

The Will of God  
Part 5  
By Boyd Yahn

Good day everyone, it's February the 6<sup>th</sup> of 2024, and this is part 5 of the Will of God Series. The last time we took a look at the various motivational gifts in us all, that to a large degree influence what we actually do in this flesh. They are given to us that we might glorify our Father who gave them to us.

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Satan, of course, would seek to have us not use them, or twist them in some way that they would be a negative rather than a positive. There are problem areas with each gift, and we can come to understand what those are if, in fact, they are tainted.

0:00:45

None of that should surprise us really. There is another passage in scripture that is generally shunned, or overlooked, or not taught in the greater COG (Church of God) community, and I'm speaking from that perspective, because that's the one I'm most familiar with.

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The reasons for it not being much emphasized in the COG community can only be guessed at, but at a glance, they don't appear to fit the existing hierarchical structure well, and are likely considered a threat to it. Ah, yet that is my guesstimation. If we go to I Corinthians 12 we see Paul expressing his desire that the ecclesia not be ignorant of such.

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The opposite of not being ignorant of something is to be ignorant of it. And Paul understood those things as a function of God's will; handing out capacities to His future Spirit children in this flesh as He so desires. Without it being His will to do so, it's not really likely it would happen.

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We need to ask ourselves, did the Father cease to do those things that Paul was certainly aware of, or does that continue to be the same day today, generally unrecognized or lacking the venue for expression?

0:02:21

Let's read I Corinthians 12, verses 1 – 27, and I keep thinking, as I go through this passage and read it in scripture, it's impossible to not ask yourself the question, what happened, where did this go along the way? So, let's take a look at that where Paul lays out some very fundamental things for us.

*<sup>1</sup> Now concerning spiritual gifts,*

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And those are different from motivational gifts.

*brethren, I do not want you to be ignorant:*

So, he made it a point of teaching them this so that they would not be ignorant of it.

*<sup>2</sup>you know that you were Gentiles, carried away to these dumb idols, however you were led.*

And there's a million flavors of that.

*<sup>3</sup>Therefore I make known to you that no one speaking by the Spirit of God calls Jesus accursed, and no one can say that Jesus is Lord except by the Holy Spirit.*

Unless God the Father brings us to, or draws us to Christ, we'd simply live our lives not even recognizing that. He goes on to say:

*<sup>4</sup>There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. <sup>5</sup>There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord. <sup>6</sup>And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all.*

0:03:57

That would be God the Father.

*<sup>7</sup>But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all:*

So, there's a sense of community, and we're not all the same.

*<sup>8</sup>for to one is given the word of wisdom*

God is able to download that ability into our human spirits.

*through the Spirit, to another the word of knowledge through the same Spirit, <sup>9</sup>to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healings by the same Spirit, <sup>10</sup>to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another discerning of spirits, to another different kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues <sup>11</sup>But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills.*

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So, it's something that our Father gives to those who He is working in, and that becomes problematic.

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*<sup>12</sup>For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ. <sup>13</sup>For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free—and have all been made to drink into one Spirit.*

0:05:28

That Spirit that flows from our Father.

*<sup>14</sup>For in fact the body is not one member but many. <sup>15</sup>If the foot should say, “Because I am not a hand, I am not of the body,” is it therefore not of the body? <sup>16</sup>And if the ear should say, “Because I am not an eye, I am not of the body,” is it therefore not of the body? <sup>17</sup>If the whole body were an eye, where would be the hearing? If the whole were hearing, where would be the smelling? <sup>18</sup>But now God has set the members, each one of them, in the body just as He pleased.*

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I have to ask the question again; did He stop doing that? Is the body of Christ any different than it was 2000 years ago? Or are those same proclivities and talents and abilities required all along? I think the answer to that is quite obvious. But it is God that places, it is His will to do that.

*<sup>19</sup>And if they were all one member, where would the body be? <sup>20</sup>But now indeed there are many members, yet one body. <sup>21</sup>And the eye cannot say to the hand, “I have no need of you”; nor again the head to the feet, “I have no need of you.” <sup>22</sup>No, much rather, those members of the body which seem to be weaker are necessary. <sup>23</sup>And those members of the body which we think to be less honorable, on these we bestow greater honor; and our unrepresentable parts have greater modesty, <sup>24</sup>but our presentable parts have no need. But (Again) God composed the body,*

0:07:14

He calls those whom He desires, and He puts them into the body of Christ and He gives them abilities.

*... <sup>25</sup>that there should be no schism in the body,*

And is there a schism in the body today? I'm thinking?

