

## Principles of Divine Guidance

1. **Mankind needs Guidance from God because man has been given the ability to make moral choices, called “Volition.”**

If man does not possess volition then sin and evil do not exist because it would have to originate with God.

2. **A creature’s ability to make moral choices either for or against God is at the heart of the Angelic Conflict. Isa 14:12-14; Gen 3:1-6**

3. **All of mankind is born through Adam and Eve, who chose against God and were enslaved by a Sinful Nature. Rom 5:12-15**

Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned — 13 for until the Law sin was in the world; but sin is not imputed when there is no law. 14 Nevertheless death reigned from Adam until Moses, even over those who had not sinned in the likeness of the offense of Adam, who is a type of Him who was to come.

4. **The Sinful Nature would be passed on to all their offspring, so there will be a constant battle between the flesh and the Spirit. Gal 5:16-17**

But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh. 17 For the flesh sets its desire against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are in opposition to one another, so that you may not do the things that you please.

5. **The only way to “redeem” this Sinful Nature is by payment from one who is not enslaved to it. 1 Peter 2:21-25**

21 For you have been called for this purpose, since Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example for you to follow in His steps, 22 who committed no sin, nor was any deceit found in His mouth; 23 and while being reviled, He did not revile in return; while suffering, He uttered no threats, but kept entrusting Himself to Him who judges righteously; 24 and He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness; for by His wounds you were healed. 25 For you were continually straying like sheep, but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Guardian of your souls.

6. **When a person accepts this payment and is delivered from the penalty of sin, the resulting “New Creation” has the ability to choose for God and walk in a “newness of life.” Rom 6:4**

Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, in order that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.

7. **As this “New Creation” thanksgiving to our Lord should be focused on doing His will, as our Lord Himself did. Luke 22:42**

(A fitting response to undeserved blessing is unreserved obedience.)

**8. We “do” His will by seeking that which is pleasing in His sight.**

**A. It is to be our ambition in life. 2 Cor 5:9-10** (Easy is the enemy.)  
Therefore also we have as our ambition, whether at home or absent, to be **pleasing** to Him. 10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.

**B. It must be learned. Eph 5:7-11**  
Therefore do not be partakers with them; 8 for you were formerly darkness, but now you are light in the Lord; walk as children of light 9 (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness and righteousness and truth), 10 trying to learn what is **pleasing** to the Lord. 11 And do not participate in the unfruitful deeds of darkness, but instead even expose them;

**C. It is a spiritual process. Col 1:9-13**  
For this reason also, since the day we heard of it, we have not ceased to pray for you and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, 10 so that you may walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please Him in all respects, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; 11 strengthened with all power, according to His glorious might, for the attaining of all steadfastness and patience; joyously 12 giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in light.

**9. There are different areas of God’s Will:**

**A. The Overruling Will of God.**  
1). This is seen in His supernatural intervention in history.  
2). It is also manifest when He chooses to overrule certain physical “laws” or the actions of certain people without overruling their volition. Num 22 (Balaam) Jonah

**B. The Sovereign Will of God.**  
1). One example is His control of human history, where He functions as a King who makes the rules and penalties, and bestows grace as He chooses.  
2). Another is in His bestowal of certain spiritual gifts to the Church. 1 Cor 12:13

**C. The Permissive Will of God.**  
1). God permits volition to function apart from His Directive Will.  
2). This part of His will is where human good and evil function. John 3:20

For everyone who does evil hates the light, and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed.

3). It is also where freedom functions in human activities that are not directly addressed by the Word of God.  
**D. The Directive Will of God.**

**1). This refers to the Prescribed Principles of the Word of God. 1 Tim 1:8-10**

But we know that the Law is good, if one uses it lawfully, 9 realizing the fact that law is not made for a righteous person, but for those who are lawless and rebellious, for the ungodly and sinners, for the unholy and profane, for those who kill their fathers or mothers, for murderers 10 and immoral men and homosexuals and kidnappers and liars and perjurers, and whatever else is contrary to sound teaching,

**2). It includes God's desire for His creation to love and not sin (1 Cor 13) or to display virtue rather than sin.**

**E. The Perfect Will of God. Rom 12:2**

And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.

**1). This occurs when Believers are fully submitted to Him.**

**2). It is marked by maturity in love. Mark 12:29-31**

**10. Both the Permissive and Directive Will of God involve:**

**A. Geography. Where does God want me to be and where am I?**

(He wants you where you can grow and serve. If you can't grow you will eventually come to the place where you can't serve. Eph 4:11-13)

**B. Viewpoint. What does God want me to think and what do I think? Cf 2 Cor 10:3-5**

For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, 4 for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses. 5 We are destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and we are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ,

**C. Operation. What does God want me to do and what do I do?**

**1 Peter 2:15**

For such is the will of God that by doing right you may silence the ignorance of foolish men.

**11. If we seek to please Him we will first look to His Directive Will in all matters of life. (Most mistakes in life come from feeling when we should think and thinking when we should feel.)**

**A. In our relationships. Eph 5:22-6:4**

**B. In our thoughts. Php 4:8**

(If we don't control our thoughts we will lose control of our actions.)

**C. In our attitudes. Php 2:5**

**D. In our service. Gal 5:13; 2 Cor 6:3-4**

giving no cause for offense in anything, so that the ministry will not be discredited, but in everything commending ourselves as servants of God,

**E. We are directed to honorably use what He has given us and let Him work out the effects. 1 Cor 12:4-6**

Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit. 5 And there are varieties of ministries, and the same Lord. 6 There are varieties of effects, but the same God who works all things in all persons.

**F. Aligning with His directive will should be at the center of our lives which begins with prayer. 1 John 5:14-15**

This is the confidence (**PARR8SIA = a confidence that comes from experience**) which we have before Him (**before His face**), that, if we ask (**EAN + Pres Subj AITEW = to ask as an inferior to a superior, humbly**) anything according to His will (**THEL8MA = that determined as a result of His desire**), He hears us (**Pres Act Ind AKOUW = is hearing, i.e. right now**). 15 And if we know (**OIDA = from experience**) that He hears us in whatever we (**may humbly**) ask (**AITEW**), we know that we have the (**humble**) requests which we have (**humbly**) asked from Him.

**12. Pursuit of God's Will involves:**

**A. Prayer for Guidance. 1 Thes 5:17**

**Psa 5:8** O Lord, **lead me** in Your righteousness because of my foes; Make Your way straight before me.

**Psa 25:5** **Lead me** in Your truth and teach me, For You are the God of my salvation; For You I wait all the day.

**Psa 27:11** Teach me Your way, O Lord, And **lead me** in a level path Because of my foes.

**Psa 31:1-3** In You, O Lord, I have taken refuge; Let me never be ashamed; In Your righteousness deliver me. 2 Incline Your ear to me, rescue me quickly; Be to me a rock of strength, A stronghold to save me. 3 For You are my rock and my fortress; For Your name's sake You will **lead me** and guide me.

**Psa 43:3** O send out Your light and Your truth, let them **lead me**; Let them bring me to Your holy hill And to Your dwelling places.

**Psa 61:1-3** Hear my cry, O God; Give heed to my prayer. 2 From the end of the earth I call to You when my heart is faint; **Lead me** to the rock that is higher than I. 3 For You have been a refuge for me, A tower of strength against the enemy.

**Psa 139:23-24** Search me, O God, and know my heart; Try me and know my anxious thoughts; 24 And see if there be any hurtful way in me, And **lead me** in the everlasting way.

**Psa 143:10-11** Teach me to do Your will, For You are my God; Let Your good Spirit **lead me** on level ground. 11 For the sake of Your name, O Lord, revive me. In Your righteousness bring my soul out of trouble.

**B. Submission to the Holy Spirit. John 16:13; James 4:7-10**

Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. 8 Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded. 9 Be miserable and mourn and weep; let your

laughter be turned into mourning and your joy to gloom. 10 Humble yourselves in the presence of the Lord, and He will exalt you.

**C. A willingness and desire to be transformed. Rom 12:1-3**

Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. 2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect. 3 For through the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think more highly of himself than he ought to think; but to think so as to have sound judgment, as God has allotted to each a measure of faith.

