

## Sermon Discussion Guide:

# If God Wills

Sunday, July 9, 2023

Scripture: **Acts 18:18–23**

Series: **The Spirit & The Church**

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### OVERVIEW

God's will for his people is a highly contested part of the Christian walk. Misconceptions about God's Will have caused many to experience "analysis paralysis." There are others who believe all and any decision is up to them since God will work through and bless any path taken. Is God's will general and broad, or is it very specific? How do we know and find out? The Word of God gives us the answer: **The will of God is revealed in the word of God, affirmed by the Spirit of God, and reminded by the people of God.**

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### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Describe both God's **will of decree** and **of duty**. Give some examples of each.
2. Paul said he will return "if God wills." In other words, "Lord willing." There are some believers that rarely say "Lord willing" before planning or taking on a new venture/activity, and others may say "Lord willing" for every day-to-day task, plan, or anything they plan to do. Why say "Lord willing" in this way? Assuming we mean it in our hearts, should we reserve the phrase for the "big things" ("*Lord willing, we will move to a different state*"), or is it appropriate for the day-to-day ("*Lord willing, I will leave for work tomorrow at 7am*")?
3. Paul writes in Romans 8:28, "And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose." What do we usually think "good" means in this verse? What does "our good" actually mean?
4. A common understanding of God's will is that he has a specific job for us and we need to figure it out; a specific spouse for us and we search for him or her; a specific ministry for us and we need to figure out our gifts. Is this a biblical understanding of "God's will?" How does the gospel free us from the burden of figuring out so many aspects of life?