THE QUESTION

What did the early church believe about God's will for each Christian?

Asked by a THF member on November 11, 2026 · published November 13, 2026 · 10 numbered quotations · the 44 early Christian passages and 223 Bible verses we kept are listed at the back, each with a link.

Read it online: thehistoricfaith.com/early-church-questions/what-did-the-early-church-believe-about-gods-will-for-each-christian

The short answer *Interpretation: our reading of the passages, not their words*

The early church taught that God's will for each Christian is mostly made known, not hidden: to follow Christ in holiness, love, mercy and endurance. Believers come to know it by doing it. God gives grace and strength, and each person freely chooses to obey; sin is never blamed on God's will.

LIBRARY ONLY	This study was written only from The Historic Faith's library of early-Christian writings and the Bible, never from the web. Every passage we kept from what the library gave is listed at the back, with a link to read it.
HOW IT WAS MADE	Compiled by machine learning from The Historic Faith's library of early-Christian writings and the Bible only. Every quotation was matched word for word against our stored text. Not yet reviewed by The Historic Faith.
SHARING WITH AN AI?	Every quotation here comes from The Historic Faith's library. If you paste this study into an AI, anything it adds beyond these pages comes from that AI, not from us.

IN THIS STUDY

1	God's will is a way of life	**2**	**6**	Obeying God's will is a free choice	**4**
2	Christ is the pattern for doing God's will	**2**	**7**	Not everything that happens is God's will	**4**
3	God wills that believers become holy	**2**	**8**	God gives the strength to do His will	**5**
4	God's will includes giving freely to others	**3**		What these passages don't tell us	**5**
5	We learn God's will by doing it	**3**		The Sources: 44 early Christian passages and 223 Bible verses, with links	**5**

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POINT 1 OF 8

God's will is a way of life

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

Explaining the Lord's Prayer, Tertullian says God's will is that we walk by His teaching and discipline. He sums up that will as the salvation of the people God has adopted. For him, God's will is first a holy life that leads to salvation.

1

"What, moreover, does God will, except that we should walk according to His Discipline?"

later in the same passage

"For the sum of His will is the salvation of those whom He has adopted."

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Tertullian,** *On Prayer* 4 (c. 196–220 AD) **Source 27, page 7** Read it in the library ›

THF's updated English

POINT 2 OF 8

Christ is the pattern for doing God's will

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

Ignatius points to Jesus, who always did what pleased the Father. Because of that, he says, every Christian has a duty to live by God's will in Christ and to copy Christ, as Paul did.

2

"For even Jesus Christ does all things according to the will of the Father, as He Himself declares in a certain place, "I always do those things that please Him." Therefore, it is our duty also to live according to the will of God in Christ, and to imitate Him as Paul did."

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Ignatius of Antioch,** *Epistle of Ignatius to the Ephesians* (c. 98–117 AD) **Source 7, page 6** Read it in the library ›

THF's updated English

POINT 3 OF 8

God wills that believers become holy

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

Tertullian names holiness as God's will for us. He links it to how we were made: God wants His image in us to grow into His likeness, so that we become holy as He is holy.

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3 “The will of God is our sanctification, for He wishes His image, us, to become His likeness also, so that we may be holy just as He Himself is holy.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Tertullian,** *On Exhortation to Chastity* 1 (c. 196–220 AD) **Source 24, page 7** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

POINT 4 OF 8

God's will includes giving freely to others

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

The Didache, an early church teaching manual, ties generosity directly to what the Father wants. It tells readers to give to everyone who asks without asking it back, because the Father wills that everyone be given something from our own free gifts.

4 “Give to everyone who asks you, and do not ask for it back. For the Father wills that everyone should be given something from our own free gifts.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Didache,** *Teaching of the Twelve Apostles* 1 (c. 50–120 AD) **Source 1, page 6** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

POINT 5 OF 8

We learn God's will by doing it

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

Clement of Alexandria says faith is grace and that obeying God's will is how we come to know it. Elsewhere he warns that only the one who does God's will, not the one who just says "Lord, Lord," enters the kingdom.