**D. Correct study of His written word. 2 Tim 2:15; Psa 119:105**

Your Word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.

(Prior to the completion of the Canon, God revealed His will via dreams, visions, prophets, direct communication and the stars. He could still do the same thing now if He needed to, but that is not normally the case and especially in societies where the written word is so readily available. We are not to read into Scripture but to seek the Author's intent. Can He do this now? Yes! But it is to be tested by His revealed will, which we are expected to learn.)

**E. Being filled by the Holy Spirit to all the fullness of God.**

**Eph 5:18 cf 3:18**

**F. Willingness to do His will. John 7:17**

**G. Reliance on His grace when sins occur. 1 John 1:5-10**

**H. Willingness to grow in Him. 2 Pet 3:18**

**13. Once His will is determined, we are obligated to do it. James 4:13-17**

(Most run, none can hide. Heb 4:13 cf Jonah)

Come now, you who say, "Today or tomorrow, we shall go to such and such a city, and spend a year there and engage in business and make a profit." 14 Yet you do not know what your life will be like tomorrow. You are just a vapor that appears for a little while and then vanishes away. 15 Instead, you ought to say, "If the Lord wills, we shall live and also do this or that." 16 But as it is, you boast in your arrogance; all such boasting is evil. 17 Therefore, to one who knows the right thing to do, and does not do it, to him it is sin.

**14. Obedience to His Will must become our Prime Directive. Luke 22:42;**

**John 5:30** I do not seek My own will but the will of the Father who sent Me. (This should not be a quest to see how far we can stretch it and avoid doing it.)

**15. God's Permissive Will usually gives rise to the most questions.**

**A. Who do I marry?**

(God brought the first woman to the first man. He chose her. From then on the choices have become more difficult. Don't marry someone with the intent of changing them. Beware of promises to change after the marriage. Look for

people of honor and character, who not just admit they are not perfect but have the humility to live seeking God's will.)

**B. How many children?**

The exhortation of Genesis is not a Mosaic Law form but a guiding principle for a husband and wife to have children. I do not see where this has changed, just like some other principles of Genesis. This is not a legalistic issue per se in that this is His directive will for mankind, but also His permissive will in the number of children.

Sometimes, but not all the time, people don't want to "bring children into this mess." Is this a fear led decision? Sometimes they don't feel they cannot afford one, but is that not also fear driven? Sometimes they just don't want the hassle, is that selfish? Sometimes they want eight at a time, but what's the motive (not for us to judge unless stated, then the statement can be considered). There is no greater joy or pain than found in children. They are a test and therefore an opportunity to learn to trust the Lord more.

Encouragement should be to follow the Biblical exhortation, praying for wisdom as to how to deal with the fears. Part of the problem in the world today is that Christians, of all people, stopped making babies and raising them in the ways of the Lord.

**C. Should I move?**

(What are the motives? Wrong motives often underlay desires to change locations. Sometimes they are forced. Sometimes they are optional. Lord, grant me the wisdom to know the difference.)

**D. Should I change churches?**

(What are the motives? Desire to hide? Desire to grow? Desire to be seen? Desire to rub elbows with a higher class of people? Desire to make business contacts, run for office? Does your church believe God's word is God's word and proclaim it? It reveals the Lord. How do people know what the Lord says about Himself unless they read His autobiography?)

**E. How often should I attend church? Heb 10:25**

(You are free to come or not come as often as you want. Is it a priority or not? Do you make up what you miss? Are other things more important? Do you study at home?)

**F. What about social statements?**

(Do I join the protest march? You have the freedom to do so. Send a teabag label to Washington? Let your thoughts and feelings be known? What is the time costs versus the spiritual benefits? Have you earnestly prayed for direction or just got emotionally ready to jump on the bandwagon?)

**G. What clothing do I wear today?**

(Motives again. Make a statement? Clothes make the man-not quite. Clothes cover the man. Can be overdone or underdone.)

**H. What kind of ministry should I have?**

(What is your gift? How can it serve? GAP 2)

- 16. The closer our walk with the Lord the clearer the Light for our path and the fewer questions we will have about our Freedom in Him.**

(Sometimes we have to “test the waters.”)

- A. Sometimes the Holy Spirit makes things quite clear. Acts 13**
- B. Sometimes Satan gets in the way until the proper time. 1 Thes 2:18 cf Acts 16:9 (Going into Macedonia)**
- C. He promises to light the path of those who follow Him, so the clearest guidance is for those closest to Him. John 8:12**

Again therefore Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world; he who follows Me shall not walk in the darkness, but shall have the light of life."

- 17. Do what is clear; pray, and wait about what is not. Isa 40:31; Rom 1:9-12** (Patience is love waiting for its opportunity. It is the principal part of faith. Thomas ‘ Kempis said, “At least bear patiently if not joyfully.”)

For God, whom I serve in my spirit in the preaching of the gospel of His Son, is my witness as to how unceasingly I make mention of you, 10 always in my prayers making request, if perhaps now at last by the will of God I may succeed in coming to you. 11 For I long to see you in order that I may impart some spiritual gift to you, that you may be established;

- 18. The “Holy Spirit” is the “Holy” Spirit and therefore will not guide anyone into sin or evil. Jas 1:13** (should be obvious)

Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am being tempted by God"; for God cannot be tempted by evil, and He Himself does not tempt anyone.

- 19. The Great Believers of history obey His will by Faith. Heb 11**

(Augustine: Faith is believing what you do not see and its reward is seeing what you believe.)

- 20. The closer we walk in His Directive Will the more His Permissive Will in our lives gets direction.**

(We do things not for self, but for God. We also do things for God not out of selfish or fearful reasons but out of thanksgiving for what He has already done. God’s grace should awake man’s gratitude. While thanksgiving is good, thanksgiving is better!)

- 21. The Interrelationships of God’s Will:**

- A. The Overruling Will of God. This is defined as “what God can do.”**

- 1). **This is seen in His supernatural intervention in history. (Creation-the Flood-Red Sea-Rapture-Judgments)**
- 2). **It is also manifest when He chooses to overrule certain physical “laws” or certain actions of people. Num 22 (Balaam) Jonah, Miracles**
- 3). **He does this without overruling the moral creature’s ability to choose.**

- 4). **His Sovereign decision within this plan is that He has retained the freedom to overrule speech, action and physical laws, in accordance with His Essence, but has decided not to overrule the attitudes of His creatures.**
- 5). **His Overruling Will can supersede all else.**
- 6). **Our personal response to His Overruling Will is to be watchful to it and thankful for it.**  
(It is never used arbitrarily, but always for Good.)

**B. The Sovereign Will of God. This is defined as “what God desires.”**

- 1). **One example of His Sovereign Will is found in His control of human history, where He functions as a King who makes the rules and penalties, and applies both the penalties and grace as He chooses.**
  - a. **Seen in human government who is to administer discipline.**
  - b. **Seen in the family which is to maintain standards of righteousness.**
- 2). **Another is in His bestowal of spiritual gifts to individuals in the Church. 1 Cor 12:13**
- 3). **Our personal response to His Sovereign Will is to seek that which is pleasing in His sight. 2 Cor 5:9**

**C. The Directive Will of God. This is defined as “what God commands me to do.”**

- 1). **This refers to the Prescribed Principles of the Word of God. 1 Tim 1:8-10**

But we know that the Law is good, if one uses it lawfully, 9 realizing the fact that law is not made for a righteous person, but for those who are lawless and rebellious, for the ungodly and sinners, for the unholy and profane, for those who kill their fathers or mothers, for murderers 10 and immoral men and homosexuals and kidnappers and liars and perjurers, and whatever else is contrary to sound teaching,

- 2). **It includes God’s desire for His creation to love and not sin (1 Cor 13) or to display virtue rather than sin.**
- 3). **Our personal response to His Directive Will is to do that which is pleasing in His sight. John 7:17**

**D. The Permissive Will of God. This is defined as “what God allows me to do.” Gal 5:1**

- 1). **God permits volition to function apart from His Overruling, Sovereign and Directive Will.**
- 2). **This is where our freedom functions in that we may choose that which is not specifically prohibited.**



- 3). **This part of His will is also where human good and evil function and makes His creatures accountable. John 3:20**

For everyone who does evil hates the light, and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed.

