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Doctrinal Studies Bible Church  
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Series: 2013 Basic Doctrines

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Date: 9/03/13  
Text: Phil.2:13  
File: D130903

## **2013 Basic Doctrines (24)** **(The Will of God – Part 4)**

The Will of God is one of the 2013 Basic Doctrines that I felt important to slow walk through for spiritual growth momentum. Today's lesson is the 4<sup>th</sup> part of the doctrine of the will of God.

There are three important doctrinal formulas to learn regarding the Will of God. They will help you understand how the Will of God functions and affects the Christian's life (CWL).

- **Formula #1: The Three Processes**
  - The WORD OF GOD > WILL OF GOD > WORK OF GOD.
- **Formula #2: The Three Types**
  - DIRECTIVE WILL -- PERMISSIVE WILL -- OVER-RULING WILL.
- **Formula #3: The Three Applications**
  - GEOGRAPHICAL WILL -- OPERATIONAL WILL -- MENTAL WILL

<b>This lesson will study <u>three aspects of third formula</u> of the Will of God.</b>
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(Phil.2:13) "For **it is God who** is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure."

### **1. The third formula of the Will of God is essential to the fulfillment of the Directive Will of God.**

As an example we will use the 12 spies sent out to explore the Promise Land under the Directive Will of God (Num.13-14).

- The Geographical Will of God tells us **WHERE** God desires His Directive Will to be performed (Num.13:1-3, 16) [Reconnaissance].
- The Operational Will of God tells us **WHAT** God desires us to do regarding His Directive Will (Num.13:2, 17-20).
- The Mental Will of God tells us **HOW to think** about what will be require to fulfill the Directive Will of God (Num.13:25- 14:38).

**Bad report** (Num.13:26-29) They gave Moses this account: "We went into the land to which you sent us, and it does flow with milk and honey! Here is its fruit. <sup>28</sup> But the people who live there are powerful and the cities are fortified and very large." (Num. 31-33; 14:1-4, 10-12) (2 Cor.5:7)

**Good report** (Num.13:30) Then Caleb silenced the people before Moses and said, "We should go up and take possession of the land, for we can certainly do it." (Num.14:5-9, 37-38) (Rom.10:17)

## 2. A believer may lose sight or become distracted from either the Directive Will or the third formula.

An example that we have studied is Jonah's missionary call to Nineveh.

- He struggled with the Directive Will of God as well as with all three categories of the third formula.
  - God's **Directive Will** was laid out in (Jonah 1:1-2). The word of the LORD came to Jonah son of Amittai: "Go to the great city of Nineveh and preach against it, because its wickedness has come up before me."
- He understood that God's **Geographical Will** was for him to go to Nineveh. But he chose not to go and in fact went in an opposite direction. (Jonah 1:3-4) "But Jonah ran away from the LORD and headed for Tarshish. He went down to Joppa, where he found a ship bound for that port. After paying the fare, he went aboard and sailed for Tarshish to flee from the LORD".
- In doing so, he chose to be **disobedience to God's Operational Will and Mental Will**. God allowed Jonah's negative volition to be expressed against the third formula of the Directive Will of God.
- We call this the **Permissive Will** of God. But at some point, the permissive becomes the **Over-Ruling Will** of God.
- The **Over-Ruling Will** of God put Jonah under Divine Discipline (Heb.12:5-11) to get him to confess his sin and submit to the Directive Will (1 John 1:9; 2 Pet.3:9).

(Jonah 2:1-9) "In my distress I called to the LORD, and he answered me. From deep in the realm of the dead I called for help, and you listened to my cry. You hurled me into the depths, into the very heart of the seas, and the currents swirled about me; all your waves and breakers swept over me. I said, 'I have been banished from your sight; yet I will look again toward your holy temple.' The engulfing waters threatened me, the deep surrounded me; seaweed was wrapped around my head. To the roots of the mountains I sank down; the earth beneath barred me in forever.

- The **Over-Ruling Will** of God resulted in Jonah responding by positive volition to God's Divine Discipline by confession of sin (Jonah 2; 1 John 1:9).

But you, LORD my God, brought my life up from the pit. "When my life was ebbing away, I remembered you, LORD, and my prayer rose to you, to your holy temple. "Those who cling to worthless idols turn away from God's love for them. But I, with shouts of grateful praise, will sacrifice to you. What I have vowed I will make good. I will say, 'Salvation comes from the LORD.'"

- This brought Jonah back to the third formula of the **Directive Will** of God (Jonah 3:1-2). This time Jonah fulfilled it even though he still struggled with the **Mental Will** of God (Jonah 4:1-2)

But to Jonah this seemed very wrong, and he became angry. He prayed to the LORD, "Isn't this what I said, LORD, when I was still at home? That is what I tried to forestall by fleeing to Tarshish. I knew that you are a gracious and compassionate God, slow to anger and abounding in love, a God who relents from sending calamity.

Other examples of half-hearted obedience and childish mental attitude behavior: (1 Cor13:11; Prov.3:5-6).

## 3. The third formula must always line-up under the Directive Will of God.

## **DIRECTIVE WILL**

- Geographical Will (Where)
- Operational Will (What)
- Mental Will (What to think)

**All three must never be in conflict with each other or with the Directive Will of God.**

## **HOME STUDY**

Apply the lesson we studied of Abraham offering his son Isaac on the altar of sacrifice (Gen.22:1-19). He did it right by applying doctrinal rationale to the Mental Will of God. (Heb.11:17-19).

**Directive Will** (Gen.22:2; James 2:21-22)

- **Geographical Will** (Gen.22:2-5)
- **Operational Will** (Gen.22:6-12)
- **Mental Will** (Gen.22:8, 12-14; Heb.11:17-19)

**(Phil.2:13)**

**“FOR IT IS GOD WHO IS AT WORK IN YOU, BOTH TO WILL  
AND TO WORK FOR HIS GOOD PLEASURE.”**