

Briefing Document: His Will, Not Mine

Sunday AM-August 2, 2026

Executive Summary

The following document synthesizes the core teachings from the August 2, 2026, service at New Life Benson. The primary message centers on the necessity of prioritizing God's will over human ambition and emotion. Central themes include the spiritual danger of unresolved anger, the inherent fragility and brevity of human life, and the absolute sovereignty of God.

The document argues that spiritual stagnation often stems from a "me problem"—a state where individuals feel entitled to their emotions or presume control over their futures. By examining James 4 and various Pauline epistles, the text concludes that a believer's life must be characterized by daily submission to God's "Will of Command" and "Will of Decree." The briefing provides a framework for moving from carnal-mindedness to spiritual maturity through scripture, prayer, surrender, and community accountability.

The Spiritual Reality of Anger and the "Me Problem"

A central focus of recent teaching involves the examination of anger, specifically the question: "Are you a murderer?" While most people dismiss this because they have not committed physical murder, the source context clarifies that anger is an emotional and spiritual issue of the heart.

- **The Emotional Weight of Anger:** Anger is described as a characteristic of the "old self" that must be discarded. It is often more "weight-bearing" than individuals acknowledge.
- **Entitlement and Distortion:** Persistent anger is identified as a "me problem." It arises when a person views themselves in a distorted light, feeling justified in their resentment.
- **The Carnal vs. Spiritual Mind:** Holding onto anger is a sign of living according to the flesh. The source cites *Romans 8:5–7*:
 - *For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be.*
- **The Danger of "Eventually":** Many people delay resolving conflict, assuming they have time. The text argues that assuming "eventually" is a form of reckless legalism, as no one is promised tomorrow.

The Brevity and Fragility of Life

Using *James 4:13–17* as a foundation, the text examines the arrogance of making plans without acknowledging God. The scripture warns against the presumption of future success in business or life without considering the Lord's hand.

- **Life as a Vapor:** Life is described as inherently fragile. *James 4:14* states:
 - *Whereas you do not know what will happen tomorrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away.*
- **Scriptural Witnesses to Brevity:** The brevity of life is a recurring theme throughout the Bible:
 - *My days are like a shadow that lengthens, and I wither away like grass (Psalm 102:11).*
 - *For we were born yesterday, and know nothing, because our days on earth are a shadow (Job 8:9).*
 - *Our days on earth are as a shadow, and without hope (1 Chronicles 29:15).*
- **Illustrations of Fragility:**
 - **The Highway Analogy:** Taking spiritual risks (like holding onto a grudge) is compared to passing a vehicle on a blind curve on Highway 83. It is reckless because one cannot see what is coming.
 - **The Accident of Chase:** A personal account describes how life changed in a single second when a family member suffered a severe neck injury (fracturing C6 and C7). This event served as a "wake-up call," shifting focus from self-centered whines about personal time to a recognition of God's protective hand.

Understanding the Sovereign Will of God

The document outlines two primary facets of God's will. Understanding these helps the believer align their life with divine purposes rather than personal desires.

The Two Facets of God's Will

Type of Will	Definition	Examples
Will of Command	God's revealed moral law and instructions for how humans should behave.	The Ten Commandments; instructions to love, give thanks, and avoid anger.
Will of Decree	God's sovereign, hidden plan that controls all things and always comes to pass.	The cross of Christ; the calling of Paul from the womb; the preservation of life in accidents.

- **Absolute Authority:** As stated in *Isaiah 46:9–10*:
 - *Remember the former things of old, For I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me, declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times things that are not yet done, saying, ‘My counsel shall stand, and I will do all My pleasure.’*
- **The Example of Ananias and Paul:** The conversion of Saul (Paul) illustrates that humans cannot know God's secret plans for others. Ananias feared Paul because he was a "murderer of Christians," but God had decreed Paul was a *chosen vessel... to bear My name before Gentiles (Acts 9:15)*.

Practical Steps for Spiritual Alignment

To move away from pride and toward God's will, the source context suggests four disciplines:

1. **Read Scripture Daily:** The Bible acts as a "playbook" to help believers learn God's voice and distinguish between what He loves and hates.
2. **Audit Your Prayer Life:** Prayers should move from being "transactional" (asking for things) to being filled with gratitude. Gratitude is described as an act of obedience that shifts focus from self to Father.
3. **Surrender Control:** Believers must let God show them what He wants. This involves cross-referencing personal actions with holiness. If an action does not make one more holy, it requires change.
4. **Seek Wise Counsel:** There is no shame in seeking fellowship and accountability. Transparency with other believers prevents the rationalization of sin.

Conclusion: The Goal of the Believer

The ultimate goal for a Christian is to thrive regardless of circumstances. This is modeled by the Apostle Paul, who remained content and productive despite a "thorn in the flesh" and imprisonment.

- **Grace in Weakness:** *2 Corinthians 12:9* records the Lord's response to Paul's suffering:
 - *And He said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness.”*
- **Final Call to Action:** Believers are encouraged to empty their hearts of anger, lust, pride, and preoccupation with the world. Only by submitting to the Father's will can a person feel "clean and useful" and truly serve the purpose for which they were created.