- 4). **Our personal response to His Permissive is to not use our freedom as an “opportunity for the flesh.” Gal 5:13**  
 5). **See point 15.**

- E. **The Perfect Will of God. This is defined as “aligning myself with His Sovereign, Directive and Permissive Will. Rom 12:2**

And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.

- 1). **This occurs when Believers are fully submitted to Him.**  
 2). **It is marked by maturity in love. Mark 12:29-31**  
 3). **Our personal response to His Perfect Will is to seek to be “Perfect.” Matt 5:48**

**22. The Plan of God includes all areas of His will. Acts 2:22-24**

"Men of Israel, listen to these words: Jesus the Nazarene, a man attested to you by God with miracles and wonders and signs which God performed through Him in your midst, just as you yourselves know — 23 this Man, delivered over by the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God, you nailed to a cross by the hands of godless men and put Him to death. 24 "But God raised Him up again, putting an end to the agony of death, since it was impossible for Him to be held in its power.

- A. **His Overruling Will was seen through the miracles of Jesus, who was a miracle in Himself and His resurrection from the dead.**  
 B. **God’s Sovereign Will is seen in sending a Messiah to pay the penalty for sin.**  
 C. **God’s Directive Will is displayed by laying out the requirements for Messiah and specifying the standards of Righteousness by which to evaluate Him.**  
 D. **God’s Permissive Will is seen in permitting sin and evil to function to the point of crucifying an innocent man. God did not overrule the volition of anyone, yet His plan was carried out.**  
 E. **God’s Perfect Will is seen in the person of His Son, fully submitted to the Father’s Sovereign and Directive Will and functioning in love through all of it.**

- 23. Some believe that God must function through His Overruling Will to bring about His plan. Cf Rev 20:15** And if anyone’s name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

**24. The Will of God and Salvation.**

**A. The Big Question concerns God's Overruling Will. Does He use it on those He "elects"?**

**1). No one will come to the Son unless the Father "draws" him. John 6:43-47**

Jesus answered and said to them, "Do not grumble among yourselves. 44 "No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me **draws (ELKUW = a word that means to attract, to exert a force upon)** him; and I will raise him up on the last day. 45 "It is written in the prophets, 'AND THEY SHALL ALL BE TAUGHT OF GOD.' Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father, comes to Me. 46 "Not that anyone has seen the Father, except the One who is from God; He has seen the Father. 47 "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes has eternal life.

**2). The Father handed this off to His Son. Luke 10:22**

All things have been handed over to Me by My Father, and no one knows who the Son is except the Father, and who the Father is except the Son, and anyone to whom the Son wills (**BOULOMAI**) to reveal Him."

**3). The Son chose to "draw" all men to Himself with His death on the cross. John 12:31-32**

"Now judgment is upon this world; now the ruler of this world will be cast out. 32 "And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will **draw (ELKUW = exerted a force upon)** all men to Myself."

**4). Therefore, the Father has let His Son, "draw all men to Himself."**

**5). Man is called on to draw near to God. James 4:8**

Draw (**EGGIDZW**) near to God and He will draw (**EGGIDZW**) near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded. **Rev 22:17** The Spirit and the bride say, "Come." And let the one who hears say, "Come." And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who wishes (**THELW = to desire, to will**) take the water of life without cost. **John 7:17** If anyone is willing (**THELW**) to do His will, he will know of the teaching, whether it is of God or whether I speak from Myself.

**B. His Sovereign Will declares that those who believe in His Son are guaranteed eternal life and those who do not are guaranteed eternal punishment. John 3:36**

"He who believes in the Son has eternal life; but he who does not obey the Son will not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him."

**1). His Sovereign Will is for all to be saved and come to a full knowledge of the Truth. 1 Tim 2:3-4**

This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, 4 who desires (**THELW**) all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. **2 Pet 3:9** The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing (**BOULOMAI = to deliberately will something;**

differs from THELW which emphasizes the desire) for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.

- 2). **If His Overruling Will were to function arbitrarily by canceling the requirement from His Sovereign Will for faith, then all would be saved, for God so loved the world (John 3:16) and His Son was the propitiation for the sins of the world (1 John 2:1-2).**
- 3). **It all are saved there would be no need for nor inhabitants of the Lake of Fire, and thus all the warnings against it would be in vain. Matt 25:41**
- 4). **God's Overruling Will is about His Omnipotence to carry out anything He chooses to do. His Sovereign Will is about revealing His Righteousness and Justice. They must not be confused nor used interchangeably.**
- 5). **Man's "election" then refers to being "called out" for specific role in history, rather than salvation. It can include salvation but is not limited to it. 1 Cor 1:26-29**

For consider your calling, brethren, that there were not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble; 27 but God has **chosen** the foolish things of the world to shame the wise, and God has **chosen** the weak things of the world to shame the things which are strong, 28 and the base things of the world and the despised God has **chosen**, the things that are not, so that He may nullify the things that are, 29 so that no man may boast before God.

- 6). **Divine "election" is clearly not a description of eternal salvation.**

- a. **Or all Israel is saved apart from their decision about the Lord. Acts 13:17**

"The God of this people Israel chose our fathers and made the people great during their stay in the land of Egypt, and with an uplifted arm He led them out from it.

- b. **As was that "old devil" Judas. John 6:70**

Jesus answered them, "Did I Myself not choose you, the twelve, and yet one of you is a devil?" **& Luke 6:13**

**C. God's Directive Will is to believe in the Death, Burial and Resurrection of Jesus the Messiah. 1 Cor 15:1-4**

Now I make known to you, brethren, the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received, in which also you stand, 2 by which also you are saved, if you hold fast the word which I preached to you, unless you believed in vain. 3 For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, 4 and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures,

**D. God's Permissive Will allows His creatures to choose against Him and His Perfect Will for His creatures is to believe in His Son.**

**1). This places the responsibility for one's decisions squarely on the shoulders of each person. John 3:18**

"He who believes in Him is not judged; he who does not believe has been judged already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

**2). Those who reject the Son throughout the course of their lives have blasphemed the Holy Spirit and will face the consequences of the unpardonable sin. 1 John 5:10-13**

The one who believes in the Son of God has the testimony in himself; the one who does not believe God has made Him a liar, because he has not believed in the testimony that God has given concerning His Son. 11 And the testimony is this, that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. 12 He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life. This Is Written That You May Know 13 These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life.

**3). God's Perfect Will is for all to believe. John 20:30-31**

Therefore many other signs Jesus also performed in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; 31 but these have been written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name.

**E. God's Omniscience including His Foreknowledge selected a plan in Eternity Past that knew who would subscribe to His Directive Will. 1 Peter 1:1-2**

Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who reside as aliens, scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, who are chosen 2 according to the *foreknowledge* of God the Father, by the sanctifying work of the Spirit, to obey Jesus Christ and be sprinkled with His blood: May grace and peace be yours in the fullest measure. **Rom 8:28-30** 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. 29 For those whom He *foreknew*, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren; 30 and these whom He predestined, He also called; and these whom He called, He also justified; and these whom He justified, He also glorified.

**F. God's Omniscience in the history of the Angelic Conflict is the only thing yet to prove.**

**1). There exists a book that contains the names of all who would live, called the "Book of Life." Those who die in unbelief will be erased from that book. Rev 3:5**

He who overcomes will thus be clothed in white garments; and I will not erase his name from the book of life, and I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels.

