

WILL OF GOD SERIES NOTES

WHAT IS THE HOLINESS OF GOD?

There is a **primary** and a **secondary** aspect to the holiness of God.

Primarily, HOLINESS means:

- the separate One – infinitely, eternally separate
- separate from human/angelic/created beings
- separate from sin
- transcendent- beyond or above the world, creation
- existing apart from and not subject to the limitations of the material universe
- transcendental separateness
- beyond or above the range of normal or merely physical human experience
- surpassing the ordinary; exceptional
- incomparable, matchless, peerless, unrivaled, beyond comparison, unparalleled, unequaled, without equal, second to none, unsurpassed, unsurpassable
- God is unique
- HE is other than
- otherness
- HE is exclusive, being the only one
- He is unlike anything or any other

Secondarily, HOLINESS means:

- the perfect One
- HE is spotless purity
- pure light
- He is flawless, without error, without sin, without mistake, fully righteous
- His holiness is what he is as God that nobody else is

-It is his quality of perfection that can't be improved upon, that can't be imitated, that is incomparable, that determines all that he is

- and all that he is is determined by nothing from outside him

There are **two different Greek** words in the New Testament for the word **will**:

1. **boulē** - to desire to have or experience something, with the implication of some reasoned planning or will to accomplish the goal - 'to desire, to want, to will.'; to think, with the purpose of planning or deciding on a course of action - 'to purpose, to plan, to intend.'

2 Peter 3:1,8-9

*“1 This is now the second letter that I am writing to you, **beloved**. In both of them I am stirring up your sincere mind by way of reminder,*

SKIP TO VERSE 8

*8 But do not overlook this one fact, **beloved**, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.*

*9 The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward **you**, not **wishing** that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.”*

2. **thēlema** – A. desire; that which is desired or wished for - 'wish, desire.'; B. that which is purposed, intended, or willed - 'will, intent, purpose, plan.'

1 Timothy 2:1-4

“1 First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people,

2 for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way.

3 This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior,

*4 who **desires** all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.”*

Rev 5:9

“9 And they sang a new song, saying,

"Worthy are you to take the scroll

and to open its seals,

for you were slain, and by your blood
you ransomed people for God
from **every** tribe and language and people and nation,”

Ephesians 1:5

“5 he predestined already decided us for adoption through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his **will**,”

Both **boulē** and **thēlema** are capable of **several nuances**.

They encompass such ideas as the **counsel of God**, the **plan of God**, the **decrees or the commands of God**, the **disposition or attitude of God**, as well as **other nuances**.

Further distinctions in historical theology add to the **labyrinth or maze** of meanings attached to the simple formula “**the will of God**.”

Because of this, distinctions are necessary—sometimes fine distinctions, even technical distinctions—with respect to will of God.

Theologians have identified AT LEAST 4 different wills.

The **SOVEREIGN** will of God, the **PERCEPTIVE** will of God, the **DISPOSITIONAL** will of God and the **PERMISSIVE** will of God – just to name a few!

SOVEREIGN WILL OF GOD

Also known as His **DECRETIVE** decree, His commands, His laws, His rule, His orders, etc. will or **HIDDEN** will **hidden from us** until after it comes to pass.

SOVEREIGN means absolute ruler.

One who reigns; the sole controller - possessing unilateral, one-sided, independent, autonomous authority.

When we say God is sovereign, we are saying that He is subject to none, influenced by no one.

He is the independent, self-governing, self-determining ruler that has **ALL** authority and **ALL** power in His hands.

In a nutshell, the southern will of God is God purposefully taking all actions, all events and all contingencies [possibilities, likelihood - seen and unforeseen], and working them together to a pre-determined end – which is for his glory!

“YOUR thoughts of God are too human.” – Martin Luther.

Theologian A.W. Pink said, “We too...prefer the same charge against the majority of the preachers of our day, and against those who, instead of searching the Scriptures for themselves, lazily accept the teaching of others. The most dishonoring and degrading conceptions of the rule and reign of the Almighty are now held almost everywhere. To countless thousands, even among those professing to be Christians, the God of the Scriptures is quite unknown.”

A.W. Pink continues, “Of old, God complained to an apostate Israel, ‘Thou thoughtest that I was altogether such an one as thyself’”

Psalms 50:21 ESV

“21 These things you have done, and I have been silent;
you thought that I was one like yourself
But now I rebuke you and lay the charge before you.”