*but that the members should have the same care for one another. <sup>26</sup>And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; or if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it. <sup>27</sup>Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually.*

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Christ had all of those things; we are part of that body. So, that passage doesn't get a lot of time in the Church of God community. And again, it's impossible to read this passage without asking the question, what happened? It would seem obvious that the failure to recognize the uniqueness of the members of the body of Christ is a source of a lot of problems, or certainly can be.

0:08:31

You know, I don't think I've told you this story before. I was relatively new to the faith, we were working in the southern part of the province, refurbishing an old building, that we hoped to rent out, and one of the tradesmen that was there mentioned one evening that his son had been terrified by a set of red eyes glaring at him while he lay in bed. The kid was six.

0:08:57

And I was horrified to even hear that and the other fellows, also church members, sluffed it off, and I knew the father was being dead serious. So, when I got back to the place where I was staying that evening, I just said to God, You know, it sounds to me like this is a demon tormenting that poor little kid. And I was mad because, because, you know, at some point I'd experienced something similar; didn't see anything, but certainly knew of a presence when I was 6 and 8 years old myself.

0:09:33

So, I simply asked God, in Christ's name of course, that if there was a demon there terrifying that little boy to remove him please, and stop that. And no sooner were the words out of my mouth, specifically, that that thing was down stairs with me, in my room. I didn't see anything, but I certainly felt the thermostat go down and there was a cold oppressive presence in the room and I had no doubt that God had answered that prayer.

0:10:05

Maybe I didn't even know enough not to do that, but I did it anyway, and there is no doubt that God answered it. I didn't go looking for those kinds of situations; just saw a need and petitioned God. All the glory goes to Him. And I talked to the mother the next day and told her what happened and I said I don't think that little boy, your son, will have any more problems down the road.

0:10:31

And I saw her, probably six months later, and I said, has your son had any more issues? And she said, no, it's gone. So, you know, I was told I can't do that, or that's only the ministers that can do that, and I thought, well, I know what happened, and I'm grateful, and I'm sure the little son was.

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I heard of another fellow doing the same thing. A friend had been sick in the hospital for months, having been infected during an operation. At one point during the visit, he simply anointed him and asked God's healing. And he had been anointed by the ministry and nothing had happened, but when this individual, a non-ordained person, did that, he wasn't out of the hospital himself and the guy was up, packed his clothes, and God just healed him on the spot. And the poor man had been suffering for nine months.

0:11:38

And when news of that got out it was just all bad news because he shouldn't have been able to do that; couldn't do that, it wasn't his role or his responsibility. So, rather than rejoicing in the fact that this poor man, a brother, had been healed of an affliction that had been nine months long, it was just a bad thing. And I thought, wow. And I've experienced similar. Make of that what you will.

0:12:08

In reality, all either he or myself did was petition our Father to intervene, and He did so. Our involvement was a thing, but all the glory has to go to our Father. And we see similar things of God, working through Peter and John in Acts 3, verses 1 – 16. In Acts 3, verses 1 – 16 where we see it as God working through people. Acts 3:1:

*<sup>1</sup> Now Peter and John went up together to the temple at the hour of prayer, the ninth hour. <sup>2</sup> And a certain man lame from his mother's womb was carried, whom they laid daily at the gate of the temple which is called Beautiful, to ask alms from those who entered the temple; <sup>3</sup> who, seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple, asked for alms. <sup>4</sup> And fixing his eyes on him, with John, Peter said, "Look at us." <sup>5</sup> So he gave them his attention, expecting to receive something from them. <sup>6</sup> Then Peter said, "Silver and gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you: In the name of Jesus the Messiah of Nazareth, rise up and walk." <sup>7</sup> And he took him by the right hand and lifted him up, and immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength. <sup>8</sup> So he, leaping up, stood and walked and entered the temple with them—walking, leaping, and praising (the) God.*

0:13:35

Not Christ, the God.

*<sup>9</sup> And all the people saw him walking and praising (the) God. <sup>10</sup> Then they knew that it was he who sat begging alms at the Beautiful Gate of the temple; and they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him. <sup>11</sup> Now as the lame man who was healed held on to Peter and John, all the people ran together to them in the porch which is called Solomon's, greatly amazed. <sup>12</sup> So when Peter saw it, he responded to the people: "Men of Israel, why do you marvel at this? Or why look so intently at us, as though by our own power or Godliness we had made this man walk? <sup>13</sup> The God of Abraham, Isaac, and*

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*Jacob, the God of our fathers, glorified His Servant Jesus, whom you delivered up and denied in the presence of Pilate, when he was determined to let Him go. <sup>14</sup>But you denied the Holy One and the Just, and asked for a murderer to be granted to you, <sup>15</sup>and killed the Prince of life, whom God raised from the dead, of which we are witnesses. <sup>16</sup>And His name, through faith in His name, has made this man strong, whom you see and know. Yes, the faith which comes through Him (Through Christ) has given him this perfect soundness in the presence of you all.*

0:14:54

What is it that we, or at least I, do not understand at this time about this process? More work needs to be done, and perhaps that will come in due course. I don't understand it clearly at this time. In this passage in Acts 3 there is an unspoken realization by the man healed, of the true power of the universe; God Himself, and His Son, the Christ.