**2). Those who are erased from the “Book of Life” will be thrown into the Lake of Fire. Rev 20:12-15**

And I saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne, and books were opened; and another book was opened, which is the book of life; and the dead were judged from the things which were written in the books, according to their deeds. 13 And the sea gave up the dead which were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead which were in them; and they were judged, every one of them according to their deeds. 14 Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. 15 And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

**3). There is another book called “The Lamb’s Book of Life” where the names of Believers were written before the foundation of the world. Rev 13:8**

All who dwell on the earth will worship him, everyone whose name has not been written from the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb who has been slain. **Rev 17:8** The beast that you saw was, and is not, and is about to come up out of the abyss and go to destruction. And those who dwell on the earth, whose name has not been written in the book of life from the foundation of the world, will wonder when they see the beast, that he was and is not and will come.

**4). At the end of the Millennium, at the Great White Throne, the books will balance.**

**5). At the name of Jesus every knee should bow. Php 2:10**

**6). At the name of Jesus every knee will bow. Rom 14:11**

**25. The Plan of God and His Will:**

**A. The Sovereign Will of God (SWOG) chose a course of action. Acts 2:22-24**

"Men of Israel, listen to these words: Jesus the Nazarene, a man attested to you by God with miracles and wonders and signs which God performed through Him in your midst, just as you yourselves know — 23 this Man, delivered over by the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God, you nailed to a cross by the hands of godless men and put Him to death. 24 "But God raised Him up again, putting an end to the agony of death, since it was impossible for Him to be held in its power.

**1). He knew all the realities.**

**2). He knew all the possibilities.**

(Man plays god when he gets too involved with the “what if’s?”)

**B. This course of action included the creation of:**

**1). Matter. Gen 1:1**

**2). Creatures. Gen 1:26**

**3). Space. Gen 1:1**

**4). Time. Gen 1:5**

**C. God set His Plan in motion with the creation of Matter, Creatures, Space and Time. (Divine Decrees)**

- 1). **God possesses freedom. Omniscience has always known every aspect of sin. God freely chooses to be Righteous. It is not that He can't sin, but that He won't.**
  - 2). **At the heart of the creation of moral creatures was their freedom to choose which is what it means to be "made in the Image of God." Gen 1:26**
  - 3). **God also made animals which revealed that He could make a living creature that had no ability to make moral decisions. 2 Pet 2:12**
  - 4). **Thus each moral creature became the Primary Cause of its own decisions which made the creature accountable for its decisions. John 3:36; Rom 1:20  
Creature → Decision → Primary Cause (Accountable)**
  - 5). **Influences, although powerful at times (the Lord, world, flesh, devil) are thus Secondary Causes of decisions. Adam, Satan  
Influence → Creature → Secondary Cause**
  - 6). **Each individual is therefore accountable for a decision to influence but not for decisions made by others.  
(Blame game doesn't work with God. We are held accountable for the influence. Some decisions are understandable but not necessarily justifiable. Teachers. Jas 3)**
- D. The Primary Purpose of God's Plan was to share His love. John 3:16**
- 1). **This would result in glory to Himself. Cf John 8:54**
  - 2). **At the heart of this plan is Grace. 2 Cor 8:9-10**  
For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sake He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich.
  - 3). **With grace comes the need for Redemption for His creation that He knew would choose to fall. Rom 3:23-25**  
for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, 24 being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus; **Eph 1:7-8** In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace, 8 which He lavished upon us.
- E. The SWOG chose to make Physical Laws and Spiritual Laws.**
- 1). **Physical laws include the laws of nature and physics as they affect Matter, Creatures, Space and Time.**
    - a. **He created them. Gen 1:1**
    - b. **He sustains them. Col 1:17**
    - c. **He maintains them. Heb 1:3**
    - d. **He terminates them. Eccl 3:1 (Gives life, ends life.)**
    - e. **He changes them. 2 Pet 3:10**

- 2). **The Overruling Will of God (OWOG) can change or affect the physical laws when and as He chooses. He does so when He affects miracles.**
  - 3). **Spiritual Laws define God's Righteousness and Justice. They include the blessings for obedience and the penalties for failure.**
    - a. **The Law of Liberty by which we are subject to judgment. Jas 1:25; 2:12**
    - b. **The Law of Sin and Death expressing the Cause-Effect nature of sin. Rom 7:23; 8:2**
    - c. **The Law of Righteousness pointing out the need for a Savior. Rom 9:30-33**
    - d. **The Law of the Spirit of Life which is the guaranteed blessing for faith. Rom 8:2**
    - e. **The Law of Faith for the victory. Rom 3:21-31**  
(Hell is to be surrounded by the Righteousness and Justice of God without His love. Heaven is to be surrounded by the Righteousness and Justice of God with His love.)
    - f. **The Law of God pointing out the battle with sin. Rom 7:22-25; 8:7; 1 Cor 9:20-21**
    - g. **The Law of Christ to spread His grace. Gal 6:2; 1 Cor 9:20-21**
    - h. **The Law of Love. Jas 2:8; Rom 13:8-10; Gal 5:14**
  - 4). **The SWOG can change forms of obedience as He chooses. (Cf dietary codes and sacrifices)**
  - 5). **The OWOG has chosen not to change the Spiritual Laws.**
- F. Satan was the first to violate God's Spiritual Laws, thus indicating His Sovereign Will was transgressed.**
- 1). **He was the first and highest ranking angel. Ezek 28:11-19**

11 Again the word of the Lord came to me saying, 12 "Son of man, take up a lamentation over the king of Tyre, and say to him, 'Thus says the Lord God, "You had the seal of perfection, Full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. 13 "You were in Eden, the garden of God; Every precious stone was your covering: The ruby, the topaz, and the diamond; The beryl, the onyx, and the jasper; The lapis lazuli, the turquoise, and the emerald; And the gold, the workmanship of your settings and sockets, Was in you. On the day that you were created They were prepared. 14 "You were the anointed cherub who covers, And I placed you there. You were on the holy mountain of God; You walked in the midst of the stones of fire. 15 "You were blameless in your ways From the day you were created, Until unrighteousness was found in you. 16 "By the abundance of your trade You were internally filled with violence, And you sinned; Therefore I have cast you as profane From the mountain of God. And I have destroyed you, O covering cherub, From the midst of the stones of fire. 17 "Your heart

was lifted up because of your beauty; You corrupted your wisdom by reason of your splendor. I cast you to the ground; I put you before kings, That they may see you. 18 "By the multitude of your iniquities, In the unrighteousness of your trade, You profaned your sanctuaries. Therefore I have brought fire from the midst of you; It has consumed you, And I have turned you to ashes on the earth In the eyes of all who see you. 19 "All who know you among the peoples Are appalled at you; You have become terrified, And you will be no more.""

**2). He chose His will over God's will and led other angels astray, displaying the freedom God had given to moral creatures. Isa 14:12**

"How you have fallen from heaven, O star of the morning, son of the dawn! You have been cut down to the earth, You who have weakened the nations! **(He is called "The Shining One" to denote his wisdom, beauty and position. His title "son of the daybreak" refers to him being the first angel created who sealed a pattern. From his original position/status we see his function and method of operation after his first fall.)** Isa 14:13 = "But you said (you yourself – emphasizes Volition) in your heart (**Place where thoughts are analyzed and decisions are made soul**), "I will ascent to heaven (the heavens – indicates that he was on earth when this resolve was made; Cf Eze 28:16 ff; he had access to earth before his fall and after; sought to take over God's abode); "I will raise my throne above (**MIMagaL = from above**; from the top up; already the highest ranking angel but wanted more) the stars of god, (stars of EL; stars = angels Job 38:17; Rev 12:1-10; EI = OmPo. God; he knew what he was attempting to do, but he obviously had enough information to know God's policies to the point that he trusted God's OmPo. To not directly intervene) and I will sit on the mount of assembly in the recesses of the north (**this refers to Mt. Olympus located in N. Greece which is the supposed Mt. Of the gods where they met to choose a course of action; this verse is speaking to the people of Isa's day and is giving them the essence of Satan's negative volition statements; here he claims that he is a god of gods and can gain control of creation to direct their course**).

- 3). He was placed on trial, found guilty and sentenced to a Lake of Fire. Matt 25:41
- 4). He will not be placed in the Lake of Fire until the Second Advent of Jesus Christ. Rev 20:10
- 5). He evidently appealed the judgment and God's grace decided to let Satan challenge His Sovereign Will.
- 6). Thus man was created to play a role in the resolution of this conflict. Heb 1-2
- 7). Based on Satan's character we can reasonably suppose that he would attack every part of God's character.
- 8). All of this is an integral part of the Plan of God.