5 “For the teaching of godliness is a gift, but faith is grace. For by doing the will of God, we know the will of God.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Clement of Alexandria,** *Stromata* 1.7 (c. 190–215 AD) **Source 18, page 7** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

6 “Therefore, not everyone who says, "Lord, Lord," will enter the kingdom of God, but the one who does the will of God.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Clement of Alexandria,** *Stromata* 7.12 (c. 190–215 AD) **Source 22, page 7** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

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POINT 6 OF 8

Obeying God's will is a free choice

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

Irenaeus says people have the power to disobey God, but that brings harm and trouble. Because humans have free will, made in the likeness of a God who has free will, advice is always given them to hold on to the good through obedience to God.

7

"For humans have the power to disobey God and to lose what is good, but such behavior brings significant harm and trouble."

later in the same passage

"But because humans have free will from the beginning, and God has free will, in whose likeness humans were created, advice is always given to them to hold on to the good, which is achieved through obedience to God."

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Irenaeus,** *Against Heresies: Book IV* (c. 175–202 AD)
THF's updated English

Source 14, page 7 Read it in the library ›

POINT 7 OF 8

Not everything that happens is God's will

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

Tertullian himself warns against saying that nothing is done without God's will. He says that idea would excuse every sin and hide what is in our own power. He adds that evil is our own choice, against God's will, since God wills what is good.

8

"Nor should each person flatter himself by saying that nothing is done without His permission, so that we fail to understand that there is something in our own power. Otherwise every sin will be excused, if we keep insisting that nothing is done by us without the will of God."

later in the same passage

"Thus it is a volition of our own when we will what is evil, in opposition to God's will, who wills what is good."

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Tertullian,** *On Exhortation to Chastity* 2 (c. 196–220 AD)
THF's updated English

Source 23, page 7 Read it in the library ›

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POINT 8 OF 8

God gives the strength to do His will

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

Free choice does not mean doing it alone. Tertullian says that when we pray "Your will be done," we ask God to give us the ability to do His will. Clement says good people freely obey God, while their good thoughts come through God's inspiration.

9 “We make this request, then, that He may supply us with the substance of His will and the ability to do it, so that we may be saved both in heaven and on earth.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Tertullian,** *On Prayer* 4 (c. 196–220 AD) **Source 27, page 7** Read it in the library ›

THF's updated English

10 “But God’s will is obeyed especially by the free will of good people.”

later in the same passage

“Besides, the thoughts of virtuous people are produced through God’s inspiration.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Clement of Alexandria,** *Stromata* 6.17 (c. 190–215 AD) **Source 20, page 7** Read it in the library ›

THF's updated English

THE LIMITS

What these passages don’t tell us

- These passages say little about how to choose in personal matters such as a job or where to live; they focus on God's commands that apply to all believers.
- Tertullian's chastity treatise uses this teaching to argue against remarriage after a spouse dies, a stricter view than many other writers held.
- A word-for-word match shows that a quotation really is in our text. It does not show that our reading of it is right, or who wrote each work.

WHERE EVERY QUOTE CAME FROM

The Sources

The 44 early Christian passages and 223 Bible verses we kept for this question (repeats and weak or off-topic search hits were left out): early Christian passages first (sources 1–44, grouped by writer, earliest first), then Bible verses in The Faith Once Delivered Bible (sources 45–105, in Bible order), then 162 more verses THF

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links to these passages, by reference. **Quote 1, page 2** beside a source shows where the study quotes it. Passages are in THF's updated English unless marked "1885 English" (the Roberts–Donaldson translation, public domain). "… [continues online]" marks a passage the library gave only in part. **On paper?** At **thehistoricfaith.com**, Bible verses are in the **Audio Bible** and early Christian writings in the **Library** (search for the title).