0:15:29

For all that exists, that we see and don't see, it a product of their will and doing. This is a necessary realization for the ecclesia, who are to reflect the opposite of the world. God showed Israel, through miracles, we today can scarcely imagine, of the real power behind it all. Israel's history, when Yehovah revealed Himself to them, by great miracles, was to reject His rulership, preferring another path.

0:16:03

We can see a similar thing expressing itself in Acts 2, verses 22 and 23. The doing of miracles and signs, for the most part, does not seem to make a significant impact upon those who seek the ways of this world. Let's just read what happened, you know, there were many of these things that the people of the day knew about, and yet how many people actually responded to that? Not very many.

0:16:43

Acts 2:22

*<sup>22</sup>Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a Man attested by God to you by miracles, wonders, and signs which (the) God did through Him*

And Christ said, it's the Father in me that does the works. So, the Father worked through Him and performed many miracles in the face of the people where Christ worked at the time.

*... <sup>23</sup>Him, being delivered by the determined purpose and foreknowledge of God, you have taken by lawless hands, have crucified, and put to death;*

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So, how much of an impact did all of those miracles and signs the Father did through Christ, really actually have? These miracles should be faith strengthening to the ecclesia. And it's been a personal observation that some, who have indeed had miracles and interventions have ultimately left their covenant with God.

0:17:48

The walk we walk, it seems, isn't so easy. God's will, of course, is that He rule over us. And it isn't hard to do the math, and live by every word of God, and the ecclesia are moved in that direction. And Satan's will of course, it that he rule over us, which requires that we move away from living by every word of God.

0:18:17

This rejection of God's will for His people is exemplified in the Old Testament; and we have an example of that that we can see how this actually begins to work. If we go into the book of I Samuel. We are going to go to the book of I Samuel 7, and we want to pay attention here, specifically to some of the dynamics that are going on, that perhaps we haven't paid a lot, or terrible amount of attention to.

0:18:49

In I Samuel 7. (verse 1)

*<sup>1</sup> Then the men of Kirjath Jearim came and took the ark of Yehovah, and brought it into the house of Abinadab on the hill, and consecrated Eleazar his son to keep the ark of Yehovah. <sup>2</sup> So it was that the ark remained in Kirjath Jearim a long time; it was there twenty years. And all the house of Israel lamented after Yehovah. <sup>3</sup> Then Samuel spoke to all the house of Israel, saying, "If you return to Yehovah with all your hearts, then put away the foreign Gods and the Ashtoreths*

0:19:31

That's the whole Easter thing.

*from among you, and prepare your hearts for Yehovah, and serve Him only; and He will deliver you from the hand of the Philistines."*

Now, how different is that from what we are told? Not a lot.

*<sup>4</sup> So the children of Israel put away the Baals and the Ashtoreths, and served Yehovah only.*

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Is that not the will of the Father for the ecclesia?

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<sup>5</sup>And Samuel said, "Gather all Israel to Mizpah, and I will pray to Yehovah for you." <sup>6</sup>So they gathered together at Mizpah, drew water, and poured it out before Yehovah. And they fasted that day, and said there, "We have sinned against Yehovah." And Samuel judged the children of Israel at Mizpah. <sup>7</sup>Now when the Philistines heard that the children of Israel had gathered together at Mizpah, the lords of the Philistines went up against Israel. And when the children of Israel heard of it, they were afraid of the Philistines. <sup>8</sup>So the children of Israel said to Samuel, "Do not cease to cry out to Yehovah our God for us, that He may save us from the hand of the Philistines." <sup>9</sup>And Samuel took a suckling lamb and offered it as a whole burnt offering to Yehovah. Then Samuel cried out to Yehovah for Israel, and Yehovah answered him. <sup>10</sup>Now as Samuel was offering up the burnt offering, the Philistines drew near to battle against Israel. But Yehovah thundered with a loud thunder upon the Philistines that day, and so confused them that they were overcome before Israel. <sup>11</sup>And the men of Israel went out of Mizpah and pursued the Philistines, and drove them back as far as below Beth Car. <sup>12</sup>Then Samuel took a stone and set it up between Mizpah and Shen, and called its name Ebenezer, saying, "Thus far Yehovah has helped us." <sup>13</sup>So the Philistines were subdued, and they did not come anymore into the territory of Israel. And the hand of Yehovah was against the Philistines all the days of Samuel.