- 9). The Plan of God is an intricately woven tapestry that has considered all Primary and Secondary Causes for all of creation.
- G. The Permissive Will of God (PWOG) is where we function.
- 1). God permits obedience and disobedience. Gal 5:1,13
  - 2). This is where we are tested and tempted. James 1:13-14  
Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am being tempted by God"; for God cannot be tempted by evil, and He Himself does not tempt anyone. 14 But each one is tempted when he is carried away and enticed by his own lust.
  - 3). We are tested to do certain things and not do others, based on the Directive Will of God (DWO). Gal 5:16-17  
But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh. 2 Tim 2:19-20 Nevertheless, the firm foundation of God stands, having this seal, "The Lord knows those who are His," and, "Let everyone who names the name of the Lord abstain from wickedness." 1 Peter 2:11-12 Beloved, I urge you as aliens and strangers to abstain from fleshly lusts, which wage war against the soul.
  - 4). Thus, our actions may be obedient or disobedient.  
2 Cor 10:5-6  
We are destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and we are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ, 6 and we are ready to punish all disobedience, whenever your obedience is complete.
  - 5). Our non-actions may also be obedient or disobedient.  
Parable of 10 Virgins (wise or unwise)
  - 6). Obedience also includes the freedom to do what is not specifically prohibited. Gal 5:13  
For you were called to freedom, brethren; only do not turn your freedom into an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.  
(which person to marry, number of kids, school, vocation, church, music)
  - 7). Disobedience involves both the sins of commission (doing that which is prohibited) and the sins of omission (not doing what is commanded).
- H. God's Plan is so phenomenal that it encompasses all elements of His will and brings to pass a plan of and for the ages that was completely foreknown.
- 1). It lets Righteousness and sin be clearly distinguished.
  - 2). It displays God's indescribable greatness.
  - 3). It lets every moral creature have the opportunity to experience His love.
  - 4). It lets evil run its course, extending grace to the highest possible degree. Gen 15:16 (iniquity of the Amorites)

- 5). It permits and influences every knee to bow. Php 2:10  
 6). One day all will bow, awestruck by His majesty. Rom 14:11

26. The Plan of God and the Individual. How does He direct my path?

A. First He draws all men to His son, but not all accept.

John 12:32

"And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to Myself."

B. Those who believe in the Son are changed via a new birth.

2 Cor 5:17

Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.

C. Each is given a Spiritual Gift. 1 Cor 12:4,11

Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit. 1 Cor 12:11 But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually just as He wills.

D. Each is given a ministry. 1 Cor 12:5

And there are varieties of ministries, and the same Lord.

E. Each is encouraged to use their gift for ministry to the Body and to evangelize outside the Body. Eph 4:11-12

And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, 12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ;

F. We can choose to use the Gift in obedience or not use it in disobedience. 1 Pet 4:10

As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.

G. Obedience to God will bring Undeserved Suffering, while disobedience will bring Deserved Suffering. 1 Pet 2:19-20

For this finds favor, if for the sake of conscience toward God a person bears up under sorrows when suffering unjustly. 20 For what credit is there if, when you sin and are harshly treated, you endure it with patience? But if when you do what is right and suffer for it you patiently endure it, this finds favor with God.

1). How we graciously accept Undeserved Suffering is a powerful witness for good to others. 1 Pet 3:13-17

Who is there to harm you if you prove zealous for what is good? 14 But even if you should suffer for the sake of righteousness, you are blessed. AND DO NOT FEAR THEIR INTIMIDATION, AND DO NOT BE TROUBLED, 15 but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence; 16 and keep a good conscience so that in the thing in which you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ will be put to shame. 17 For it is better, if God should will it

so, that you suffer for doing what is right rather than for doing what is wrong.

**2). How we repent, accept any Deserved Suffering and turn from our sins is a witness for good to others. 1 Pet 4:3-4; 4:12-17**

For the time already past is sufficient for you to have carried out the desire of the Gentiles, having pursued a course of sensuality, lusts, drunkenness, carousing, drinking parties and abominable idolatries. 4 In all this, they are surprised that you do not run with them into the same excesses of dissipation, and they malign you; **1 Pet 4:12-17** Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal among you, which comes upon you for your testing, as though some strange thing were happening to you; 13 but to the degree that you share the sufferings of Christ, keep on rejoicing, so that also at the revelation of His glory you may rejoice with exultation. 14 If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you. 15 Make sure that none of you suffers as a murderer, or thief, or evildoer, or a troublesome meddler; 16 but if anyone suffers as a Christian, he is not to be ashamed, but is to glorify God in this name. 17 For it is time for judgment to begin with the household of God; and if it begins with us first, what will be the outcome for those who do not obey the gospel of God?

**3). To graciously endure Undeserved Suffering is to submit to the DWOG for yourself and the PWOG for others as allowed for in the Plan of God.**

**H. God will work out the results. 1 Cor 12:6**

There are varieties of effects, but the same God who works all things in all persons. **Rom 8:28-30** And we know that God causes all things to work together for good **to those who love God (Pres Ptc AGAPAW = keep on loving; if you love Me you will keep My commandments; changed actions if necessary; to love God is to be promised the best)**, to those who are called according to His purpose (**PROTHESIS = placed beforehand**). 29 For those whom He foreknew (**Omniscience**), He also predestined (**marked out beforehand**) to become conformed to the image of His Son (**unselfish, humble, sacrificial**), so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren (**have honor through having a witness**); 30 and these whom He predestined (**based on who He knew**), He also called (**EKKALEW = called out of; elected, selected for service**); and these whom He called (**to be conformed...**), He also justified (**declared righteous; saved by grace through faith**); and these whom He justified, He also glorified.

**I. A life of disobedience requires repentance and a change of action. Acts 26:19-21**

"Consequently, King Agrippa, I did not prove disobedient to the heavenly vision, 20 but kept declaring both to those of Damascus first, and also at

Jerusalem and then throughout all the region of Judea, and even to the Gentiles, that they should repent and turn to God, performing deeds appropriate to repentance.

**J. An unbeliever's life of disobedience is still affected by the Holy Spirit and the drawing power of Christ. John 16:8-15; 12:32**

And He, when He comes, will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment; 9 concerning sin, because they do not believe in Me; 10 and concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father and you no longer see Me; 11 and concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world has been judged. 12 "I have many more things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. 13 "But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come. 14 "He will glorify Me, for He will take of Mine and will disclose it to you. 15 " All things that the Father has are Mine; therefore I said that He takes of Mine and will disclose it to you.

**K. Anyone who can make a decision can change. Rev 22.**  
(Whosoever will...)

**27. The way that God "controls" the events of history is by altering things of His creation other than mankind's volition.**

**A. Things of His creation:**

**1). Weather. Ex 14:21**

Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea; and the Lord swept the sea back by a strong east wind all night and turned the sea into dry land, so the waters were divided.

**2). Natural phenomena. Ex 10:13-14**

So Moses stretched out his staff over the land of Egypt, and the Lord directed an east wind on the land all that day and all that night; and when it was morning, the east wind brought the locusts. 14 The locusts came up over all the land of Egypt and settled in all the territory of Egypt; they were very numerous. There had never been so many locusts, nor would there be so many again.

**3). Health, life and death. Acts 12:20-24**

Now he was very angry with the people of Tyre and Sidon; and with one accord they came to him, and having won over Blastus the king's chamberlain, they were asking for peace, because their country was fed by the king's country. 21 On an appointed day Herod, having put on his royal apparel, took his seat on the rostrum and began delivering an address to them. 22 The people kept crying out, "The voice of a god and not of a man!" 23 And immediately an angel of the Lord struck him because he did not give God the glory, and he was eaten by worms and died. 24 But the word of the Lord continued to grow and to be multiplied.