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITERS *44 passages from 18 writers*

Didache, *c. 50–120 AD · source 1*

1 *Teaching of the Twelve Apostles* 1 (1885 English) **Quote 4, page 3** "the Father wills that to all should be given of our own blessings (free gifts… [continues online] **read ›**

Barnabas, *c. 70–132 AD · source 2*

2 *Epistle of Barnabas* (1885 English; on point 1) "shalt hate doing what is unpleasing to God: thou shalt hate all hypocrisy… [continues online] **read ›**

Hermas, *c. 90–150 AD · sources 3–5*

3 *Shepherd* (1885 English; on point 4) "therefore, listen to me, and be at peace one with another, and visit each other, and bear each other's burdens, and do not partake of God's creatures alone… [continues online] **read ›**

4 *Shepherd* (on point 4) said to me, "Be strong and brave in this service, and make known to everyone the great things of God, and you will have favor in this ministry. Therefore, whoever… [continues online] **read ›**

5 *Shepherd* (on point 3) He said, "I charge you to guard your chastity, and let no thought enter your heart about another man's wife, or about fornication, or about similar iniquities. For by doing… [continues online] **read ›**

Ignatius of Antioch, *c. 98–117 AD · sources 6–9*

6 *Epistle to Polycarp* 4 (1885 English; on point 1) "do thou nothing without the will of God, as indeed thou doest not… [continues online] **read ›**

7 *Epistle of Ignatius to the Ephesians* **Quote 2, page 2** "even Jesus Christ does all things according to the will of the Father, as He Himself declares in… [continues online] **read ›**

8 *Epistles of Ignatius* (on point 3) May I have joy in you in the Lord! Be sober. Lay aside, each of you, all malice and beast-like fury, evil-speaking, slander, filthy speaking, lewdness, gossip, arrogance, drunkenness, lust, … [continues online] **read ›**

9 *Epistle to Polycarp* 1 (1885 English; on point 1) "with every man according to the will of God… [continues online] **read ›**

Justin Martyr, *c. 130–165 AD · source 10*

10 *Dialogue with Trypho* (1885 English; on point 6) "one's freedom of will, however, being guarded… [continues online] **read ›**

Tatian, *c. 150–180 AD · source 11*

11 *Diatessaron* 33 (on point 5) "of these two did the will of his father… [continues online] **read ›**

Theophilus of Antioch, *c. 169–183 AD · source 12*

12 *To Autolycus* 11 (on point 1) "if you do this, you do the will of God… [continues online] **read ›**

Irenaeus, *c. 175–202 AD · sources 13–17*

13 *Against Heresies: Book V* (on point 5) "for the resurrection of believers, and those who do the will of His Father in heaven… [continues online] **read ›**

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14 *Against Heresies: Book IV* (1885 English) **Quote 7, page 4** "because man is possessed of free will from the beginning, and God is possessed of free will, in whose likeness man was created, advice is always given to him to… [continues online] **read ›**

15 *Against Heresies: Book IV* (on point 6) the prophets clearly indicate that God did not need their slavish obedience, but that certain observances in the law were commanded for their own benefit. Similarly, God did not need… [continues online] **read ›**

16 *Against Heresies: Book IV* (on point 6) and leads to death. Since God gave humans such mental power, they can understand both the good of obedience and the evil of disobedience. This allows the mind, through experience… [continues online] **read ›**

17 *Against Heresies: Book IV* (on point 1) unworthy to Him who set them free. Both servants and children should equally offer the piety and obedience owed to the Master of the household, while children should have greater… [continues online] **read ›**

Clement of Alexandria, *c. 190–215 AD · sources 18–22*

18 *Stromata* 1.7 **Quote 5, page 3** "by doing the will of God, we know the will of God… [continues online] **read ›**

19 *Stromata* 3 (on point 3) live, as I used to live by desires. But Christ lives in me, chastely and blessedly, through obedience to the commandments. Therefore, though at that time I lived in the… [continues online] **read ›**

20 *Stromata* 6.17 **Quote 10, page 5** "God's will is obeyed especially by the free will of good people. Since many benefits are shared by both good and bad people, they are still truly beneficial only… [continues online] **read ›**

21 *Stromata* 4.7 (1885 English; on point 1) "it is better to suffer for well-doing, if the will of God, than for evil-doing… [continues online] **read ›**

22 *Stromata* 7.12 (1885 English) **Quote 6, page 3** "he that does the will of God… [continues online] **read ›**