0:21:32

So, we can see some direct intervention there by God on Israel's behalf.

<sup>14</sup>Then the cities which the Philistines had taken from Israel were restored to Israel, from Ekron to Gath; and Israel recovered its territory from the hands of the Philistines. Also, there was peace between Israel and the Amorites. <sup>15</sup>And Samuel judged Israel all the days of his life. <sup>16</sup>He went from year to year on a circuit to Bethel, Gilgal, and Mizpah, and judged Israel in all those places. <sup>17</sup>But he always returned to Ramah, for his home was there. There he judged Israel, and there he built an altar to the LORD.

0:22:06

(I Samuel 8:1)

<sup>1</sup> Now it came to pass when Samuel was old that he made his sons judges over Israel. <sup>2</sup>The name of his firstborn was Joel, and the name of his second, Abijah; they were judges in Beersheba. <sup>3</sup>But his sons did not walk in his ways; they turned aside after dishonest gain, took bribes, and perverted justice.

They did not seek the will of God.

<sup>4</sup>Then all the elders of Israel gathered together and came to Samuel at Ramah, <sup>5</sup>and said to him, "Look, you are old, and your sons do not walk in your ways.



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*Now make us a king to judge us like all the nations.”<sup>6</sup>But the thing displeased Samuel when they said, “Give us a king to judge us.” So, Samuel prayed to the Lord. <sup>7</sup>And Yehovah said to Samuel, “Heed the voice of the people in all that they say to you; for they have not rejected you, but they have rejected Me, that I should not reign over them.*

0:23:03

Same story, they did not want to seek the will of God.

*<sup>8</sup>According to all the works which they have done since the day that I brought them up out of Egypt, even to this day—with which they have forsaken Me and served other gods—so they are doing to you also.*

Same story.

*<sup>9</sup>Now therefore, heed their voice. However, you shall solemnly forewarn them, and show them the behavior of the king who will reign over them.”<sup>10</sup>So Samuel told all the words of Yehovah to the people who asked him for a king. <sup>11</sup>And he said, “This will be the behavior of the king who will reign over you: He will take your sons and appoint them for his own chariots and to be his horsemen, and some will run before his chariots. <sup>12</sup>He will appoint captains over his thousands and captains over his fifties, will set some to plow his ground and reap his harvest, and some to make his weapons of war and equipment for his chariots. <sup>13</sup>He will take your daughters to be perfumers, cooks, and bakers. <sup>14</sup>And he will take the best of your fields, your vineyards, and your olive groves, and give them to his servants. <sup>15</sup>He will take a tenth of your grain and your vintage, and give it to his officers and servants. <sup>16</sup>And he will take your male servants, your female servants, your finest young men, and your donkeys, and put them to his work. <sup>17</sup>He will take a tenth of your sheep. And you will be his servants. <sup>18</sup>And you will cry out in that day because of your king whom you have chosen for yourselves, and Yehovah will not hear you in that day.”*

*<sup>19</sup>Nevertheless*

0:24:37

Or in spite of being told that, and of what a human king would do for them, it was a better alternative for them, to go through all that, than to submit to the will of God. It's a bit staggering to think about that.

*Nevertheless, the people refused to obey the voice of Samuel; and they said,*

“Nope, we’re not going back to where we were, we want a king.”

*... <sup>20</sup>that we also may be like all the nations, and that our king may judge us and go out before us and fight our battles.”<sup>21</sup>And Samuel heard all the words of the*

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*people, and he repeated them in the hearing of Yehovah. <sup>22</sup>So Yehovah said to Samuel, "Heed their voice, and make them a king." And Samuel said to the men of Israel, "Every man go to his city."*

0:25:29

The people of the day no longer wanted anything to do with God's will for them. They wanted separation to be free to follow any way they chose. And in His mercy, God chose Saul, cleaned him up, gave him His Spirit, and anointed him to fulfill the role the people demanded.

0:25:53

Ron Dart did a great series, some years back, of course Ron is dead now, but he did a wonderful series on Saul on how God had cleaned him up, gave him His Spirit, gave him all the tools that he needed. And in spite of all that was done for him specifically, we know how Saul actually chose. He too, did not seek God's will for his people, just didn't do it.

