

The Will of God
Part 6
By Boyd Yahn

Hello all, it is February the 14th of 2024 and this is part 6 of The Will of God series. Given the enormity of the promises by Yehovah given to His perspective sons, it would only stand to reason that He would test or try the hearts of those of the ecclesia to see where their loyalties would ultimately lie.

0:00:26

Yehovah's desire for us is that we become holy, as He is holy. To be given immortality and incorruptibility. would actually require no less. A resurrected Son of God will be at one with Yehovah, as Christ is with Him, as one. We read of that in John 17, verses 21 – 24. Christ's prayer:

²¹that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me.

0:01:02

So, we learn something very interesting there, that one is of mind and intent, and separate Beings; the Father and Christ are separate Beings, and we of course are separate beings, and ultimately, we will be at one and of the same mind as Christ and the Father.

²²And the glory which You gave Me

0:01:27

So, glory was something that the Father gave to Christ.

I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one:

So, we can see this theme that shows up in the scriptures, where we are to be one with them.

²³I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one,

0:01:50

So, the ultimate goal is to be made perfect as our Father is.

and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me.

Well, that's interesting, with our understanding that Christ has been, or at least my understanding, that Christ has been the Father's Son for a very long time. You see that same love passed on to the ecclesia, the physical children.

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as You have loved Me. ²⁴“Father, I desire that they also whom You gave Me may be with Me where I am,

0:02:30

Well, where’s that? With the Father, in heaven.

that they may behold My glory which You have given Me; for You loved Me before the foundation of the world.

All of a sudden, this passage is starting to make a lot more sense.

²⁵O righteous Father! The world has not known You, but I have known You; and these have known that You sent Me. ²⁶And I have declared to them Your name, and will declare it, that the love with which You loved Me may be in them, and I in them.”

0:03:10

So, Christ spoke of this very intimate relationship between the Father and His created Sons. Peter understood the mandate as well, and we read about that in I Peter 1; I Peter 1, and we’ll read verses 21 – 24. I Peter 1, verses 13, sorry, 13 – 17. The direction to us is:

¹³Therefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and rest your hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ; ¹⁴as obedient children, not conforming yourselves to the former lusts, as in your ignorance;

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And indeed, there was a time when none of us had a clue.

¹⁵but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, ¹⁶because it is written, “Be holy, for I am holy.”

The Father wants us to be holy, as He is.

¹⁷And if you call on the Father,

And here’s a direction for the ecclesia, to call on the Father.

who without partiality judges according to each one’s work,

So, is He intimately involved in our situation? Yes, it says so.

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conduct yourselves throughout the time of your stay here

Fleshly existence.

in fear; ¹⁸knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, ¹⁹but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.

0:05:01

So, we can see here, the complete involvement, and also the process of how God is working with us. Notice, as I said, we are told here to call upon our Father, the one who we are in covenant with. Yehovah's will for His children is actually stated in Isaiah 66, and we'll read that in verses 1 and 2; Isaish 66, verses 1 and 2.

¹ Thus says Yehovah: "Heaven is My throne, and earth is My footstool. Where is the house that you will build Me? And where is the place of My rest? ²For all those things My hand has made, and all those things exist," Says Yehovah. "But on this one will I look: on him who is poor and of a contrite spirit, and who trembles at My word.

0:05:54

He tells us directly, whom He will look upon with favor, and make no mistake, this is a personal choice to submit our spirits to God.

poor and of a contrite spirit, and who trembles at My word.

As it says.

0:06:18

Will we tremble at His word, or will we not? Is Yehovah's word reliable, or is it not? How we individually view that is a key to whether we will tremble at His word, or not. And that's a very personal decision that we all make at some point in our lives, if we are amongst the ecclesia.

0:06:44

If we go to James 2:19, we'll see that the spirit world, particularly the fallen ones, understand this as well. Speaking here in James 2:19

¹⁹You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe—and tremble!

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0:07:11

The fallen angels know there is one God, and Christ spoke of the one true God. And Christ, when He was in the flesh, pointed us to something, that we have the exact same God as He does. In John 20, and verse 17, we covered that, but it's important that we understand that. Christ said to Mary:

17... "Do not cling to Me, for I have not yet ascended to My Father; but go to My brethren and say to them, 'I am ascending to My Father and your Father, and to My God and your God.'"

0:07:57

Christ's God and our God, the Father, our Father, speaks to us through Isaiah in Isaiah 66, 1 and 2, which we read. Can we see in scripture where Yehovah wanted to know whose spirit we are in submission to? And it's interesting, as we, you know, continue to study and continue to learn, and we'll go there right now, to John 4:24. And this scripture has always been a hair ball for me, it just wasn't clear. But I think there is some clarity that's beginning to come. It says:

24God is Spirit,

Well, of course.

and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."

