

For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust.

Matthew 5:45

Store In My Heart

2Peter 1:5-8

For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with goodness, goodness with knowledge, knowledge with self-control, self-control with endurance, endurance with godliness, godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love. For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being useless or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. (CSV)

Faith, virtue & knowledge should be just the beginning of our growth as Christians. The other characteristics will be developed by those who truly seek to be like Christ. Trusting God, standing firm, and knowing right will push us toward God. The closer we get to Christ in our life, the more these qualities will shine.

True God-like love should be a driving force in all we do.



Is Everything That Happens God's Will?

Gardner Hall

After the death of a child, a horrible mishap or any other tragedy there are always some who say, "It was the will of God." Is that statement always true?

It Depends!

Yes... It is the will of God to permit tragedies and trials. Everything that happens is permitted by him.

No... However, God doesn't want everything He permits! There is a subtle but important difference between permitting something and wanting it to happen!

Illustrations

God...

... did not want the Israelites to divorce, but he permitted it because of the hardness of their hearts (**Matthew 19:8**).

... did not want ancient people to have more than one wife (**Genesis 2:24**), but regulated it when Israel was a primitive society (**Deuteronomy 21:15-17**)

... did not want Israel to have a king (**2Samuel 10:17-19**), but tolerated it and even had his prophets anoint them.

... does not want anyone to rebel against Him and be lost (**2Peter 3:9**), and yet gives men the free will to do it.

Contact Us

We want opportunities to speak with others about the Lord's Kingdom.

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For Our Information

Adene Gray has bronchitis.

Paula Laubach is on a heart monitor and has increased some meds. Otherwise she is about the same.

Ruben & Brenda Keisler are in Texas City to leave for a cruise this week.

The Soliday family desires to worship and work with us. Their address is on the board.

Tonight we start in 2Kings 6:24.

Wednesday we will start in Hebrews 4.

Pray for safety, courage & healing.

Often Christian parents will allow their teenage children to do something that they don't necessarily want them to do, so that they will learn to face the consequences of their actions.

I can think of two Biblical reasons why God allows things to happen that He doesn't necessarily want:

(1) He wants to give us free will (**Deuteronomy 30:15-19**). He wants us to have the freedom to choose. He doesn't want us to make bad choices but He allows them.

(2) He allows tragedies because He doesn't want us to become too attached to this world that has become corrupted by sin. Rather, He wants us to prove our love by learning to deal with trials and then have eternal life with Him (**2Corinthians 4:17**).

Careful with our words!

Whenever a child dies or someone suffers horribly, we need to be careful before saying, "God wanted it." Yes, God allows trials and tragedies, as in the case of Job, but that doesn't mean that He wants them. When we suffer, let's blame Satan and the curses that come upon our world because of sin. Let's never blame God!

(With every choice comes responsibility and the possibility of failure. With every blessing comes the possibility of loss. We hear others, and maybe even sometimes ourselves, speak of God's Will regarding any number of happenings in this world. As brother Hall reminds us, we need to be careful about attributing things to God.

As far as Scripture informs us, God's will is that all should be saved. (**2Peter 3:9**). His will is for all men to be obedient to His Word and submit to Jesus as Savior and Lord. This seems to be the focus of all Scripture regarding the Will of God. He does not look down on men and determine that He 'wills' one individual to live longer despite a sickness or disease and another with the same sickness will die. Sunshine and rain come to all mankind. (**Matthew 5:45**).

We should focus on what we know for certain is according to His Will. He has spoken about what He wants from each of us. Let us give attention to obedience rather than speculation. DLH)



We seek only to serve God according to His Will!