**4). Miracles.**

- B. Man's response to Truth brings a Perfect Response from God, but His definition of perfection and ours are different. Prov 14:12**

There is a way which seems right to a man, But its end is the way of death.

- C. He administers blessing and discipline in His own way and according to His own timing. (Northern and Southern Kingdoms, Tribulation)**
- D. Note that His direct intervention in history is for blessing, Divine Discipline or both at the same time. (Flood was blessing to Noah and family and Divine Discipline to the rest.)**
- E. His Plan allows for and accounts for decisions other than obedience to Truth. Rev 20:11-15**

11 Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat upon it, from whose presence earth and heaven fled away, and no place was found for them.

12 And I saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne, and books were opened; and another book was opened, which is the book of life; and the dead were judged from the things which were written in the books, according to their deeds. 13 And the sea gave up the dead which were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead which were in them; and they were judged, every one of them according to their deeds. 14 Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. 15 And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

- F. The Ramifications of the belief that denies man's responsibility of faith:**
- 1). This position denies the existence of man's ability to morally decide, so God created robots.
  - 2). This position also must believe that there is no Angelic Conflict since no creature is in control of nor responsible for its actions.
  - 3). The effect of this position is to make God the author of Sin and Evil, which is blasphemous.
  - 4). This position denies the Permissive Will of God, as it considers all things to be His Overruling Will. Cf 1 Tim 2:4; 2 Pet 3:9
  - 5). This makes useless the Petition part of prayer.

- 28. Major Events and Time Frames of History Related to the Plan of God.**
- A. Angels were created perfect and lived in their own environment on the original earth. Eze 28:9ff**
- B. It is easy to recognize two opportunities for sin in a volitional creature, one of cognizance and the other from deception.**
- C. After their fall, the earth was judged. Gen 1:1-2 cf Isa 45:18**

- D. Since God's Omniscience included a plan of grace at the outset, it is not difficult to believe that God would offer an opportunity for deliverance.
- E. God demonstrated Grace to the angelic creation by permitting Satan to Appeal His Judgments and restoring the original habitat. Gen 1:2-31; Job 38:7
- F. He decided to create a new being, called mankind and placed him in the Garden of Eden, in perfect environment, in an unfallen condition, in direct contact with the Love of God and under established Law. Gen 2-3
- G. The new creation also fell when they disobeyed God. Gen 3:1-5
- H. God offered salvation to this new creation as first presented in the First Prophecy, the Promised Seed of the Woman. Gen 3:1
- I. God's entire plan, conceived in His Omniscience was on the Line.
- J. Satan's attack focused on the destruction of Man and thus the Promised Seed of the Woman by getting the angels to infiltrate the human race. Gen 6:1-4; 2 Pet 2:4-5; Jude 6
- K. In Noah we see a pure human being who loved the Lord and would be delivered from the evil on the earth and receiving a promise that the world would never be destroyed that way again. Gen 6-9
- L. In the Tower of Babel we see God slowing the evil, but still permitting it to function to the maximum. Gen 11:1-9
- M. In Abraham, we see that obedience to God's Word is rewarded with long-term promises guaranteed by the Immutability of God's Essence. Gen 26:5; Heb 7:18, 11:13
- N. God's Omnipotence will do what is necessary to keep His Promises without overruling man's volition, even in "impossible" situations. Rom 4:19-20
- O. If need be, God would even "raise the dead" to do so. Heb 11:17-19
- P. In Sodom and Gomorrah we see God's just penalty for those who refuse His offer of Love, and flagrantly violate His standards. 2 Pet 2:7; Jude 7
- Q. At the Exodus we again see a demonstration of God's Grace in that He will keep His promises and fulfill His prophecies in spite of man's decisions. Exo 12:41 (to the day)
- 1). We also see Omnipotence bringing Divine Discipline on the ungodly.
  - 2). And a picture of eternal deliverance via eternal security, as pictured by identification with a man. 1 Cor 10:1-4
- R. The Mosaic Law came into existence to define sin and hence the categories of personal sins that Christ would pay for on the cross. Cf Rom 4:15; 5:13

- 1). **It also defined the necessary qualifications of the Messiah. Matt 5:17**

Do not think that I came to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I did not come to abolish, but to fulfill.

- 2). **It required His perfect keeping of the Law. Cf 1 Pet 2:22 (Which He did)**
- 3). **It defined the parameters of sin, and hence the need for the Messiah. Rom 3:23**

**S. The United Monarchy demonstrates how God can *Bless* many by association with one. 1 Cor 15:22; Rom 5:15**

But the free gift is not like the transgression. For if by the transgression of the one the many died, much more did the grace of God and the gift by the grace of the one Man, Jesus Christ abound to the many.

- 1). **David in many respects was a type of Christ.**
- 2). **To David, the prophecies and promises were expanded, again puts God's Omniscience on the Line and His power to control history without overruling Volition. (God keeps making His job more difficult.)**
- 3). **The more specifics there are to prophecy, the Greater the demonstration of Omniscience and the Glory of God.**

**T. The Divided Monarchy under the kings of Israel and Judah demonstrate the magnitude of God's Grace even when His "Chosen" descend into evil.**

**U. The Dispersions of the Northern and Southern Kingdoms demonstrate God's Truthfulness concerning His justice even in the administration of Divine Discipline to His "Chosen."**

**V. The Regathering of Israel again shows His Grace in Restoring those that come under Divine Discipline.**

**W. The Inter-Testamental Period shows that even though God is "silent" for periods of history concerning direct Revelation, He is still a God Who is concerned meeting our spiritual needs and bringing His Plan to the desired and prophesied end. Cf 2 Pet 3**

**X. The First Advent is the focal point of the Angelic Conflict:**

- 1). **He brought into being our Lord Jesus via the Virgin Birth Who was not imputed with Adam's Original Sin.**
- 2). **He kept His Word in every detail, fulfilling all prophecies of the First Advent. Matt 5:17**
- 3). **The Lord did not violate the Law in any regard.**
- 4). **The Lord committed absolutely no sin. 1 Pet 2:22**
- 5). **A Satanic objection would be that "No one can keep Your laws".**

(In the Appeal, Satan would claim that God's Laws were so oppressive that no Free Moral Agent could keep them.)

- 6). **God in Hypostatic Union kept His own laws. Php 2:5-10**

- 7). God demonstrated His Love for His creation by providing salvation and demonstrated how He could do so without compromising His Righteousness and Justice.
- 8). Therefore, the payment for Personal Sins was no longer an issue in the Angelic Conflict.
- 9). Satan's schemes for victory were brought to naught.
- Y. Our Lord Jesus Christ in Glorified Hypostatic Union demonstrates how our Lord can rule from this situation and bring about the prophetic events without compromising His Essence.
- Z. The Church Age is called the "Age of Grace" and points out how "easy" it is to serve Christ because of His Work on the Cross.

(I.e. no elaborate ritual that is required, not looking at shadows anymore because the reality has come).

- A1. The Rapture of Living Believers shows how God can eliminate any form of Second Death because His Righteousness and Justice has been satisfied. The Rapture of those who have "fallen asleep in Christ," dramatically demonstrates how His omnipotence provides the Blessings that He had promised.
- B1. The Tribulation demonstrates that even at a time such as the world has never before seen, humanity with the ability to decide and the responsibility for their decisions, even in a time of maximum adverse propaganda, will still come to God, no matter the personal cost. And even at a time of maximum control by Satan and his forces, God's Purposes is what will be realized.
- C1. The Second Advent will be the fulfillment of major prophecies of Scripture demonstrating again God's Omniscience. It will also be the time of fulfillment of promises contained in the Covenants and the time of Discipline for unbelief. Cf Isa 24:21 So it will happen in that day, That the Lord will punish the host of heaven on high, And the kings of the earth on earth. Cf Matt 25:41
- D1. The Millennium will be the time of "Peace on Earth" to demonstrate that peace is only through the Lord of the Armies.
- E1. The Gog/Magog rebellion will answer the last charges of Satan. Specifically, "God, You made me work through these creatures, if they could have only witnessed my "personal glory" I would have won." Satan fails. Rev 20:7-10