0:08:46

And taking Isaiah 66:1 and 2 into context with this, and understanding that spirit is your mental disposition, Isaiah tells us that a contrite and humble spirit who trembles at my word. So, worshipping God in spirit, then would mean, when we read of God's will in the scriptures, to worship it, we would adopt it, get in one with it, and submit to it. And that fits the contrite and humble spirit.

0:09:24

When we read something and we think east, and God says west, if we tremble before God's word and worship Him in spirit, we choose God's direction. So, I think there is some clarity starting to come in that.

0:09:42

If we look in places where you see a different result; the garden is an obvious choice, where a choice was offered, and we want to look a little bit beyond that today, if we might. In Genesis 22; in Genesis 22, and we read this recently, but I think it serves as an important anchor for where we need to go here. We see God's test; He's always looking, where's their spirit at, what's their mental disposition.

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Do they really tremble at my word, or is it all a show? And God will test, it is His will to test us to see exactly where we have placed our loyalties and our understanding. And that's exactly what you would expect, if ultimately, He's going to make us immortal and incorruptible. Do we really want that, can we be trusted, are we really on side with that?

0:10:55

And we can see the test in Genesis 22, verses 10 – 17.

¹⁰And Abraham stretched out his hand and took the knife to slay his son. ¹¹But the Angel of Yehovah called to him from heaven and said, "Abraham, Abraham!" So, he said, "Here I am." ¹²And He said, "Do not lay your hand on the lad, or do anything to him; for now, I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from Me." ¹³Then Abraham lifted his eyes and looked, and there behind him was a ram caught in a thicket by its horns. So, Abraham went and took the ram, and offered it up for a burnt offering instead of his son. ¹⁴And Abraham called the name of the place, Yehovah-Will-Provide; as it is said to this day, "In the Mount of Yehovah it shall be provided." ¹⁵Then the Angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time out of heaven, ¹⁶and said: "By Myself I have sworn, says the LORD, because you have done this thing,

0:11:58

Obedience first.

and have not withheld your son, your only son—¹⁷blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply your descendants as the stars of the heaven and as the sand which is on the seashore; and your descendants shall possess the gate of their enemies.

Here we have a case of obedience first, and the blessing that follows it.

0:12:24

Can we see another example of a test? Abrahams was an obvious test, but let's take a little look here in the book of Job. In the book of Job, let's look at verse 17 – 21, Job 17, Job 7, I'm sorry, and we'll look at verses 17 – 21.

¹⁷"What is man, that You should exalt him, that You should set Your heart on him, ¹⁸that You should visit him every morning, and test him every moment?"

So, is God looking down upon us and seeing how we act, and how we react and do we revere Him, and do we tremble at His word? Is He doing that? Well, Job certainly understood that that was the case.

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0:13:19

¹⁹How long? Will You not look away from me, and let me alone till I swallow my saliva?

Like, give me a break. Maybe we've all felt that way.

²⁰Have I sinned? What have I done to You, O watcher of men? Why have You set me as Your target, so that I am a burden to myself? ²¹Why then do You not pardon my transgression, and take away my iniquity? For now I will lie down in the dust, and You will seek me diligently, but I will no longer be."

0:13:49

So, he was in a bad way at this time. The word for test here is used, is H974, and it means to examine, to try, and if you and I do not see ourselves as under the microscope of God, we might want to rethink that. Because that's certainly the message of scripture.

0:14:16

And we need to understand that God is perfectly capable of reading hearts and minds. There's another layer there yet, there's really no place to hide, there's no place to go; because He knows, knows all the time and He's looking and He's watching.

0:14:33

If we go to Psalm 11, and verses 4 – 7, let's read again here. The LORD:

⁴Yehovah is in His holy temple, Yehovah's throne is in heaven; His eyes behold, His eyelids test the sons of men. ⁵The LORD tests the righteous, but the wicked and the one who loves violence His soul hates. ⁶Upon the wicked He will rain coals; fire and brimstone and a burning wind shall be the portion of their cup. ⁷For Yehovah is righteous, He loves righteousness; His countenance beholds the upright.

0:15:15

The Father is looking, we are being scrutinized by our Father. And David, it would appear, understood this and understood it well. If we go to Psalm 26, let's read verses 1 and 2. David speaking, he says:

¹Vindicate me, O Yehovah, for I have walked in my integrity. I have also trusted in Yehovah; I shall not slip. ²Examine me, O Yehovah, and prove me; try my mind and my heart.

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Well, that's interesting. So, David was looking to God and asking Him to examine him, which the father was doing anyway. And:

try my mind

Try my spirit

and my heart.