Tertullian, *c. 196–220 AD · sources 23–27*

23 *On Exhortation to Chastity* 2 (1885 English) **Quote 8, page 4** "the other hand, the will of God had come to be a question of obedience… [continues online] **read ›**

24 *On Exhortation to Chastity* 1 **Quote 3, page 3** "will of God is our sanctification, for He wishes His image, us… [continues online] **read ›**

25 *On Patience* 4 (on point 1) servants shaping their conduct to fit their master's disposition; if the way to win favor is obedience, and the rule of obedience is willing submission, how much more should… [continues online] **read ›**

26 *On Exhortation to Chastity* 3 (1885 English; on point 3) "wills us to do some acts pleasing to Himself, in which it is not indulgence which patronizes, but discipline which lords it… [continues online] **read ›**

27 *On Prayer* 4 (1885 English) **Quotes 1, 9, pages 2, 5** "is, too, that will of God which the Lord accomplished in preaching, in working, in enduring: for if He Himself proclaimed that He did not His own, but the Father… [continues online] **read ›**

Origen, *c. 215–254 AD · sources 28–30*

28 *De Principiis (On First Principles)* 4 (1885 English; on point 6) "if this be the case, it is established that the will of the soul is something intermediate between the flesh and the spirit, undoubtedly obeying and serving that one of… [continues online] **read ›**

29 *Against Celsus* 24 (on point 2) "even the cheerful obedience of Jesus to the will of His Father… [continues online] **read ›**

30 *Against Celsus* 70 (on point 6) wickedness were profitable to the world, or at least might be so, we have to say this: although God, who preserves the free will of each individual, may make use… [continues online] **read ›**

Dionysius of Alexandria, *c. 232–265 AD · source 31*

31 *Exegetical Fragments* 1 (1885 English; on point 8) "He wills to give us good exceeding abundantly above what we ask or think… [continues online] **read ›**

Cyprian, *c. 248–258 AD · sources 32–34*

32 *Treatises* (1885 English; on point 2) "John 2:15-17 Therefore eternal and divine things are to be followed, and all things must be done after the will of God, that we may follow the divine… [continues online] **read ›**

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33 *Treatises* (1885 English; on point 1) “the world shall pass away, and the lust thereof… [continues online] **read ›**

34 *Treatises* (1885 English; on point 1) “Now that is the will of God which Christ both did and taught… [continues online] **read ›**

Apostolic Constitutions, *c. 250–380 AD · source 35*

35 *Apostolic Constitutions* (1885 English; on point 1) “is therefore His will that men should praise Him with unanimity, and adore Him with one consent… [continues online] **read ›**

Archelaus, *c. 270–300 AD · source 36*

36 *Disputation with Manes* 1 (on point 6) having been given to the man himself, the man did not by any means have the power to yield obedience to the serpent and to the statements made by him… [continues online] **read ›**

Methodius, *c. 270–311 AD · source 37*

37 *From the Discourse on the Resurrection* (on point 6) says that it is in our power to do evil or to avoid doing it. Otherwise, we would not be punished for doing evil or rewarded for doing good. But… [continues online] **read ›**

Lactantius, *c. 290–320 AD · sources 38–39*

38 *On the Anger of God* 17 (1885 English; on point 1) “is the will of God, this the divine law… [continues online] **read ›**

39 *Epitome of the Divine Institutes* 67 (on point 1) “us always offer this obedience to our Lord… [continues online] **read ›**

Clement of Rome · *sources 40–44*

40 *First Epistle to the Corinthians* (1885 English; on point 1) “we do the things which are in harmony with His blameless will… [continues online] **read ›**

41 *First Epistle to the Corinthians* (1885 English; on point 1) us reverence the Lord Jesus Christ, whose blood was given for us; let us esteem those who have the rule over us… [continues online] **read ›**

42 *First Epistle to the Corinthians* (on point 1) “us submit ourselves to His will. Let us consider the whole multitude of His angels, how they stand ever ready… [continues online] **read ›**

