

# The Will of God: There + That + Then

By Dr. Dan Cheatham, [www.devotional.net](http://www.devotional.net)

Credit must be given here to Bob Mumford who taught on A THING CALLED THAT and John Osteen who taught on A PLACE CALLED THERE. I added A TIME CALLED THEN and teach the sum total in my own way.

Do you want to be in the will of God? Do you want happiness and fulfillment? Do you prefer peace and joy over frustration and leanness of soul? Do you want to enjoy God and enjoy life? Do you want to please your Heavenly Father above all else? Do you want to experience the excitement and adventure of Christian living? If your answers to these questions are "YES" then you are the one with whom I want to share these golden nuggets of life changing truths.

## THE WILL OF GOD

In the center of God's presence and God's will is where the action is. You and I don't want to be on the periphery of God's will. We want to be in the center. We don't want to be on the sidelines of God's will. We don't want to be sitting on the bench just admiring the players who are on the field. We want to be "first string" for God. We don't want to be ankle deep on the shallow shorelines of the river of God. We want to be in the mainstream. Right? Our motto should be "THE WILL OF GOD - NOTHING MORE, NOTHING LESS, NOTHING ELSE!" In order to understand the Will of God, however, we must know what it is composed of. We must discover the dynamic elements which bond together to make up the substance of God's Will. The Will of God is composed of three elements: A PLACE CALLED "THERE", A THING CALLED "THAT", AND A TIME CALLED "THEN".

## A PLACE CALLED "THERE"

I read a little book by Pastor John Osteen titled "A PLACE CALLED THERE" that literally revolutionized my life. I highly recommend this book. I will summarize the teaching here but you need to get the book for yourself.

*1 Kings 17:2-10*

*And the word of the Lord came unto him, saying, Get thee hence and turn thyself eastward, and hide thyself by the brook Cherith, that is before Jordan. And it shall be, that thou shalt drink of the brook; and I HAVE COMMANDED the ravens to feed thee THERE. So he went and did according to the word of the Lord: for he went and dwelt by the brook Cherith, that is before Jordan. And the ravens brought him bread and flesh in the morning and flesh in the evening; and he drank of the brook. And it came to pass after a while, that the brook dried up, because there had been no rain in the land. And the word of the Lord came to him, saying, Arise, get thee to Zarephath, which belongeth to Zidon, and dwell THERE: behold, I HAVE COMMANDED a widow woman THERE to sustain thee. So he arose and went to Zarephath. And when he came to the gate of the city, behold, the woman was THERE gathering of sticks; and he called to her, and said, Fetch me I pray thee, a little water in a vessel that I may drink.*

Note the word "THERE". During this period of drought which God had commanded Elijah to prophesy into existence, it was extremely important that Elijah be located EXACTLY where God wanted him, lest he die of starvation himself. THERE is the place where God commands certain people, or an employer to feed and take care of you. For Elijah THERE was first the brook Cherith. But then the brook dried up "after a while". If Elijah had been "SLOW and DENSE" like I have been at times in my life, he would have starved to death. Whenever

the brook dries up in my own life, I am learning how to MOVE ON instead of HANG ON. THERE is the location which is God's will for us: THERE is the right nation, the right city, the right career and employment, and the right church. If you're not THERE, the devil will be able to rob you of God's blessings; draining and straining you. But if you're THERE, you'll have energy to SPARE. When you're in a place called THERE, you can rebuke the devil off your territory. You can do what Adam failed to do by saying, "Devil, get out of my territory!"

## **A THING CALLED "THAT"**

*Philippians 3:12-15*

*Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend THAT for which I am also apprehended of Christ Jesus. Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended; but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before. I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. Let us therefore, as many as be perfect, be thus minded; and if in anything ye be otherwise minded, God shall reveal even this to you.*

Paul said he was constantly apprehending "THAT" for which Christ apprehended him. Paul the apostle was ever in the process of discovering THAT for which Christ saved him and called him.

Paul was on a journey of faith bringing him ever-expanding horizons and ever-increasing opportunities. Paul knew that the PAST was his teacher, the PRESENT was his opportunity, and the FUTURE was his friend.

"THAT" is the purpose for which you were born and the cause for which you came into the world. THAT is your destiny. THAT is what God has called you to be and do. THAT is that for which you are gifted and talented by God. THAT is what God knows you can do best and enjoy the most. THAT is God's blueprint for your life. THAT is His charted course for you. God wants you to enjoy your job, and also your Body ministry. Over and over the book of Ecclesiastes says that it is a gift from God to enjoy your employment and lot in life. But today in the church so many are miserable in their jobs, in their homes, and in their place in the Body of Christ. Why? Because many believers are not APPREHENDING "THAT". Paul tells us in these verses to always pursue THAT for which we were created. This requires time with God and obedience to the Holy Spirit. But it pays big dividends to be doing A THING CALLED THAT!