Such must now be His indictment against an apostate Christendom.
Men imagine that the Most High is moved by sentiment, rather than *activated* by principle.

They suppose that His omnipotence is such an idle fiction that Satan is thwarting His designs on every side.

They think that if He has formed any plan or purpose at all, then it must be like theirs, constantly subject to change.

They openly declare that whatever power He possesses must be restricted, lest He invade the citadel of man’s “free will” and reduce him to a “machine.”

They lower the all-efficacious atonement, which has actually redeemed everyone for whom it was made, to a mere “remedy,” which sin-sick souls may use if they feel disposed to *thereby weakening* the invincible work of the Holy Spirit to an “offer” of the Gospel which sinners may accept or reject as they please.

The “God” of this twentieth century no more resembles the Supreme Sovereign of Holy Writ than does the dim flickering of a candle the glory of the midday sun.

The “God” who is now talked about in the average pulpit, spoken of in the ordinary Sunday School, mentioned in much of the religious literature of the day, and preached in most of the so-called Bible Conferences is the figment of human imagination, an invention of maudlin sentimentality.

The heathen outside of the pale of Christendom form “gods” out of wood and stone, while the millions of heathen inside Christendom manufacture a “god” out of their own carnal mind.

In reality, they are but atheists, for there is no other possible alternative between an absolutely supreme God, and no God at all.

A “god” whose will is resisted, whose designs are frustrated, whose purpose is checkmated, possesses no title to Deity, and so far from being a fit object of worship, merits naught but contempt.

We really don’t know what it means that God is holy!

That is so **foreign** to our experience... so **alien** to our own existence...that we have almost no **GRASP** whatsoever about the character and nature of God!

In fact, we are so baffled by God’s holiness, that more often than not, we find it **offensive!**

We must understand that **first and foremost** God is **HOLY**.

I believe it is **impossible to understand** the **FULLNESS** of GOD’S holiness, but we need to understand as much as is **humanly possible** according to what the Word teaches us.

Synonym the following bold words

The absence of a **clear understanding** of **God's holiness** is the reason for our **shallow** [superficial, trivial, petty, small-minded, one-dimensional, silly] **living**,
it is the reason for our **impotent** [powerless, weak, helpless] **living**,
it is the reason for our [selfish self-centered self-seeking self-interested egotistical] **living**,
it is the reason for our **weak** [ineffectual, ineffective, feeble, inadequate, cowardly spineless fainthearted] **living**,
it is the reason for our **living a life of disobedience** [defiance, noncompliance, insubordination, wayward] and it is the reason for our **living a life of compromise** [find the middle ground, give and take, cooperate, bargain, meet halfway, concede]

That's why we go about our day with a **matter-of-fact** (unemotional, no big deal) attitude towards our sin.

Will of God: The Glory of God

Commentary on: “The whole earth is full of His glory”

The design of all the work of God is that His holiness should become universally manifest, or what is the same thing, that His glory should become the fulness of the whole earth!!!

Isaiah 11:9

9 They will not hurt or destroy in all My **holy mountain**,
For the earth **will be full** of the knowledge of the Lord As the waters cover the sea.

Numbers 14:21

21 but indeed, as I live, all the earth **will be filled** with the **glory of the Lord**.

Habakkuk 2:14

14 "For the earth will be filled
With the knowledge of the **glory of the Lord**,
as the waters cover the sea.

Ps 72:19

19 And blessed be His glorious name forever;
And may the whole earth be **filled with His glory**.
Amen, and Amen.

His glory (câbod) is His manifested holiness, as Oetinger and Bengel express it, just as, on the other hand, **His holiness is His veiled or hidden glory**.

God's GLORY is twofold:

1. **Who He is intrinsic reality** of His being and character
2. **God's GLORY** is the **intrinsic** [belonging to something as one of the basic and essential features that make it what it is. Of, by or in itself – in other words, His glory is what he is as God] **reality** of his being and character.

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Will of God Self-Quiz

1. How many aspects are there to God's holiness?
2. Based on the aspects, list at least three expressions (synonyms) of them.
3. What are the two Greek words for "will"?
4. Which testament are they located?
5. List at least one scripture that illustrates one of the Greek words for will.
6. List the four wills that have been mentioned in this series.
7. What is another term for the sovereign will of God?
8. [Complete the sentence] Your thoughts of God are all too ...
9. What does that mean?
10. Why does a lack of understanding God's holiness lead to shallow living?
11. List at least one scripture that highlights the glory of God.