0:16:12

And I got thinking, have I ever asked God, as David did, to do this? And the only answer I could come up with is, I have not. Maybe it's time. If we go on, Psalm 139. It's amazing, the insights that king David actually had. Psalm 139, and we'll read verses 23 and 24. Psalm 139, we see the same theme showing up here. It says:

²³Search me, O God, and know my heart; try me, (test me) and know my anxieties; ²⁴and see if there is any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

0:17:06

So again, David's plea to God to search him, to try him, to test him and if there is any wicked, show him the way and lead him in the everlasting way, the way that leads to eternal life. And all of a sudden, this gets fairly personal in how we conduct ourselves.

0:17:30

In II Corinthians 13:5, I'll just take a quick look there. We are coming up on the Passover season and sometimes these little used scriptures can take on a significant meaning. II Corinthians 13:5.

⁵Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you? — unless indeed you are disqualified.

0:18:03

So, God the Father gives us the spirit of Christ, and Christ lives in us and so does God the Father. So, we can see an increasing amount of intimacy in our contact with our Father, and that has been removed in many ways by having Christ being the God of the Old Testament, rather than our Father.

0:18:30

As Jim (Rudd) said in his paper (Who was the God of the Old Testament), God has not given the care of His children to His Son, our older brother.

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The Father is completely involved. Christ also has a role in that of course, but the Father is right there.

0:18:58

If we go to Jeremiah 6:27, notice here, one of the purposes of Jeremiah's life, as God has directed, and it's interesting to me that He would involve Jeremiah this way. Jeremiah 6:27.

²⁷"I have set you as an assayer and a fortress among My people, that you may know and test their way. ²⁸They are all stubborn rebels, walking as slanderers. They are bronze and iron, they are all corrupters;

0:19:30

And so, Jeremiah was put in there, he was a servant of God, he did tremble at God's word and this seems an invitation to just look around and see what you see. Is that a good idea possibly for us? If we go on in Jeremiah, to Jeremiah 9; Jeremiah 9 and verse 7. God speaking His will here:

⁷Therefore thus says Yehovah of hosts: "Behold, I will refine them and try them; (I will test them) for how shall I deal with the daughter of My people? ⁸Their tongue is an arrow shot out; it speaks deceit; one speaks peaceably to his neighbor with his mouth, but in his heart he lies in wait.

0:20:26

So, we can see, this is of Israel; is this any different for the ecclesia? Likely not, likely not. If we go to Jeremiah 17, and verses 9 and 10, we can see this.

⁹"The heart (The human heart) is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked; who can know it? ¹⁰I, Yehovah, search the heart, I test the mind, even to give every man according to his ways, according to the fruit of his doings.

So again, He is intimately involved in what we do, and how we develop.

0:21:10

We see the same type of thing in Daniel 11; Daniel 11, and let's take a look at verse 35. This is consistent throughout the scriptures, where we see God very interested in, and taking a hard look at His people. Daniel 11, verse 35.

³⁵And some of those of understanding shall fall, to refine them, purify them, and make them white, until the time of the end; because it is still for the appointed time.

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So, God will use what He needs to, in circumstance and situation to refine His saints, so that we come to see it His way and become at one with Him. The word in this passage, to refine them, is H6684, in Hebrew it means to smelt, to refine, to test.

0:22:13

We see a very similar thing in Daniel 12, verse 10. Speaking of this time of trouble, which we'll take a look at in the map.

¹⁰Many shall be purified, made white, and refined, (smelted) but the wicked shall do wickedly; and none of the wicked shall understand, but the wise shall understand.

0:22:36

So, in this three-and-a-half-year period, it is a time of judgment for those who are wicked and those who will ultimately be righteous. So, judgment is not a one-day event or one moment, at least in this case judgment can happen over a period of years, as people are tested and tried and proven. And it's hard not to look at that and realize Revelation 3 says pretty much the same thing.

¹⁸I counsel you (Revelation 3:18) to buy from Me gold refined in the fire, (Smelted, purified) that you may be rich; and white garments, that you may be clothed, that the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed; and anoint your eyes with eye salve, that you may see. ¹⁹As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore, be zealous and repent.

0:23:29

If we go to the book of Zechariah; Zechariah 13; Zechariah 13, well pick it up and we'll read verses 7 – 9. Zechariah 13, verses 7 – 9. Yehovah, will indeed, use affliction to refine His people. Do we, as the ecclesia, need that driver of affliction personally, before we see it God's way? That's a good question to ask.

0:24:09

Verse 7.

