

Not My Will But Thine O Lord
Yirmeyah Tan, 20 January 2026

Shalom.

This week I am going to share with you a very important subject of God's will and I have entitled it: "**Not My Will But Thine O Lord.**" You will recognize that this is from the Bible, **Luk 22:41-42** –

Luk 22:41 *And He was withdrawn from them about a stone's cast, and kneeled down, and prayed,*

Luk 22:42 *Saying, Father, if Thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless, not My will, but Thine, be done.*

There are four wills mentioned in the Bible, and we have to distinguish between all the four and particularly to pay special attention to the will of God. There are many verses that refer to the will of God, the will of Yahweh our Heavenly Father.

Let me highlight a few verses in **Eph 1:9-12** –

I. The Four Wills

a. Will of God

Eph 1:9 *Having made known unto us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure which he hath purposed in himself:*

Eph 1:10 *That in the dispensation of the fulness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in him:*

Eph 1:11 *In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will:*

Eph 1:12 *That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ.*

In **Deu 5:29** –

Deu 5:29 *O that there were such a heart in them, that they would fear me, and keep all my commandments always, that it might be well with them, and with their children for ever!*

In **1Ti 2:4** –

1Ti 2:4 *Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.*

In **2Pe 3:9** –

2Pe 3:9 *The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.*

Note:

What we can note from these verses that I have selected is that they show us the mystery of God's Will and it has been a mystery until it was revealed in the salvation wrought by His Son Yeshua. The will of Father Yahweh is that one day Yeshua shall gather all creation and He will give us His disciples an inheritance. Moreover, these verses indicate that God is not willing that anyone should perish and it is His will to give us a new heart and spirit to obey Him so that He will bless us eternally.

Next let's take the will of Satan our adversary.

b. Will of Satan

2Ti 2:24 And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient,

2Ti 2:25 In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves, if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth;

2Ti 2:26 And that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will.

This very important passage tells us that Satan is opposed to Yahweh, and he wants to take human beings captive to do his will against Yahweh. We have now two categories of wills: Yahweh's will and Satan's will.

The third one is the will of men, of people around us in **Joh 18:39-40** –

c. Will of Men

Joh 18:39 But ye have a custom, that I should release unto you one at the Passover: will ye therefore that I release unto you the King of the Jews?

Joh 18:40 Then cried they all again, saying, not this man, but Barabbas. Now Barabbas was a robber.

Pontius Pilate gave the people who had committed Yeshua into captivity and judgment at his throne a choice: should he release Yeshua or Barabbas, a well-known and terrible criminal. The people said Barabas. Look what Peter has to say in **1Pe 4:3** –

1Pe 4:3 For the time past of our life may suffice us to have wrought the will of the Gentiles, when we walked in lasciviousness, lusts, excess of wine, revellings, banquetings, and abominable idolatries:

Here Peter describes the will of men, the will of people as the will of the Gentiles. The Gentiles were all the nations of the world outside Israel or apart from Israel. What is the will of the Gentiles? Lasciviousness, lusts, drunkenness, revellings, banquetings and idolatries that were abominations to Father Yahweh.

We have dealt with three categories of wills: our Heavenly Father, Satan and the will of people, men in the world.

The fourth category is our self-will. Let's look at what Paul has to say in **Eph 2:1-3** –

d. Will of Self

***Eph 2:1** And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins.*

***Eph 2:2** Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:*

Eph 2:3** Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past **in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.

Paul is saying that, in times past, our wills were all contrary to the will of Father Yahweh; our will was aligned to that of Satan, our will was the same as the Gentiles, indulging in all kinds of sins, transgressions and offenses against Father Yahweh.

Now let's recap: we got four wills- Yahweh's, Satan's, other people's and our own. The last three categories have always been against Father Yahweh but in the fourth category, our own will: scripture admonishes us that our will must conform to our Heavenly Father Yahweh's will.

Next, in the prayer that Yeshua taught us "Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven." When we pray this prayer, we are acknowledging that Yahweh has a Kingdom and we are praying that His Kingdom will prevail on earth. Along with this, praying for the Kingdom of Heaven to come down to earth, is a second part: that His will be done on earth as it is in Heaven.

II. Yeshua submitted To The Father's Will

a. His Mission: to do the Father's Will

***Heb 10:6** In burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin thou hast had no pleasure.*

Heb 10:7** Then said I, Lo, **I come (in the volume of the book it is written of me,) to do thy will, O God.

