

GOD'S WILL – OUR WILL
Miscellaneous Scripture (NKJV)
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As Christians, our desires should align with God's will. When God says "no" or doesn't grant what we want, we are called to trust His wisdom and timing.

Point 1: The Nature of Our Desires (James 4:2-3)

Lust in the Bible typically means to have strong, intense desires or cravings, those that are sinful and wrong. Essentially it means to desire something or someone we don't have excessively.

Reference: **Matthew 5:28**

Sin drives us to take what we want instead of asking God for it, lusting rather than praying.

Sinful desires leave us asking God for things that He will not give us because we are asking for something wrong, incorrect, out of place, or with the wrong intentions. Sometimes we don't receive because our motives are self-centered.

We must trust that God knows what is best.

Reference: **Proverbs 16:9**

How are we supposed to allow the Lord to direct our steps?

- Self-Examination. Reference: **2 Corinthians 13:5**
- Trust God. Reference: **Isaiah 55:8-9**

Point 2: When God says "NO" (2 Corinthians 12:7-9; Acts 9:3-6; Romans 3:21-28)

Many of us as Christians get puffed up when studying the Bible. It oftentimes creates in us a sense of self-importance.

Paul was just as susceptible of becoming conceited or proud of himself as we are today and so he says God provided him with a way to remain humble and reliant on His grace.

A thorn in the flesh is understood to be a persistent source of pain, trouble, or suffering that Paul experienced, including:

- Physical Affliction
- Spiritual Opposition
- Metaphorical Struggles

The point is Paul did not always get what Paul wanted. He was kept humbled and dependent on God's grace, allowing God to demonstrate His strength.

What if you don't get what you want? What if the thorn in your side is not removed? Will you thank God for His grace? Will you thank God for the opportunity to be humble?

Reference **Romans 8:28**

Point 3: Aligning our will with God's will. (Matthew 26:39)

Falling on one's face is an act of deep humility, reverence, submission, or desperation before God and it expresses recognition of God's authority. References: **Genesis 17:3; Numbers 16:22; Ezekiel 1:28; Matthew 26:39; Psalm 75:7-8; Psalm 37:4; John 14:3**

Point 4: The Blessing of Surrender (Philippians 4:6-7; Matthew 6:25-26)

Everything means the totality of all things, physical and spiritual.

A couple of examples related to everything or the all-encompassing God:

- God as Creator of Everything - **Colossians 1:16**
- Surrendering Everything to God - **Proverbs 3:6**

Paul attaches to this classic exhortation to pray the beautiful promise that when we turn from anxiety to prayer and thanksgiving, God will give us His own peace.

References: **Romans 5:1; Philippians 4:6-7**

God is a loving Father who knows what is best for us.
While it's natural to have desires and ask God for them, we must also accept that sometimes His answer will be "no" or "not yet" because He sees the bigger picture.

As we bring our requests before God, let's do so with a heart that trusts Him completely, willing to accept His answers, whatever they are with faith and joy.