0:26:28

So, I Samuel 10, and verses 17 – 27

*<sup>17</sup>Then Samuel called the people together to Yehovah at Mizpah,<sup>18</sup>and said to the children of Israel, "Thus says Yehovah of Israel: 'I brought up Israel out of Egypt, and delivered you from the hand of the Egyptians and from the hand of all kingdoms and from those who oppressed you.' <sup>19</sup>But you have today rejected your God, who Himself saved you from all your adversities and your tribulations; and you have said to Him, '(Nope), set a king over us!' Now therefore, present yourselves before Yehovah by your tribes and by your clans."<sup>20</sup>And when Samuel had caused all the tribes of Israel to come near, the tribe of Benjamin was chosen. <sup>21</sup>When he had caused the tribe of Benjamin to come near by their families, the family of Matri was chosen. And Saul the son of Kish was chosen. But when they sought him, he could not be found. <sup>22</sup>Therefore they inquired of Yehovah further, "Has the man come here yet?" And Yehovah answered, "There he is, hidden among the equipment."<sup>23</sup>So they ran and brought him from there; and when he stood among the people, he was taller than any of the people from his shoulders upward. <sup>24</sup>And Samuel said to all the people, "Do you see him whom Yehovah has chosen, that there is no one like him among all the people?" So, all the people shouted and said, "Long live the king!"<sup>25</sup>Then Samuel explained to the people the behavior of royalty, and wrote it in a book and laid it up before Yehovah.*

0:28:03

They had been told.

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*And Samuel sent all the people away, every man to his house. <sup>26</sup>And Saul also went home to Gibeah; and valiant men went with him, whose hearts God had touched.*

Well, that's interesting, you know, gave him full support, best wishes, encouragement, and already you see.

*<sup>27</sup>But some rebels said, "How can this man save us?" So, they despised him, and brought him no presents. But he held his peace.*

0:28:35

As Saul drifted further and further away from God, we see a very disturbing pattern here, which has ramifications for the ecclesia, who are to seek the will of God. If we go to I Samuel 15, verses 17 – 28.

*<sup>17</sup>So Samuel said, (to Saul) "When you were little in your own eyes, were you not head of the tribes of Israel? And did not Yehovah anoint you king over Israel? <sup>18</sup>Now Yehovah sent you on a mission, and said, 'Go, and utterly destroy the sinners, the Amalekites, and fight against them until they are consumed.' <sup>19</sup>Why then did you not obey the voice of Yehovah? Why did you swoop down on the spoil, and do evil in the sight of Yehovah?" <sup>20</sup>And Saul said to Samuel, "But I have obeyed the voice of the LORD, and gone on the mission on which Yehovah sent me, and brought back Agag king of Amalek; I have utterly destroyed the Amalekites. <sup>21</sup>But the people took of the plunder, sheep and oxen, the best of the things which should have been utterly destroyed, to sacrifice to Yehovah your God in Gilgal."*

0:29:47

Do you not see the same spirit active as we did in the garden? No, no, not my problem.

*<sup>22</sup>So Samuel said: "Has Yehovah as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of Yehovah?"*

Wait a minute, that's what the ecclesia are supposed to do.

*Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed than the fat of rams. <sup>23</sup>For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of Yehovah, He also has rejected you from being king."*

0:30:24

And the spiritual application of that is obvious, we're called to become kings and priests.

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*<sup>24</sup>Then Saul said to Samuel, "I have sinned, for I have transgressed the commandment of Yehovah and your words, because I feared the people and obeyed their voice. <sup>25</sup>Now therefore, please pardon my sin, and return with me, that I may worship Yehovah." <sup>26</sup>But Samuel said to Saul, "I will not return with you, for you have rejected the word of Yehovah, and Yehovah has rejected you from being king over Israel." <sup>27</sup>And as Samuel turned around to go away, Saul seized the edge of his robe, and it tore. <sup>28</sup>So Samuel said to him, "The LORD has torn the kingdom of Israel from you today, and has given it to a neighbor of yours, who is better than you.*

0:31:10

We see the story continue on in I Samuel 18, verses 6 – 12.

*<sup>6</sup>Now it had happened as they were coming home, when David was returning from the slaughter of the Philistine, that the women had come out of all the cities of Israel, singing and dancing, to meet King Saul, with tambourines, with joy, and with musical instruments. <sup>7</sup>So the women sang as they danced, and said: "Saul has slain his thousands, and David his ten-thousands."*

0:31:41

Oops.

*<sup>8</sup>Then Saul was very angry, and the saying displeased him; and he said, "They have ascribed to David ten-thousands, and to me they have ascribed only thousands.*

Can we see the spirit of envy, instead of the Spirit of God, working in this man?