43 *First Epistle to the Corinthians* (1885 English; on point 1) “let us yield obedience to His excellent and glorious will… [continues online] **read ›**

44 *First Epistle to the Corinthians* (on point 1) known as "the friend," was found faithful because he obeyed the words of God. In his act of obedience, he left his own country, his relatives, and his father's… [continues online] **read ›**

THE BIBLE *61 verses, The Faith Once Delivered Bible (Old Testament from the Septuagint), in Bible order*

45 **Genesis 6:22** Noah did all that the Lord God commanded him; so he did. **read ›**

46 **Genesis 7:5** Noah did all that the Lord God commanded him. **read ›**

47 **Genesis 31:16** All the wealth and the glory that God has taken from our father shall be ours and our children’s. Now then, whatever God has said to you, do it.” **read ›**

48 **Deuteronomy 6:18** And you shall do what is pleasing and good before the Lord your God, that it may go well with you, and that you may go in and inherit the good land that the Lord swore to your fathers, **read ›**

49 **Deuteronomy 16:17** each one according to the ability of your hands, according to the blessing of the Lord your God that he has given you. **read ›**

50 **Deuteronomy 30:8** And you shall return and obey the voice of the Lord your God, and do his commandments, which I command you today. **read ›**

51 **Deuteronomy 30:10** if you obey the voice of the Lord your God, to keep his commandments and his ordinances and his judgments that are written in the book of this law, if you return to the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul. **read ›**

52 **Judges 18:5** And they said to him, “Please inquire of God, so that we may know whether our journey on which we are going will prosper.” **read ›**

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53 **1 Samuel 15:22** Samuel said, “Are whole burnt offerings and sacrifices as pleasing to the Lord as hearing the voice of the Lord? Behold, hearing is better than a good sacrifice, and listening closely than the fat of rams. **read ›**

54 **2 Chronicles 30:19** “May the good Lord be merciful toward every heart that is directed to seek the Lord God of their fathers, though not according to the purity of the sanctuary.” **read ›**

55 **Ezra 8:16** Then I sent to Eleazar, to Ariel, to Shemaiah, to Alonam, to Jarib, to Elnathan, to Nathan, to Zechariah, to Meshullam, to Joiarib, and to Elnathan, men of understanding. **read ›**

56 **Ezra 8:21** Then I proclaimed a fast there at the river Ahava, that we might humble ourselves before our God, to seek from him a straight way for us and for our children and for all our possessions. **read ›**

57 **Ezra 9:9** For we are slaves; yet in our slavery the Lord our God has not forsaken us, but has extended mercy to us before the kings of the Persians, to give us reviving, so that they might raise up the house of our God and restore its desolate places, and to give us a wall in Judah and Jerusalem. **read ›**

58 **Job 11:6** Then he will declare to you the power of wisdom, for it will be double what you have; and then you will know that what you deserve for the sins you have committed has come to you from the Lord. **read ›**

59 **Psalms 40:8** I have desired to do your will, O my God, and I have desired your law in the midst of my heart.” (Septuagint Psalm 39:9 (Psalm 40:8 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

60 **Proverbs 6:23** For the commandment of the law is a lamp and a light, a way of life, and correction and instruction, **read ›**

61 **Ecclesiastes 1:3** What advantage does a man have in all his labor at which he labors under the sun? **read ›**

62 **Ecclesiastes 2:17** So I hated life, for the work that is done under the sun was evil to me; for all is vanity and a choosing of the wind. **read ›**

63 **Isaiah 1:19** And if you are willing, and listen to me, you shall eat the good things of the land. **read ›**

64 **Isaiah 5:16** But the Lord of hosts shall be exalted in judgment, and the holy God shall be glorified in righteousness. **read ›**

65 **Isaiah 7:21** And it shall be in that day that a man shall rear a young cow and two sheep; **read ›**

66 **Isaiah 8:21** And a hard famine shall come upon you, and it shall be that when you are hungry you shall be grieved, and you shall speak evil of the ruler and of the ways of your fathers; and they shall look up to heaven above, **read ›**