He also likened doing the Father's will as His necessary food. Refer to **Joh 4:34** –

b. Likened to necessary food

Joh 4:34** Jesus saith unto them, **My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work.

c. Agonising choice: sweat became drops of blood. He knew the immensity of the suffering that lay ahead of Him

***Luk 22:41** And he was withdrawn from them about a stone's cast, and kneeled down, and prayed,*

Luk 22:42** Saying, **Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless, not my will, but thine, be done.

***Luk 22:43** And there appeared an angel unto him from heaven, strengthening him.*

*Luk 22:44 **And being in an agony he prayed more earnestly: and his sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground.***

d. He became the burnt offering

*Heb 10:5 Wherefore when he cometh into the world, he saith, **Sacrifice and offering thou wouldest not, but a body hast thou prepared me:***

Heb 10:6 In burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin thou hast had no pleasure.

III. **Know The Will of God**

a. Knowledge & Understanding of His Will

*Col 1:9 For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire **that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding.***

And Eph 5:17 –

*Eph 5:17 Wherefore **be ye not unwise but understanding what the will of the Lord is.***

In my over four decades of ministry, I counselled many people and one of the greatest roadblocks for most Christians is to accept the will of Yahweh in their lives and to make decisions in accordance with what Yahweh desires of them. Many Christians do not even want to pray, to find out the will of God or, if they know, they quickly push it aside.

Paul talks about another aspect of God's will in our lives: our sanctification in **1Th 4:3**

b. Your sanctification

*1Th 4:3 For **this is the will of God, even your sanctification,** that ye should abstain from fornication:*

The third part is the will of the Father that we have a new birth being born from above. Look at **Joh 1:12-13** –

c. Re-birth

Joh 1:12 But as many as received him, to them gave the power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:

*Joh 1:13 **Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.***

It is the will of God that we have this new birth from above, a new heart, a new spirit and the purpose we saw earlier is that we may walk in His ways, learn to obey Him, learn to submit to His holy will in our lives.

The fourth thing about knowing the will of God is that we have to will ourselves to do and act out His will. Refer to **Php 2:12-13** –

d. To will and to act

Php 2:12 *Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.*

Php 2:13 For **it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.**

A very comforting verse that God is at work in us to enable us to have the will power and the ability to do His good will and good pleasure. This is what grace is all about: divine ability to enable us to pay the price of obedience. Yahweh thought of everything and more: in order to save us, He gave us a new heart, a new spirit and put in us the desire to please Him, to serve Him, to will and work for His pleasure.

Look at what Paul wrote in **Heb 13:20-21** –

Heb 13:20 *Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant,*

Heb 13:21 **Make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well pleasing in his sight,** *through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen*

You see the work of Yahweh, the work of grace, the divine enablement to give us power, to give us strength to walk in His ways because He knows that we are weak, we are fallen creatures, our wills are very weak, we have given our wills over to Satan and to people in the world. We are scared: more scared of people than of Yahweh, and most Christians love the praises of man rather than the praises of Father Yahweh. He has to give us the power to reverse all of these things.

The next thing to know the will of God involves eternal life and resurrection. Refer to **Joh 6:39-40** –

e. Eternal life & Resurrection

Joh 6:39 *And this is the Father's will which hath sent me, that of all which he hath given me I should lose nothing but should raise it up again at the last day.*

Joh 6:40 And **this is the will of him that sent me, that everyone which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day.**

This is the will of our Heavenly Father Yahweh that we can come to Christ, bow down in obedience to Christ and walk in His ways and we shall be given eternal life and the resurrection of the just. It is going to happen soon.

The will of Yahweh is revealed in two ways in **Rom 12:1-2** –

f. Revealed in two ways

Rom 12:1 *I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.*

Rom 12:2 *And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.*

These two verses are very important for us to meditate and internalize in us. You can see the important truths that, firstly by the mercies of God, He wants our bodies a living sacrifice. He does not want us to indulge ourselves in overeating, over drinking and the pleasures of life. We can eat, can drink some and some of the good things of life but these things should not be like gods to us. Secondly, we are not to be conformed to this world and its standards and values. Instead, we ought to be transformed via the renewal of our mind so that we may prove that which is good acceptable and perfect will of God.

Then, we have to ask Yahweh to teach us to do His will. Look at **Psa 143:10** –

g. Teach Me

Psa 143:10 *Teach me to do thy will; for thou art my God: thy spirit is good; lead me into the land of uprightness.*

We all need to be taught to do the will of God. The Holy Spirit is our teacher and our guide unto all truth.