*Now what more can he have but the kingdom?" <sup>9</sup>So Saul eyed David from that day forward. <sup>10</sup>And it happened on the next day*

0:32:13

Right after that anger was there. It opened the door

*that the distressing spirit (A demon) from God came upon Saul, and he prophesied inside the house. So, David played music with his hand, as at other times; but there was a spear in Saul's hand. <sup>11</sup>And Saul cast the spear, for he said, "I will pin David to the wall!" But David escaped his presence twice. <sup>12</sup>Now Saul was afraid of David, because Yehovah was with him, but had departed from Saul.*

0:32:50

So, we can see him unraveling and he knew that God had left him. And we see it just goes from bad to worse. I Samuel 28; I Samuel 28, and we'll read verses 5 – 14.

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*<sup>5</sup>When Saul saw the army of the Philistines, he was afraid, and his heart trembled greatly. <sup>6</sup>And when Saul inquired of the LORD, the LORD did not answer him, either by dreams or by Urim or by the prophets. <sup>7</sup>Then Saul said to his servants, "Find me a woman who is a medium, that I may go to her and inquire of her." And his servants said to him, "In fact, there is a woman who is a medium at En Dor." <sup>8</sup>So Saul disguised himself and put on other clothes, and he went, and two men with him; and they came to the woman by night. And he said, "Please conduct a séance for me,*

0:33:42

So, already he's appealing to team dark because God is not working with him, or honoring him anymore. And you can just see ah...

*<sup>9</sup>... the woman said to him, "Look, you know what Saul has done,*

So, Saul had been in service to God. Always

*... how he has cut off the mediums and the spiritists from the land. Why then do you lay a snare for my life, to cause me to die?" <sup>10</sup>And Saul swore to her by Yehovah, saying, "As Yehovah lives, no punishment shall come upon you for this thing."*

0:34:16

So, you can see, this man is entirely conflicted, as we go along with the story.

*<sup>11</sup>Then the woman said, "Whom shall I bring up for you?" And he said, "Bring up Samuel for me." <sup>12</sup>When the woman saw Samuel, she cried out with a loud voice. And the woman spoke to Saul, saying, "Why have you deceived me? For you are Saul!"*

0:34:36

So, you can see the deception, the lies, the turning to the dark side and the lessons seem to be fairly bold. When we have been given knowledge and understanding of God's will, and choose to reject it, bad things can happen. Not the least of which is, God leaving, as was documented for us. And we shouldn't be unaware of the fact, you know, of God will do what He has to do. You can see what He did with Saul.

0:35:10

And yet, just so we are aware of the things that the Father does, ah, look what happened to the apostle Paul. II Corinthians 12, verses 7 – 9. Paul speaking about himself. He said:

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*<sup>7</sup>And lest I should be exalted above measure by the abundance of the revelations,*

0:35:29

God used him powerfully.

*a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I be exalted above measure. <sup>8</sup>Concerning this thing I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might depart from me. <sup>9</sup>And He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness." Therefore, most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.*

0:35:55

So, you know, God will use, it's His will, to use whatever He has to, to hone us, discipline us to make us such that our submission to the will of God is complete. That's what He wants. He wants to be able to joyfully turn us into immortal and incorruptible beings.

0:36:24

The ecclesia, unlike king Saul as an example, when shown God's will embrace it and run with it. Seeking to run with it and learn it more. You know, if you read Psalm 119, and all of it, you certainly get that impression. What was the attitude of David? He always had a great admiration for God's law.

What is the attitude of the non-ecclesia toward the things of Yehovah? Well, we are actually shown that, and it goes right back to God's own people, His firstborn son. They do not want to have anything to do with the will of God. In Hosea 8 and we'll read verses 11 – 14, where it says.

*<sup>11</sup>"Because Ephraim has made many altars for sin, they have become for him altars for sinning. <sup>12</sup>I have written for him the great things of My law, but they were considered a strange thing. <sup>13</sup>For the sacrifices of My offerings they sacrifice flesh and eat it, but Yehovah does not accept them. Now He will remember their iniquity and punish their sins. They shall return to Egypt.*

*<sup>14</sup>"For Israel has forgotten his Maker,*

0:37:58

Conveniently so, they did not seek His will.

*and has built temples; Judah also has multiplied fortified cities; but I will send fire upon his cities, and it shall devour his palaces."*

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That is going to come. We'll learn in Jeremiah; Jeremiah 31, who Ephraim actually is, or *Ephraim*, I'm not sure how that is pronounced, I've heard both, pick your own flavor.

0:38:27

Jeremiah 31:9 it says, at the end of that, it says:

*<sup>9</sup>... for I am a Father to Israel, and Ephraim is My firstborn.*

He is Yehovah's first born son, physically, of Israel. They don't want to seek God's will; they think it's a strange thing. How does that work?