67 **Isaiah 13:13** For the heaven will be enraged, and the earth will be shaken from its foundations, because of the wrath of the anger of the Lord of hosts, in the day when his wrath comes upon it. **read ›**

68 **Isaiah 13:16** And they will dash their children to pieces before them, and plunder their houses, and take their wives. **read ›**

69 **Isaiah 15:1** The word against the land of Moab. By night the land of Moab will be destroyed, for by night the wall of the land of Moab will be destroyed. **read ›**

70 **Isaiah 15:3** Wrap yourselves in sackcloth in her squares, and lament on her rooftops and in her lanes; all of you, wail with weeping. **read ›**

71 **Isaiah 18:3** all of them, will be inhabited like an inhabited country; their land will be as when a signal is raised from a mountain; it will be heard like the sound of a trumpet. **read ›**

72 **Isaiah 53:10** And the Lord wills to cleanse him from his blow. If you give a sin offering, your soul shall see a long-lived seed. **read ›**

73 **Jeremiah 1:6** And I said, “O Master, Lord, you who are! Behold, I do not know how to speak, for I am too young.” **read ›**

74 **Jeremiah 39:9** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

75 **Jeremiah 42:6** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

76 **Daniel 8:1** In the third year of the reign of Belshazzar the king, a vision appeared to me, even to me, Daniel, after the one that had appeared to me at the beginning. **read ›**

77 **Amos 9:13** Behold, days are coming, says the Lord, when the harvest shall overtake the grape harvest, and the grape shall ripen in the time of sowing, and the mountains will drip sweetness, and all the hills shall be planted. **read ›**

78 **Matthew 7:21** Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter into the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. **read ›**

79 **John 3:17** For God did not send his Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world should be saved through him. **read ›**

80 **John 4:34** Jesus said to them, “My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to accomplish his work. **read ›**

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81 **John 6:38** For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will, but the will of him who sent me. **read ›**

82 **John 6:40** This is the will of the one who sent me, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in him should have eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day." **read ›**

83 **John 7:17** If anyone desires to do his will, he will know about the teaching, whether it is from God or if I am speaking from myself. **read ›**

84 **Acts 26:9** I myself therefore thought that I ought to do many things against the name of Jesus of Nazareth. **read ›**

85 **1 Corinthians 5:3** For I, as absent in body but present in spirit, have already judged the one who has done this, as though I were present, **read ›**

86 **1 Corinthians 5:7** Clean out the old leaven, so that you may be a new lump, just as you are unleavened. For indeed Christ our Passover has been sacrificed for us. **read ›**

87 **1 Corinthians 7:7** For I wish all men to be as I myself am. But each has his own gift from God, one in this way and another in that. **read ›**

88 **1 Corinthians 7:17** Only, as God has apportioned to each, as the Lord has called each, so let him walk. And so I direct in all the churches. **read ›**

89 **1 Corinthians 12:7** But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the profit of all. **read ›**

90 **1 Corinthians 12:11** But the one and the same Spirit produces all of these, distributing to each one separately as he desires. **read ›**

91 **2 Corinthians 8:5** This was not as we had expected, but first they gave their own selves to the Lord, and to us through the will of God. **read ›**

92 **2 Corinthians 10:6** and being in readiness to avenge all disobedience when your obedience is made full. **read ›**

93 **Ephesians 1:9** making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure which he purposed in him **read ›**

94 **Ephesians 5:17** Therefore, do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. **read ›**

95 **Ephesians 6:7** with good will doing service as to the Lord and not to men, **read ›**

96 **Philippians 2:13** for it is God who works in you both to will and to work for his good pleasure. **read ›**

97 **1 Thessalonians 4:3** For this is the will of God: your sanctification, that you abstain from sexual immorality, **read ›**

98 **1 Thessalonians 5:18** In everything give thanks, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus toward you. **read ›**

99 **Hebrews 13:17** Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they watch on behalf of your souls, as those who will give account, that they may do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be unprofitable for you. **read ›**

100 **Hebrews 13:21** make you complete in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever and ever. Amen. **read ›**

101 **James 4:15** Instead you should say, "If the Lord wills, we shall both live and do this or that." **read ›**

