1 Pet 4:19, Phil 1:29, 2 Tim 3:12).

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The will of God

- John MacArthur:
 - *"If all those objective aspects of God's will are realities in your life, you needn't fret over the other decisions you must make. As long as the options you face do not involve issues directly forbidden or commanded in Scripture, you are free to do whatever you choose."*¹
 - *"If you are doing all five of the basic things...do whatever you want!"*²

1: *Reckless Faith*, 190.
2: *Found: God's Will*, 31.

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