0:38:58

When we begin to mention the things of God to people who don't understand, what kind of reaction do you expect you'll get? Well, what was it that Israel didn't like about having God's rule over them? Let's look at some of God's wills', that might have been an issue. Let's go to Deuteronomy 6, and we'll read verses 6 – 9. Would they have had a problem with that. Deuteronomy 6, and we'll read verses 6 – 9.

*<sup>6</sup>“And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. <sup>7</sup>You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. <sup>8</sup>You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. <sup>9</sup>You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.*

0:40:01

I had a baptized member, one time tell me, that's all you ever think about is God. You're obsessed with it, were the exact words, and I thought, aren't we supposed to bring every thought into the captivity of Christ? Are we supposed to do these kinds of things?

0:40:22

Look at Deuteronomy 11, verses 13 – 19.

*<sup>13</sup>“And it shall be that if you earnestly obey My commandments which I command you today, to love Yehovah your God and serve Him with all your heart and with all your soul, <sup>14</sup>then I will give you the rain for your land in its season, the early rain and the latter rain, that you may gather in your grain, your new wine, and your oil. <sup>15</sup>And I will send grass in your fields for your livestock, that you may eat and be filled.’ <sup>16</sup>“Take heed to yourselves, lest your heart be deceived, and you turn aside and serve other Gods and worship them, <sup>17</sup>lest Yehovah's anger be aroused against you, and He shut up the heavens so that there be no rain, and the land yield no produce, and you perish quickly from the good land which the Lord is giving you. <sup>18</sup>“Therefore you shall lay up these words of mine in your heart*

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*and in your soul, and bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. <sup>19</sup>You shall teach them to your children, speaking of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up.*

0:41:21

That's fairly comprehensive. Did Israel want to yield to God's clearly state will? Do we want to yield to such, or would that seem a bit much, to think that we should live by every word of God?

0:41:39

What about Deuteronomy 10? We'll read verses 12 – 22. Deuteronomy 10, and we'll start in verse 12.

<sup>12</sup> *“And now, Israel, what does the LORD your God require of you,*

Is this any different for the ecclesia than it was for Israel?

*but to fear Yehovah your God, to walk in all His ways and to love Him, to serve Yehovah your God with all your heart and with all your soul, <sup>13</sup>and to keep the commandments of Yehovah and His statutes which I command you today for your good? <sup>14</sup>Indeed heaven and the highest heavens belong to Yehovah your God, also the earth with all that is in it. <sup>15</sup>Yehovah delighted only in your fathers, to love them; and He chose their descendants after them, you above all peoples, as it is this day. <sup>16</sup>Therefore circumcise the foreskin of your heart, and be stiff-necked no longer. <sup>17</sup>For the LORD your God is God of Gods and Lord of lords, the great God, mighty and awesome, who shows no partiality nor takes a bribe. <sup>18</sup>He administers justice for the fatherless and the widow, and loves the stranger, giving him food and clothing. <sup>19</sup>Therefore love the stranger, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt. <sup>20</sup>You shall fear Yehovah your God; you shall serve Him, and to Him you shall hold fast, and take oaths in His name. <sup>21</sup>He is your praise, and He is your God, who has done for you these great and awesome things which your eyes have seen. <sup>22</sup>Your fathers went down to Egypt with seventy persons, and now Yehovah your God has made you as the stars of heaven in multitude.*

0:43:10

(Deuteronomy 11:1)

<sup>1</sup> *“Therefore you shall love Yehovah your God, and keep His charge, His statutes, His judgments, and His commandments always.*

Is God's will stated plainly enough we can understand it? Is it our will, as the ecclesia, to do so, to comply with God's will in such a way?

0:43:12



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What about Deuteronomy 13? Deuteronomy 13, and we'll read verses 1 – 10.

*<sup>1</sup> "If there arises among you a prophet or a dreamer of dreams, and he gives you a sign or a wonder, <sup>2</sup>and the sign or the wonder comes to pass, of which he spoke to you, saying, 'Let us go after other Gods'—which you have not known—'and let us serve them,' <sup>3</sup>you shall not listen to the words of that prophet or that dreamer of dreams, for Yehovah your God is testing you to know whether you love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul. <sup>4</sup>You shall walk after the LORD your God and fear Him, and keep His commandments and obey His voice; you shall serve Him and hold fast to Him. <sup>5</sup>But that prophet or that dreamer of dreams shall be put to death, because he has spoken in order to turn you away from Yehovah your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt and redeemed you from the house of bondage, to entice you from the way in which Yehovah your God commanded you to walk. So, you shall put away the evil from your midst. <sup>6</sup>"If your brother, the son of your mother, your son or your daughter, the wife of your bosom, or your friend who is as your own soul, secretly entices you, saying, 'Let us go and serve other Gods,' which you have not known, neither you nor your fathers, <sup>7</sup> of the Gods of the people which are all around you,*

0:44:56

That hasn't changed today.