102 **1 Peter 2:15** For this is the will of God, that by well-doing you should put to silence the ignorance of foolish men. **read ›**

103 **1 Peter 3:17** For it is better, if it is God's will, that you suffer for doing what is right than for doing evil. **read ›**

104 **1 Peter 4:2** that you no longer should live the rest of your time in the flesh for the lusts of men, but for the will of God. **read ›**

105 **1 John 2:17** And the world is passing away, and its lust; but he who does the will of God remains forever. **read ›**

ALSO LINKED BY THF TO THESE PASSAGES *162 verses, by reference*

Partly machine-linked: related to the passages, not always quoted in them. Each reference links to the verse in our audio Bible.

Genesis 8:15 · 15:6

Exodus 3:22 · 20:7

Deuteronomy 30:15

Psalms 50:16 · 50:18 · 133:1

Proverbs 2:16 · 11:25

Isaiah 40:10 · 50:4 · 66:2

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Jeremiah 21:8

Matthew 3:12 · 5:26 · 5:28 · 5:31 · 5:32 · 5:39 · 5:40 · 5:41 · 5:42 · 5:44 · 5:45 · 5:46 · 6:10 · 7:9 · 7:12 · 8:4 · 9:16 · 9:17 · 10:5 · 10:19 · 10:25 · 10:29 · 11:12 · 12:30 · 13:27 · 13:30 · 13:40 · 18:6 · 19:3 · 19:6 · 19:9 · 22:37 · 22:39 · 23:6 · 24:5 · 25:33 · 25:36 · 25:41 · 26:24 · 26:39

Mark 8:38 · 12:30 · 12:39

Luke 3:17 · 6:27 · 6:29 · 6:30 · 6:31 · 6:32 · 8:51 · 10:12 · 11:43 · 12:21 · 16:1 · 16:9 · 16:15 · 16:18 · 17:34 · 20:46 · 21:14 · 22:42

John 2:3 · 3:5 · 5:14 · 7:37 · 8:12 · 14:6 · 15:1 · 15:12 · 21:17

Acts 4:32 · 20:29

Romans 1:26 · 1:32 · 2:21 · 2:24 · 4:3 · 7:15 · 7:23 · 8:18 · 8:24 · 8:29 · 8:36 · 13:11 · 13:14

1 Corinthians 1:26 · 2:6 · 2:9 · 5:11 · 6:9 · 6:13 · 6:16 · 7:3 · 7:5 · 7:10 · 7:11 · 7:14 · 9:22 · 9:23 · 11:7 · 12:3 · 12:18 · 14:13 · 15:58

2 Corinthians 6:14

Galatians 1:6 · 1:10 · 2:19 · 3:6 · 5:17 · 5:19 · 6:2

Ephesians 2:3 · 4:27 · 5:5 · 6:9 · 6:12

Philippians 3:15 · 4:8

1 Thessalonians 5:12 · 5:13

2 Thessalonians 3:6 · 3:14

1 Timothy 2:4 · 3:2 · 5:21

2 Timothy 3:2

Titus 1:6 · 1:15

Hebrews 10:24 · 10:33 · 11:5 · 11:17

James 1:8 · 2:23 · 5:4

1 Peter 1:14 · 1:16 · 1:21 · 2:11 · 3:13 · 3:20 · 4:12

1 John 2:3

Jude 1:7

Revelation 2:5 · 3:21 · 22:12

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Searched: Ante-Nicene Fathers volumes 1–9 and the Bible, including the Septuagint.

ABOUT THIS STUDY

A THF member asked “What did the early church believe about God's will for each Christian?” on November 11, 2026. The Historic Faith answered it as a public study on November 13, 2026.

Library only. This study was written only from The Historic Faith’s library of early-Christian writings and the Bible, never from the web. Every passage we kept from what the library gave is listed above, with a link to read it.

How it was made. Compiled by machine learning from The Historic Faith’s library of early-Christian writings and the Bible only. Every quotation was matched word for word against our stored text. Not yet reviewed by The Historic Faith.

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THE END OF THIS STUDY