When the thousand years are completed, Satan will be released from his prison, 8 and will come out to deceive the nations which are in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together for the war; the number of them is like the sand of the seashore. 9 And they came up on the broad plain of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city, and fire came down from heaven and devoured them. 10



And the devil who deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are also; and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

- F1. The New Heavens and Earth will be another period of the amazing demonstration of God's maximum blessing of Love.**
- G1. And the Eternal State will be a place where Free Moral Agents eternally give the Glory to God.**

## **Principles of Divine Guidance** **Master Outline**

1. **Mankind needs Guidance from God because man has been given the ability to make moral choices, called “Volition.”**
2. **A creature’s ability to make moral choices either for or against God is at the heart of the Angelic Conflict. Isa 14:12-14; Gen 3:1-6**
3. **All of mankind is born through Adam and Eve, who chose against God and were enslaved by a Sinful Nature. Rom 5:12-15**
4. **The Sinful Nature would be passed on to all their offspring, so there will be a constant battle between the flesh and the Spirit. Gal 5:16-17**
5. **The only way to “redeem” this Sinful Nature is by payment from one who is not enslaved to it. 1 Peter 2:21-25**
6. **When a person accepts this payment and is delivered from the penalty of sin, the resulting “New Creation” has the ability to choose for God and walk in a “newness of life.” Rom 6:4**
7. **As this “New Creation” thanksgiving to our Lord should be focused on doing His will, as our Lord Himself did. Luke 22:42**
8. **We “do” His will by seeking that which is pleasing in His sight.**
9. **There are different areas of God’s Will:**
10. **Both the Permissive and Directive Will of God involve:**
11. **If we seek to please Him we will first look to His Directive Will in all matters of life.**
12. **Pursuit of God’s Will involves:**
13. **Once His will is determined, we are obligated to do it. James 4:13-17**
14. **Obedience to His Will must become our Prime Directive. Luke 22:42; John 5:30**
15. **God’s Permissive Will usually gives rise to the most questions.**
16. **The closer our walk with the Lord the clearer the Light for our path and the fewer questions we will have about our Freedom in Him.**

17. **Do what is clear; pray, and wait about what is not. Isa 40:31; Rom 1:9-12**
18. **The “Holy Spirit” is the “Holy” Spirit and therefore will not guide anyone into sin or evil. Jas 1:13**
19. **The Great Believers of history obey His will by Faith. Heb 11**
20. **The closer we walk in His Directive Will the more His Permissive Will in our lives gets direction.**
21. **The Interrelationships of God’s Will:**
22. **The Plan of God includes all areas of His will. Acts 2:22-24**
23. **Some believe that God must function through His Overruling Will to bring about His plan. Cf Rev 20:15**
24. **The Will of God and Salvation.**
25. **The Plan of God and His Will:**
26. **The Plan of God and the Individual. How does He direct my path?**
27. **The way that God "controls" the events of history is by altering things of His creation other than mankind’s volition.**
28. **Major Events and Time Frames of History Related to the Plan of God.**

## Principles of Divine Guidance

### Extended Outline

1. Mankind needs Guidance from God because man has been given the ability to make moral choices, called “Volition.”
2. A creature’s ability to make moral choices either for or against God is at the heart of the Angelic Conflict. Isa 14:12-14; Gen 3:1-6
3. All of mankind is born through Adam and Eve, who chose against God and were enslaved by a Sinful Nature. Rom 5:12-15
4. The Sinful Nature would be passed on to all their offspring, so there will be a constant battle between the flesh and the Spirit. Gal 5:16-17
5. The only way to “redeem” this Sinful Nature is by payment from one who is not enslaved to it. 1 Peter 2:21-25
6. When a person accepts this payment and is delivered from the penalty of sin, the resulting “New Creation” has the ability to choose for God and walk in a “newness of life.” Rom 6:4
7. As this “New Creation” thanksgiving to our Lord should be focused on doing His will, as our Lord Himself did. Luke 22:42
8. We “do” His will by seeking that which is pleasing in His sight.
  - A. It is to be our ambition in life. 2 Cor 5:9-10
  - B. It must be learned. Eph 5:7-11
  - C. It is a spiritual process. Col 1:9-13
9. There are different areas of God’s Will:
  - A. The Overruling Will of God.
  - B. The Sovereign Will of God.
  - C. The Permissive Will of God.
  - D. The Directive Will of God.
  - E. The Perfect Will of God. Rom 12:2
10. Both the Permissive and Directive Will of God involve:
  - A. Geography. Where does God want me to be and where am I?
  - B. Viewpoint. What does God want me to think and what do I think? Cf 2 Cor 10:3-5
  - C. Operation. What does God want me to do and what do I do?  
1 Peter 2:15

11. If we seek to please Him we will first look to His Directive Will in all matters of life.
  - A. In our relationships. Eph 5:22-6:4
  - B. In our thoughts. Php 4:8
  - C. In our attitudes. Php 2:5
  - D. In our service. Gal 5:13; 2 Cor 6:3-4
  - E. We are directed to honorably use what He has given us and let Him work out the effects. 1 Cor 12:4-6
  - F. Aligning with His directive will should be at the center of our lives which begins with prayer. 1 John 5:14-15
  
12. Pursuit of God's Will involves:
  - A. Prayer for Guidance. 1 Thes 5:17
  - B. Submission to the Holy Spirit. John 16:13; James 4:7-10
  - C. A willingness and desire to be transformed. Rom 12:1-3
  - D. Correct study of His written word. 2 Tim 2:15; Psa 119:105
  - E. Being filled by the Holy Spirit to all the fullness of God. Eph 5:18 cf 3:18
  - F. Willingness to do His will. John 7:17
  - G. Reliance on His grace when sins occur. 1 John 1:5-10
  - H. Willingness to grow in Him. 2 Pet 3:18
  
13. Once His will is determined, we are obligated to do it. James 4:13-17
  
14. Obedience to His Will must become our Prime Directive. Luke 22:42; John 5:30
  
15. God's Permissive Will usually gives rise to the most questions.
  - A. Who do I marry?
  - B. How many children?
  - C. Should I move?
  - D. Should I change churches?
  - E. How often should I attend church? Heb 10:25
  - F. What about social statements?
  - G. What clothing do I wear today?
  - H. What kind of ministry should I have?
  
16. The closer our walk with the Lord the clearer the Light for our path and the fewer questions we will have about our Freedom in Him.
  - A. Sometimes the Holy Spirit makes things quite clear. Acts 13
  - B. Sometimes Satan gets in the way until the proper time. 1 Thes 2:18 cf Acts 16:9
  - C. He promises to light the path of those who follow Him, so the clearest guidance is for those closest to Him. John 8:12

17. Do what is clear; pray, and wait about what is not. Isa 40:31; Rom 1:9-12
18. The “Holy Spirit” is the “Holy” Spirit and therefore will not guide anyone into sin or evil. Jas 1:13
19. The Great Believers of history obey His will by Faith. Heb 11
20. The closer we walk in His Directive Will the more His Permissive Will in our lives gets direction.
21. The Interrelationships of God’s Will:
  - A. The Overruling Will of God. This is defined as “what God can do.”
  - B. The Sovereign Will of God. This is defined as “what God desires.”
  - C. The Directive Will of God. This is defined as “what God commands me to do.”
  - D. The Permissive Will of God. This is defined as “what God allows me to do.” Gal 5:1
  - E. The Perfect Will of God. This is defined as “aligning myself with His Sovereign, Directive and Permissive Will. Rom 12:2
22. The Plan of God includes all areas of His will. Acts 2:22-24
  - A. His Overruling Will was seen through the miracles of Jesus, who was a miracle in Himself and His resurrection from the dead.
  - B. God’s Sovereign Will is seen in sending a Messiah to pay the penalty for sin.
  - C. God’s Directive Will is displayed by laying out the requirements for Messiah and specifying the standards of Righteousness by which to evaluate Him.
  - D. God’s Permissive Will is seen in permitting sin and evil to function to the point of crucifying an innocent man. God did not overrule the volition of anyone, yet His plan was carried out.
  - E. God’s Perfect Will is seen in the person of His Son, fully submitted to the Father’s Sovereign and Directive Will and functioning in love through all of it.
23. Some believe that God must function through His Overruling Will to bring about His plan. Cf Rev 20:15
24. The Will of God and Salvation.
  - A. The Big Question concerns God’s Overruling Will. Does He use it on those He “elects”?

