

Study Guide: His Will Not Mine

Sunday AM-August 2, 2026

This study guide explores the biblical principles of surrendering personal desires to the perfect will of God. Based on the teachings from James 4 and other New Testament scriptures, it examines how issues like anger, future planning, and physical health are tied to our spiritual state. By understanding the brevity of life and the absolute authority of the Creator, believers are encouraged to move from a "me-centered" mindset to a "God-centered" life of gratitude and obedience.

Review Quiz

1. According to the lesson, why is holding onto anger described as a "me problem" for a believer?
 2. What does Colossians 3:1-8 instruct believers to "put to death" or "put off" as part of their old selves?
 3. In James 4:14, how is the duration of human life described, and what does this metaphor imply about our plans?
 4. Explain the difference between the "will of command" and the "will of decree" as discussed in the text.
 5. Why does the speaker believe that successes in business or life are solely the work of the Lord rather than personal marketing or strategy?
 6. How does the speaker use the example of driving on Highway 83 to illustrate the danger of unresolved anger?
 7. According to 1 Corinthians 6:19-20, what is the relationship between a believer's physical body and the Holy Spirit?
 8. What was the Lord's response to the apostle Paul when He refused to remove the "thorn in the flesh," and what does this teach about human weakness?
 9. What are the four practical steps a person can take to see and follow the will of God more clearly?
 10. Using the example of Ananias and Paul, explain why it is dangerous to judge others based on their past actions rather than God's future plans for them.
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Answer Key

1. Holding onto anger is a "me problem" because it reflects a distorted view where a person feels entitled to their emotions. It shows that the individual is imposing their own will and seeking their own justification instead of seeking what God desires.
2. Believers are told to put to death earthly members such as fornication, uncleanness, passion, and evil desire. They are also instructed to put away anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, and filthy language from their mouths.
3. Human life is described as a "vapor" that appears for a little time and then vanishes away. This implies that life is fragile and brief, making it reckless to presume we have "eventually" or "tomorrow" to resolve sins or make plans.
4. The "will of command" refers to God's revealed moral laws and instructions, such as the Ten Commandments, which humans can choose to obey. The "will of decree" is His sovereign, hidden plan that controls all things in the universe and always comes to pass, even using the actions of men for His greater good.
5. The speaker notes that while he can take responsibility for failures, successes cannot be explained by human effort alone. He points to specific opportunities and people that only the Lord could have provided to grow his businesses.
6. Highway 83 is described as a windy road with blind curves where people take reckless risks to pass others because they are in a hurry. Similarly, holding onto anger is reckless because we have no idea what "blind curves" or unexpected ends life may have, yet we risk our spiritual well-being by assuming we have time to fix it later.
7. The scripture teaches that the body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who dwells within the believer. Because believers were bought at a price, they no longer own themselves and must use their bodies and spirits to glorify God.
8. The Lord told Paul, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness." This teaches that God's power is most clearly seen when humans acknowledge their limitations and rely entirely on His grace.
9. To find God's will, one should read scripture daily to learn His voice, audit their prayer life to ensure it is filled with gratitude, surrender control to let God lead, and seek wise counsel from other believers for accountability.
10. Ananias feared Paul because Paul had a history of murdering Christians, but God revealed that Paul was a "chosen vessel" to carry His name. This shows that if we hold onto grudges or anger based on what we see, we might oppose the sovereign work God is doing in someone else's life.

Essay Questions

1. Analyze the concept of "presumptuous behavior" as it relates to James 4:13-17. How does planning for the future without acknowledging the Lord's will demonstrate a lack of humility?
2. Compare the "carnal mind" with the "spiritual mind" as described in Romans 8:5-7. What are the consequences of each, and why is the carnal mind considered "enmity against God"?
3. Discuss the role of gratitude in the life of a believer. How does shifting from a "transactional" prayer life to a "grateful" prayer life affect one's ability to handle trials and interruptions?
4. The speaker shares a personal story about his son Chase's accident. Reflect on how God can use physical suffering or "thorns in the flesh" to get a person's attention and align them with His will.
5. Explain the importance of Christian fellowship and "wise counsel." Why is transparency and accountability necessary to prevent a believer from "minimalizing" sin in their own life?

Glossary of Key Terms

- **Atonement:** The act of Jesus Christ yielding His life to pay the penalty for sin, opening the way for humanity to be reconciled to God.
- **Blasphemy:** Speaking sacrilegiously or irrelevantly about God or sacred things; listed as a behavior to be put away in Colossians.
- **Brevity:** The quality of being short in duration; used to describe the nature of human life on Earth.
- **Carnal Mind:** A mind set on the flesh and worldly desires, which is described as hostile toward God and unable to submit to His law.
- **Covetousness:** A strong desire for things that belong to others; the text identifies this as a form of idolatry.
- **Enmity:** A state of active opposition or hostility; the carnal mind is said to be at enmity against God.
- **Foyer:** A lobby or entrance hall; mentioned in the context of church announcements (sometimes pronounced "fo-yay").
- **Indicative Mood:** A category of verb use that denotes a statement of fact or a sharp purpose; used to describe how people presumptuously say "we will go" instead of seeking God's permission.

- **Legalism:** Strictly adhering to a list of rules; the speaker notes that people often use this term as an excuse to avoid being confronted about sin.
- **Malice:** The intention or desire to do evil; ill will.
- **Presumptuous:** Failing to observe the limits of what is permitted or appropriate; taking God's provision of time for granted.
- **Ransom:** The price paid to provide the release of a slave or prisoner; used to describe the Lamb (Jesus Christ) dying for humanity.
- **Redemption:** The action of being saved from sin or error; described as a "purchase" made by God.
- **Sovereignty:** The supreme power and authority of God to do all His pleasure and ensure His counsel stands.
- **Vapor:** A mist or smoke that appears briefly and then disappears; a biblical metaphor for the fragility of human life.

Greek Terminology Reference

Term	Phonetic Pronunciation	Definition
Christos ¹	KRIS-tos	The Greek word for "Christ," meaning "Anointed One" or "Messiah."

¹ *Note: While the specific Greek characters were not used in the sermon transcript, the title "Jesus the Son" and "Messiah" are central to the hymns and scriptures cited, such as the references to "Jesus Christ" in Colossians 3 and the "Messiah" in the song "Is He Worthy."*