⁷"Awake, O sword, against My Shepherd, against the Man who is My Companion," says Yehovah of hosts. "Strike the Shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered; then I will turn My hand against the little ones. ⁸And it shall come to pass in all the land," Says Yehovah, "That two-thirds in it shall be cut off and die, but one-third shall be left in it: ⁹I will bring the one-third through the fire, will refine them as silver is refined, and test them as gold is tested. They will call on My name, and I will answer them. I will say, 'This is My people'; and each one will say, 'Yehovah is my God.'"

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0:24:51

Notice that. Two-thirds are simply killed, but one-third will be refined in the fire and made righteous. So, we see this. God is very involved; He's testing, He's sorting, He's sifting. If we go to I Corinthians 3; I Corinthians 3, and we will read verses 11 – 17, where we can perhaps, get some additional insight into what we are looking at here currently. Let's look at I Corinthians 3, verses 11. Oops, I'm in I Corinthians 11, a little hiccup there, I Corinthians 3, verses 11 – 17.

¹¹For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. ¹²Now if anyone builds on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, ¹³each one's work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one's work, of what sort it is.

0:26:16

So, is this not speaking of exactly the same thing?

¹⁴If anyone's work which he has built on (Jesus Christ) it endures, he will receive a reward. ¹⁵If anyone's work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire. ¹⁶Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? ¹⁷If anyone defiles the temple of God; God will destroy him. For the temple of God is holy, which temple you are.

0:26:52

So, we can see the Bible speaking of this, this testing and refining as a constant theme. In I Peter 4:12; I Peter 4:12, we are admonished. It says:

¹²Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, (To test you) as though some strange thing happened to you;

We will be tested to see where our hearts ultimately lie.

0:27:22

In Revelation 3:10; Revelation 3:10, we can see a specific reference to this because this is very important. There will be some who will not need to go through the fire, to be tested. We read of that in Revelation 3:10.

¹⁰Because you have kept My command to persevere,

0:27:46

Testing, examining, getting in harmony with God.

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I also will keep you from the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth.

God is wanting to know where our hearts actually lie. You know, He is testing our spirit all the time.

0:28:14

It's a constant in the scriptures and are we actually told to test the spirits too, to wake up and look about us. You know, Jeremiah was put in a situation where, you know, the Father said, look around, I'm going to put you in the midst of a bunch, can you see what I'm talking about? Well, we see a bit of that in a direction to us. In I John 4:1 it says:

¹ Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God;

0:28:54

And does God not test our spirits to see whether they are of God?

because many false prophets have gone out into the world.

We actually have to pay attention. Have we, you and I, gotten to the point where we can willingly jettison the ways of this world and embrace the ways of God as the only solution to make life work? Or do we still have a way to go?

0:29:24

I'd like to finish up with I Corinthians 11; I Corinthians 11, because I think it's just interesting, given the times we live in, of where this actually goes. I Corinthians 11, and we're going to read verses 1 – 7.

¹ Imitate me, just as I also imitate Christ.

0:29:52

Christ is to be our head; we are to follow His example in conduct and word.

²Now I praise you, brethren, that you remember me in all things and keep the traditions just as I delivered them to you. ³But I want you to know that the head of every man is Christ, the head of woman is man, and the head of Christ is God.

⁴Every man praying or prophesying, having his head covered, dishonors his head. ⁵But every woman who prays or prophesies with her head uncovered dishonors her head, for that is one and the same as if her head were shaved.

⁶For if a woman is not covered, let her also be shorn. But if it is shameful for a woman to be shorn or shaved, let her be covered. ⁷For a man indeed ought not to cover his head,

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God has placed man in a position of responsibility, and that isn't always the way it is. And so, we see here?

since he is the image and glory of the Lord; but woman is the glory of man.

0:31:10

This correct order of the way society should operate will be re-established in the kingdom of God. How well will this declaration go today? Will today's men be willing to, and know how to lead? And would today's women want to be led and follow that direction?

0:31:39

Would they all be willing to be taught? How do you think that would play out? Because if we are part of the ecclesia, part of our job will be to re-establish the correct order as God set the creation in motion.

0:32:00

And it's interesting, how far do think you and I would get in this world, where people are asked, what is a woman and they can't answer the question? You know, verse 7 is so interesting. A man, if you got up on the soap box and said, a man is the image and the glory of God, exactly how do you think that would be received?

0:32:28

Christ is the image of the Father; we are being made over in the image of Christ, and a human man is the image and the glory of God. But the woman is the glory of man. If we look at the biblical definition, which I think is quite clear, is it little wonder it can't be defined in today's society. We really do live in a mixed-up place, and God's will, will be to re-establish the order He has set in creation for the betterment of all. Will we all be on side with that when the time comes to do it?