

## **ORIENTATION TO WILL OF GOD (#1)**

**Teleiology** is a theological term used to describe the study of spiritual growth maturity in the CWL.

We are currently studying 12 church age doctrines that are essential for spiritual growth maturity.

Today is the first study of the fifth doctrine in this series entitled, **Orientation to Will of God**. It is taken from a famous passage with Jesus dealing with the Will of God.

I chose this passage because of the concept and conflict of wills in the life of Jesus Christ

**(Luke 22:42)** "Father, if Thou art willing, remove this cup from Me; yet not My will, but Thine be done."

**Today's lesson will study four aspects of Orientation to the Will of God essential to spiritual growth maturity in the CWL.**

**1. In this famous Gethsemane prayer of Jesus, we become aware of a basic concept and conflict regarding God's will.**

We will examine our lesson text by the following five homiletical points.

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|----------------|---------------|---|
| • Fall         | (Lk.22:39-40) | Snare temptation (2 Tim.2:26)                 |
| • Father       | (Lk.22:41-42) | Specific category of will of God (Cup)        |
| • Faithfulness | (Lk.22:43)    | Supported and strengthened (1 Cor.1:9; 10:13) |
| • Faith cycle  | (Lk.22:44)    | Struggle with faith-rest (Heb.4:15-16)        |
| • Flesh        | (Lk.22:45-46) | Sorrowful and depressed (Matt.26:41)          |

**2. Our lesson text makes us aware of the concept and conflict of two wills in every believer's life: human will (not My will) and God's will (But Thine be done).**

We learn from our lesson text that it is important for the human will to be submissive to the will of God.

Jesus mentioned twice that choosing against the will of God amounted to "falling in temptation" (Luke 22:40, 46).

It is interesting that Jesus' ministry began and ended with the danger of "falling in temptation" (Matt.4:1-11 and Luke 22:39-46). This is because of the angelic conflict - "Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil." (Matt.4:1)

**3. Every member of the human race has free will (volition) because God made him "in the image according to His likeness (tselem demuth)" (Gen.1:26-27; 1 Cor.11:7; James 3:9).**

In the divine pattern of tselem demuth, God made human will (volition/ free will) after the sovereignty of God.

Volition (free will) is 1 of 5 apparatuses of the human soul under the principle of tselem demuth: self-consciousness, conscience, mentality, volition, and emotion.

In our lesson text, Jesus and His disciples were both in danger of "falling in temptation" (Luke 22:40, 45) regarding a specific category of Bible doctrine - "Father, if Thou art willing, remove **this cup** from Me; yet not My will, but Thine be done." (22:42) (Matt.16:21-23)

Jesus Christ must drink the Cup of our Sins before we can drink the Cup of His Salvation - "This cup which is poured out for you is the New Covenant in **My blood**." (Luke 22:20; 1 Cor.11:25/ Eucharist) (1 John 1:7b) "...and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from sin." (Eph.1:7) "In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace."

**4. Therefore mankind is conscious of being free to make choices even when there are enticing circumstances and divine consequences (Gen.2:17-3:24; James 1:14-15; Gal.5:16).**

However, there are some who say that all our choices are predetermined.

Let me suggest five reasons for the importance of volition (free will) of mankind.

- If our choices were all predetermined, why did God establish a legal system with consequential punishment? "By no means let any of you suffer as a murderer, or thief, or evildoer, or a troublesome meddler." (1 Pet.4:15)
- If our choices were all predetermined, why did Judas Iscariot feel remorse after betraying Jesus? "Then when Judas, who had been condemned, he felt remorse and returned the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders." (Matt.27:3)
- If our choices were all predetermined, why does Satan tempt us? (Matt.4:1-11) "And they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, having been held captive by him to do his will." (2 Tim.2:26)
- If our choices are all predetermined, why did the Only Begotten Son of God struggling with His will verses the will of God regarding the cup? (**Luke 22:42**)
- If our choices are all predetermined, why would anyone argue with my view of free will; since he would believe that I was predetermined by some influence over which I had no power to believe otherwise?

**(John 7:17)**

**"If any man is willing to do His will, he shall know of the teaching, whether it is of God, or whether I speak of Myself."**