In my prayer with my wife every morning, I always add this – Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven, especially in our lives, beginning with our lives. How can I teach other people to do God's will when I do not do His will? I am then a hypocrite and an evil person but, if I conform to Yahweh's ways as best as I can, pay the price of obedience, then I am able to teach others to do His will and to bless them.

What happens when we really decide to do His will? He hears our prayers.

1Jn 5:14 *And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us:*

1Jn 5:15 *And if we know that He hears us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him.*

Next, those who do His will are called disciples. Look at **Joh 8:31-32** –

h. Disciples know the truth

Joh 8:31 *Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed.*

Joh 8:32 *And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.*

i. Understand doctrine

Joh 7:16 *Jesus answered them, and said, My doctrine is not mine, but his that sent me.*

Joh 7:17 *If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself.*

How do you and I know whether a particular doctrine is true or false, a particular teaching is true or false? It is only when you are willing to do His will, then He will show you and me the truth about doctrines.

There is something else that Yeshua said was glorious for us in **Mat 12:49-50** –

j. Will be His brother, sister, mother

Mat 12:49 *And he stretched forth his hand toward his disciples, and said, Behold my mother and my brethren!*

Mat 12:50 *For whosoever shall do the will of my Father which is in heaven, the same is my brother, and sister, and mother.*

He will recognize us as His brethren provided we do His will.

Next, it is Yahweh's will, that, in everything we give thanks. Refer to **1Th 5:18** –

k. In everything give thanks

1Th 5:18 *In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.*

Next, even more importantly, if you do not want to do His will, you will be excluded from His kingdom and never enter the kingdom of Heaven.

Look at what Yeshua had to say in **Mat 7:21-23** –

1. To Enter the Kingdom of Heaven

Mat 7:21 *Not everyone that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.*

Mat 7:22 *Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works?*

Mat 7:23 *And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.*

This is a sobering thought. Many pastors, many so-called men of God and women of God preach the gospel, they can even go and heal the sick or pray for the sick and cast up demons in the name of Yeshua. However, they do not obey Him. disregard His commandments and are lawless people. They will be excluded from the kingdom of Heaven and will never enter the kingdom of Heaven.

Now in **1Jn 2:15-17** –

1Jn 2:15 *Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.*

1Jn 2:16 For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.

*1Jn 2:17 And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but **he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.***

If we love the world, if we do not separate ourselves, sanctify ourselves, set ourselves apart from the world and its ways and then work out the will of God, we will never endure unto eternal life. There are consequences of violating Yahweh's will. First temporal and then eternal. The temporal consequences, look at **Psa 81:11-14** –

2. Temporal Consequences of Violating His Will

***Psa 81:11** But my people would not hearken to my voice; and Israel would none of me.*

***Psa 81:12** So I gave them up unto their own hearts' lust: and they walked in their own counsels.*

***Psa 81:13** Oh that my people had hearkened unto me, and Israel had walked in my ways!*

***Psa 81:14** I should soon have subdued their enemies and turned my hand against their adversaries.*

a. Unbridled lusts

b. Will have to walk in ungodly counsel

c. Enemies will have the upper hand

People who disregard Yahweh's Will and keep on violating His Will in their lives, they will be subjected to what the psalmist says unbridled lust. They cannot control the lust of the eyes, the lust of the flesh and the pride of life in our sin. They will continue to walk in ungodly counsel, and their enemies would have the upper hand. These are the temporal consequences of violating Yahweh's will.

For the eternal consequences, we have seen that such people will not enter into the kingdom of Heaven. Refer to what Paul wrote in **2Th 1:7-10** –

3. Eternal Punishment for Violence of God's Will

***2Th 1:7** And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels,*

***2Th 1:8** In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ:*

***2Th 1:9** Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power.*

***2Th 1:10** When he shall come to be glorified in his saints, and to be admired in all them that believe (because our testimony among you was believed) in that day.*

Eternal punishment is forever and ever.

Finally, a note about king David in **Act 13:22** –

4. King David

Act 13:22 And when he had removed him, he raised up unto them David to be their king; to whom also he gave testimony, and said, I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after mine own heart, which shall fulfil all my will.

Are you like king David? The Puritan Thomas [1620-1677] wrote “The soul is never renewed until the will be renewed, till the will be broken.” Shalom.