

# Knowing God's Will: 1

## *The Battle of the Wills*

**Oftentimes we want our will to win.**

Jonah 1:1-2 The word of the LORD came to Jonah son of Amittai: <sup>2</sup>“Go to the great city of Nineveh and preach against it, because its wickedness has come up before me.” NIV

Jeremiah 17:9 The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it?

**Cautions to help protect you:**

**Remember that your personal happiness is a great indicator of what you really want, but it's not always a great indicator of what God really wants.**

Mark 10:17-22 As Jesus started on his way, a man ran up to him and fell on his knees before him. “Good teacher,” he asked, “what must I do to inherit eternal life?”

<sup>18</sup>“Why do you call me good?” Jesus answered. “No one is good—except God alone.

<sup>19</sup>You know the commandments: ‘Do not murder, do not commit adultery, do not steal, do not give false testimony, do not defraud, honor your father and mother.’”

<sup>20</sup>“Teacher,” he declared, “all these I have kept since I was a boy.” <sup>21</sup>Jesus looked at him and loved him. “One thing you lack,” he said. “Go, sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.” <sup>22</sup>At this the man's face fell. He went away sad, because he had great wealth. (NIV)

Isaiah 53:10 “Yet it was the LORD's will to crush him and cause him to suffer, and though the LORD makes his life a guilt offering...”

**Remember not to walk through every open door.**

Acts 14:27 On arriving there, they gathered the church together and reported all that God had done through them and how he had opened the door of faith to the Gentiles.

1 Corinthians 16:8,9 But I will stay on at Ephesus until Pentecost, <sup>9</sup>because a great door for effective work has opened to me, and there are many who oppose me.

2 Corinthians 2: 12,13 Now when I went to Troas to preach the gospel of Christ and found that the Lord had opened a door for me, <sup>13</sup>I still had no peace of mind, because I did not find my brother Titus there. So I said good-bye to them and went on to Macedonia.

Colossians 4:3 And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains.

1 Samuel 24:3-10 He came to the sheep pens along the way; a cave was there, and Saul went in to relieve himself. David and his men were far back in the cave. <sup>4</sup>The men said, "This is the day the LORD spoke of when he said to you, 'I will give your enemy into your hands for you to deal with as you wish.'" Then David crept up unnoticed and cut off a corner of Saul's robe.

<sup>5</sup>Afterward, David was conscience-stricken for having cut off a corner of his robe. <sup>6</sup>He said to his men, "The LORD forbid that I should do such a thing to my master, the LORD's anointed, or lift my hand against him; for he is the anointed of the LORD." <sup>7</sup>With these words David rebuked his men and did not allow them to attack Saul. And Saul left the cave and went his way.

<sup>8</sup>Then David went out of the cave and called out to Saul, "My lord the king!" When Saul looked behind him, David bowed down and prostrated himself with his face to the ground. <sup>9</sup>He said to Saul, "Why do you listen when men say, 'David is bent on harming you'?" <sup>10</sup>This day you have seen with your own eyes how the LORD delivered you into my hands in the cave. Some urged me to kill you, but I spared you; I said, 'I will not lift my hand against my master, because he is the LORD's anointed.' (NIV)

**Remember not to walk through open doors expecting God to close them if you're doing the thing.**

**Don't assume that life will go smoothly if you go against God's will.**

Galatians 6:7 Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. (NIV)

Romans 8:28 And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. (NIV)

Romans 8:28 And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to {His} purpose. (NAS)