*near to you or far off from you, from one end of the earth to the other end of the earth, <sup>8</sup>you shall not consent to him or listen to him, nor shall your eye pity him, nor shall you spare him or conceal him; <sup>9</sup>but you shall surely kill him; your hand shall be first against him to put him to death, and afterward the hand of all the people. <sup>10</sup>And you shall stone him with stones until he dies, because he sought to entice you away from Yehovah your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage.*

0:45:27

When God was ruling over Israel, and this was actually practiced, and you might think how that's going to look in the thousand years; was it maybe this rule that folks had a problem with when Yehovah was their ruler? Again, in the thousand years, do you think this will apply, and would the ecclesia be supportive of it, if it was?

0:45:53

Numbers 28; Numbers 28, verses 1 and 2. Numbers 28, and verse 1 and 2. Was it this that they had a problem with, where they just didn't want to obey God. His will is clearly stated.

*<sup>1</sup> Now Yehovah spoke to Moses, saying,*

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Numbers 28:1

*<sup>2</sup>“Command the children of Israel, and say to them, ‘My offering, My food for My offerings made by fire as a sweet aroma to Me, you shall be careful to offer to Me at their appointed time.’*

0:46:33

Was it God’s will that they did those actual things? How about something as simple as Jeremiah 10 (Verse 1)

*<sup>1</sup> Hear the word which Yehovah speaks to you, O house of Israel. <sup>2</sup>Thus says Yehovah: “Do not learn the way of the Gentiles; do not be dismayed at the signs of heaven, for the Gentiles are dismayed at them. <sup>3</sup>For the customs of the peoples are futile; for one cuts a tree from the forest, the work of the hands of the workman, with the ax. <sup>4</sup>They decorate it with silver and gold; they fasten it with nails and hammers so that it will not topple. <sup>5</sup>They are upright, like a palm tree, and they cannot speak; they must be carried, because they cannot go by themselves. Do not be afraid of them, for they cannot do evil, nor can they do any good.”*

0:47:19

So, if this were brought to the attention of the Sunday observing, Christmas observing Christians of today, how do you think that might go over? Would they submit to the will of God, or would we see a different reaction? Would it be embraced, or would it be shunned? I think we know the answer to that, but we need to ask ourselves, would they be fully submissive to God in that way?

0:47:46

If we go to Revelation 11, there is coming a time when the will of God will be made known to the whole world. And how many will love the message, and how many will have a slightly different view? Revelation 11 (Verse 1)

*<sup>1</sup> Then I was given a reed like a measuring rod. And the angel stood, saying, “Rise and measure the temple of God, the altar, and those who worship there. <sup>2</sup>But leave out the court which is outside the temple, and do not measure it, for it has been given to the Gentiles. And they will tread the holy city under foot for forty-two months. <sup>3</sup>And I will give power to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy one thousand two hundred and sixty days, clothed in sackcloth.” <sup>4</sup>These are the two olive trees and the two lamp stands standing before the Yehovah of the earth. <sup>5</sup>And if anyone wants to harm them, fire proceeds from their mouth and devours their enemies. And if anyone wants to harm them, he must be killed in this manner. <sup>6</sup>These have power to shut heaven, so that no rain falls in the days of their prophecy; and they have power over waters to turn them to blood, and to strike the earth with all plagues, as often as they desire.*

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0:48:56

So, these witnesses will be speaking the will of God, and they will be doing some things to get people's attention. Will they really be well received? The will of God, how will it be accepted?

*<sup>7</sup>When they finish their testimony, the beast that ascends out of the bottomless pit will make war against them, overcome them, and kill them. <sup>8</sup>And their dead bodies will lie in the street of the great city which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified. <sup>9</sup>Then those from the peoples, tribes, tongues, and nations will see their dead bodies three-and-a-half days, and not allow their dead bodies to be put into graves. <sup>10</sup>And those who dwell on the earth will rejoice over them, make merry, and send gifts to one another, because these two prophets tormented those who dwell on the earth.*

0:49:48

People don't really want to hear what the will of God is, or face the music for not accepting that. Whenever, or wherever the will of God is made manifest there's always resistance to it. And I think if the ecclesia is honest about it, are we yet unyielded to God, and resistant to His will when the rubber actually hits the road?

0:50:27

Now, as we move toward Matthew 12, verse 50 there will be challenges in how we think and how we act, but move we must. I want to read that, because it underpins so much of what we are all about. Matthew 12, and verse 50.

*<sup>50</sup>For whoever does the will of My Father in heaven is My brother and sister and mother."*