

GOD'S PERFECT WILL

BY: BRAD CULLEN – MAY 2, 2003

THE WILL OF GOD...

Wouldn't life be far simpler if each of us knew... without a shadow of a doubt... just what God's will is for each of our individual lives? The question, when it gets down to the specifics, is rich and also rife with all kinds of opinions. Most of the opinions expressed are based in religious tradition... and have little to do with reality in the spirit (unseen) realm.

The two words traditionally translated into the English "will" (and that tradition has been strongly influenced by the King James Version translators), literally mean "desire and purpose." What are God's desires and purposes as they relate to me and you individually?

Here is a story that will bring into sharp focus some drastically differing opinions related to the subject. A recently (over the last year and a half) acquired business associate that has also become a close friend and confidante in recent months, Larry, related a situation to me about a year ago about a teenage girl that was a member of the church he attended at the time. She was dying of cancer.

Larry told me that some of the people in the church were praying that she die quickly so as to "escape the pain and go home to be with the Lord." I asked Larry if he really thought it was God's will for "Barbara" (not her real name) to die from the disease... and therefore was praying for her quick death a "good" prayer?

I would have to say that the question started a process in Larry that dramatically changed his prayer life and has drastically changed the way he thinks about a number of issues... particularly... God's "will."

Certainly, we can get a little light from Jesus' example in the Garden at Gethsemane – where he was at the depths of his humanity and knew it was time for him to die... one writer depicted his anguish as being so great as to cause him to sweat "great drops of blood." He cried out, "take this cup from me, but nevertheless, Your will be done, not mine."

Jesus had already known that dying for us was his purpose – he had clearly said it to his disciples on more than one occasion. When he came face to face with the reality, however... it was not a pleasant thing.

Back to "Barbara." Was her death ordained by God? Or rather was it the one whom Jesus referred to as having the "sole purpose to kill and destroy" that willed her death and got away with it? Now, at the time, I sensed clearly that it was the latter. I can also attest that "Barbara" went out in a "blaze of glory." God turned what looked like defeat into something beautiful. But "God is not a God of the dead, but of the living." Larry and I are both convinced that it was God's will that she should have lived. But she had a choice, and given the circumstances, it was easy for the enemy to have a victory... even though God did make it into something that was useful for his desires and purposes. Is it possible that His ultimate desires and purposes were that Barbara lived a fruitful and beautiful life according to His purposes?

Generally speaking, does God put disease on people as a means to take them home to be with Him? Most Christians recoil at such a premise. Did God allow her death? Ah... everyone will jump on that bandwagon... yeah... Barbara was "allowed" to have a painful death in order to go home! Or did the enemy pull one of his lovely tricks and blame it on God? If it was the trick of the enemy and people were fervently praying for her rapid demise to put her out of her misery... who won? Who was aiding and abetting the enemy with their prayers? Moreover why are these so violently against abortion? Think about it.

Let's back up a bit and take a look at some of the healings that took place around Jesus... Jesus did not pray... "Oh, God, if it be Thy will, heal so and so." Nowhere will you see such a prayer recorded. Here's how things worked: He cast out a demon causing the disease; he grabbed the hand of Jairus' daughter and said, "get up!" (This after kicking out all the people who were mourning her death). Often somebody just forced their way into his proximity and was healed... to which he merely said, "your faith healed you."

Many variables of the foregoing are recorded in the Bible. Many variables of the foregoing are also being repeated TODAY... but not by people who pray, "Oh, God, if it be Thy will, "heal Barbara." Especially when there is a sizable contingent that are praying, "Oh, God, take her home quickly to put her out of her misery." I challenge anyone to give me one example of Jesus praying such a prayer. If Jesus is to be our example... as the Scriptures declare, and if we are going to take his own words seriously, i.e., "Anyone that believes in me will perform the same miracles you have seen me perform and even greater miracles..." then how on earth have we gotten to the point of praying for somebody's death? Again, why are these (then) so opposed to abortion?

Here is the short answer to that question. Ignorance spawned by religious tradition... religious tradition without any basis in fact or Scriptural truth.

Do you want to live? It's your choice. Think about it for a moment. Do you want to die? It is your choice. Why not put a gun to your head, jump off a tall building or swallow a whole bottle of pills. What are you waiting for? Or will you choose life? You can choose abundant life in the presence and power of God's own Spirit... living out His desires and purposes. If God reveals His purpose to you is your death... that is between you and God and it is your choice. Most people, unfortunately, when faced with continued misery see death as a relief. I'm thinking of a woman that when I first asked her if she wanted to live said, "I'm in too much pain." Her sister exclaimed to her, "But we've seen other people be healed and God can take away the pain." I asked her, "What if you didn't have the pain, would you want to live then?" Her response? "Of course I'd want to live, you fool!"

Funny? I thought it was hilarious. She was healed... a tumor in her stomach so large that it made her look pregnant. Given only days to live... wasted away by cancer. She's alive. Praise God! The precursor to her healing was her stating emphatically that she wanted God's will no matter what the cost. She was raised up in the power and presence of God's will. People have a hard time seeing through the confusing maze of choices the enemy foists on them... and death seems to be a pleasant, beautiful way out. THAT IS A LIE FROM THE PIT OF HELL!

Does God allow death? Sure... but He also allows life. Make the choice. Learn to pray the way Jesus taught how to pray... Not chanting or singing "Our Father, which art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name," accompanied by beautiful organ music. That is not what Jesus intended... and it is easily proven.

Join the God of the living... and defeat the god of this planet that has one purpose... to destroy and kill.

Brad

P.S. Jesus introduced the concept that God was actually our one and only perfect Father who gives nothing but good gifts... particularly the gift of abundant life. A Father with whom we could be so intimate as to call Him Dad, Daddy or Papa.

Would any fathers among you, being evil, allow an enemy to kill your teenage daughter with a horrible disease like cancer if he could stop it? Can't you see it? That is exactly what we choose when we pray amiss. "Oh, God, if it be Thy will, please heal her." I am sorry to inform you, but that is not the "prayer of faith" that heals. The "prayer" of faith is grabbing the hand of "Barbara" and saying "get up!" ...but only if you understand your authority and understand how to play by the rules.

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