## **A TIME CALLED "THEN"**

*Acts 7:24-25, 29-30, 32-34*

*And seeing one of them suffer wrong, he defended him, and avenged him that was oppressed and smote the Egyptian. For he supposed his brethren would have understood how that God by his hand would deliver them: but they understood not. THEN fled Moses at this saying and was a stranger in the land of Midian, where he begat two sons. And when forty years were expired, there appeared to him in the wilderness of Mount Sinai an angel of the Lord in a flame of fire in a bush. Saying, I am the God of thy fathers, the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob. THEN Moses trembled, and durst not behold. THEN said the Lord to him, put off thy shoes from thy feet: for the place where thou standest is holy ground. I have seen the affliction of my people which is in Egypt, and I have heard their groaning, and am come down to deliver them, and NOW come, I will send thee into Egypt.*

According to the Bible, timing is very important. God created time, space, and matter. Ecclesiastes Chapter 3 is the richest divine exposition on God's timing and seasons in the entire Bible. There is a time called THEN. We must be THERE, doing THAT. But we must also be THERE doing THAT at the proper time - THEN. Note how Moses misinterpreted God's timing in these verses. But God was in charge. After 40 years in the desert

"THEN said the Lord". "THEN Moses trembled". "NOW come, I will send thee into Egypt". There is a time and a season for every purpose under heaven. Even Jesus came in "due time". God makes everything beautiful in His timing. Therefore, to be in the perfect will of God, we must be sensitive to the Holy Spirit's timing. God is a precise God. He is never too late. But neither is He too early. Over and over in the Gospels we see that people tried to push Jesus out of God's timing but He always refused. The good news is that the Holy Spirit is in us and He is "on-beat" with heaven. As we spend time in God's presence, we develop sensitivity to God's rhythm. The Christian is in tune with his THEO-RHYTHMS, not BIO-RHYTHMS! Praise God! Sensitivity to His timing brings us into his perfect will. Praise God! We don't have to go out by HASTE, but neither do we have to HESITATE. The abundance of or lack of abiding peace concerning certain decisions lets us know whether we're in His timing or not.

I am learning that I don't need to go out by HASTE, but neither do I need to HESITATE. After being filled with the Holy Spirit, healed, and called to the ministry as an intercessor and youth teacher, the brook at my Methodist church dried up. THERE changed. THAT changed. So God sent me to be teacher and radio minister at a Charismatic teaching center while still serving as an officer in the US Air Force. Soon the Lord let me know that my Air Force Engineering career was a dried-up brook, so I didn't HANG ON. I MOVED ON. I left that place and moved into jail and prison ministry where hundreds were saved and healed. After a couple of years that brook dried up in Middle Tennessee and God spoke to me to apprentice under pastors in Huntsville, Alabama. THERE was no longer THERE in Tennessee. THERE was Huntsville, Alabama. THAT changed, too. Now I went from winning hardened rebellious souls into children's ministry. For two years I received training and raised up powerful children's churches and co-authored and compiled a training manual for children's church that Dr. Cho's church in Seoul, Korea translated into Korean and used as their children's church program. As I did this, I apprenticed under supernatural pastors. THEN God spoke to me and said, "I AM GIVING YOU TENNESSEE". THERE changed again. I founded a church in Tullahoma, Tennessee. God dropped two mantles on me at this time. THAT became two spiritual offices: PASTORING in our church and ministering PROPHETICALLY to other churches, restoring wounded ministers, and conducting pastors conferences and prophets conference in the Tennessee Valley and overseas. Five years later God showed me that my work there was through and I returned to Huntsville to be an associate pastor, worship leader, and to raise up an accredited seminary which has prepared hundreds for the ministry and church work. If I had not endeavored to always be in A PLACE CALLED THERE, doing A THING CALLED THAT, in a time called THEN, I would be outside of God's will, broke financially, frustrated, stale, dry, and lean in my soul.

Reader, I encourage you. There is A PLACE CALLED THERE for you. There is A THING CALLED THAT for you to be doing. There is a TIME CALLED THEN to be there and to do it. I challenge you. Get into God's presence. You may already be THERE, doing THAT, and THEN may be NOW. If so, stay put. Follow Jesus. Always be THERE. Always be pursuing THAT for which Jesus has apprehended you. Always be THEN, right on time with God. Remember your motto: GOD'S WILL - NOTHING MORE, NOTHING LESS, NOTHING