- B. His Sovereign Will declares that those who believe in His Son are guaranteed eternal life and those who do not are guaranteed eternal punishment. John 3:36
  - C. God's Directive Will is to believe in the Death, Burial and Resurrection of Jesus the Messiah. 1 Cor 15:1-4
  - D. God's Permissive Will allows His creatures to choose against Him and His Perfect Will for His creatures is to believe in His Son.
  - E. God's Omniscience including His Foreknowledge selected a plan in Eternity Past that knew who would subscribe to His Directive Will. 1 Peter 1:1-2
  - F. God's Omniscience in the history of the Angelic Conflict is the only thing yet to prove.
25. The Plan of God and His Will:
- A. The Sovereign Will of God (SWOG) chose a course of action. Acts 2:22-24
  - B. This course of action included the creation of:
  - C. God set His Plan in motion with the creation of Matter, Creatures, Space and Time. (Divine Decrees)
  - D. The Primary Purpose of God's Plan was to share His love. John 3:16
  - E. The SWOG chose to make Physical Laws and Spiritual Laws.
  - F. Satan was the first to violate God's Spiritual Laws, thus indicating His Sovereign Will was transgressed.
  - G. The Permissive Will of God (PWOG) is where we function.
  - H. God's Plan is so phenomenal that it encompasses all elements of His will and brings to pass a plan of and for the ages that was completely foreknown.
26. The Plan of God and the Individual. How does He direct my path?
- A. First He draws all men to His son, but not all accept. John 12:32
  - B. Those who believe in the Son are changed via a new birth. 2 Cor 5:17
  - C. Each is given a Spiritual Gift. 1 Cor 12:4,11
  - D. Each is given a ministry. 1 Cor 12:5
  - E. Each is encouraged to use their gift for ministry to the Body and to evangelize outside the Body. Eph 4:11-12
  - F. We can choose to use the Gift in obedience or not use it in disobedience. 1 Pet 4:10
  - G. Obedience to God will bring Undeserved Suffering, while disobedience will bring Deserved Suffering. 1 Pet 2:19-20
  - H. God will work out the results. 1 Cor 12:6; Rom 8:28-30
  - I. A life of disobedience requires repentance and a change of action. Acts 26:19-21

- J. An unbeliever's life of disobedience is still affected by the Holy Spirit and the drawing power of Christ. John 16:8-15; 12:32
  - K. Anyone who can make a decision can change. Rev 22.
27. The way that God "controls" the events of history is by altering things of His creation other than mankind's volition.
- A. Things of His creation:
  - B. Man's response to Truth brings a Perfect Response from God, but His definition of perfection and ours are different. Prov 14:12
  - C. He administers blessing and discipline in His own way and according to His own timing.
  - D. Note that His direct intervention in history is for blessing, Divine Discipline or both at the same time.
  - E. His Plan allows for and accounts for decisions other than obedience to Truth. Rev 20:11-15
  - F. The Ramifications of the belief that denies man's responsibility of faith:
28. Major Events and Time Frames of History Related to the Plan of God.
- A. Angels were created perfect and lived in their own environment on the original earth. Eze 28:9ff
  - B. It is easy to recognize two opportunities for sin in a volitional creature, one of cognizance and the other from deception.
  - C. After their fall, the earth was judged. Gen 1:1-2 cf Isa 45:18
  - D. Since God's Omniscience included a plan of grace at the outset, it is not difficult to believe that God would offer an opportunity for deliverance.
  - E. God demonstrated Grace to the angelic creation by permitting Satan to Appeal His Judgments and restoring the original habitat. Gen 1:2-31; Job 38:7
  - F. He decided to create a new being, called mankind and placed him in the Garden of Eden, in perfect environment, in an unfallen condition, in direct contact with the Love of God and under established Law. Gen 2-3
  - G. The new creation also fell when they disobeyed God. Gen 3:1-5
  - H. God offered salvation to this new creation as first presented in the First Prophecy, the Promised Seed of the Woman. Gen 3:1
  - I. God's entire plan, conceived in His Omniscience was on the Line.
  - J. Satan's attack focused on the destruction of Man and thus the Promised Seed of the Woman by getting the angels to infiltrate the human race. Gen 6:1-4; 2 Pet 2:4-5; Jude 6
  - K. In Noah we see a pure human being who loved the Lord and would be delivered from the evil on the earth and receiving a



- promise that the world would never be destroyed that way again. Gen 6-9
- L. In the Tower of Babel we see God slowing the evil, but still permitting it to function to the maximum. Gen 11:1-9
- M. In Abraham, we see that obedience to God's Word is rewarded with long-term promises guaranteed by the Immutability of God's Essence. Gen 26:5; Heb 7:18, 11:13
- N. God's Omnipotence will do what is necessary to keep His Promises without overruling man's volition, even in "impossible" situations. Rom 4:19-20
- O. If need be, God would even "raise the dead" to do so. Heb 11:17-19
- P. In Sodom and Gomorrah we see God's just penalty for those who refuse His offer of Love, and flagrantly violate His standards. 2 Pet 2:7; Jude 7
- Q. At the Exodus we again see a demonstration of God's Grace in that He will keep His promises and fulfill His prophecies in spite of man's decisions. Exo 12:41
- R. The Mosaic Law came into existence to define sin and hence the categories of personal sins that Christ would pay for on the cross. Cf Rom 4:15; 5:13
- S. The United Monarchy demonstrates how God can Bless many by association with one. 1 Cor 15:22; Rom 5:15
- T. The Divided Monarchy under the kings of Israel and Judah demonstrate the magnitude of God's Grace even when His "Chosen" descend into evil.
- U. The Dispersions of the Northern and Southern Kingdoms demonstrate God's Truthfulness concerning His justice even in the administration of Divine Discipline to His "Chosen."
- V. The Regathering of Israel again shows His Grace in Restoring those that come under Divine Discipline.
- W. The Inter-Testamental Period shows that even though God is "silent" for periods of history concerning direct Revelation, He is still a God Who is concerned meeting our spiritual needs and bringing His Plan to the desired and prophesied end. Cf 2 Pet 3
- X. The First Advent is the focal point of the Angelic Conflict:
- Y. Our Lord Jesus Christ in Glorified Hypostatic Union demonstrates how our Lord can rule from this situation and bring about the prophetic events without compromising His Essence.
- Z. The Church Age is called the "Age of Grace" and points out how "easy" it is to serve Christ because of His Work on the Cross.
- A1. The Rapture of Living Believers shows how God can eliminate any form of Second Death because His Righteousness and

Justice has been satisfied. The Rapture of those who have “fallen asleep in Christ,” dramatically demonstrates how His omnipotence provides the Blessings that He had promised.

- B1. The Tribulation demonstrates that even at a time such as the world has never before seen, humanity with the ability to decide and the responsibility for their decisions, even in a time of maximum adverse propaganda, will still come to God, no matter the personal cost. And even at a time of maximum control by Satan and his forces, God’s Purposes is what will be realized.
- C1. The Second Advent will be the fulfillment of major prophecies of Scripture demonstrating again God’s Omniscience. It will also be the time of fulfillment of promises contained in the Covenants and the time of Discipline for unbelief. Cf Isa 24:21 Cf Matt 25:41
- D1. The Millennium will be the time of “Peace on Earth” to demonstrate that peace is only through the Lord of the Armies.
- E1. The Gog/Magog rebellion will answer the last charges of Satan. Specifically, “God, You made me work through these creatures, if they could have only witnessed my “personal glory” I would have won.” Satan fails. Rev 20:7-10
- F1. The New Heavens and Earth will be another period of the amazing demonstration of God’s maximum blessing of Love.
- G1. And the Eternal State will be a place where Free Moral Agents eternally give the Glory to God.