

After 400 years of silence (*between Old and New Testament*) Almighty God's Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, steps out into His public ministry and astounds the Jewish people. Not everyone accepts Him. Some, like the religious Pharisees refused Him outright refuting His claims, others ignored Him however, many received Him joyfully glad the Messiah had come.



John the Baptist was a prophet in the New Testament, a forerunner who prepared the way for the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ as the Messiah (**Matthew 3:1-12**). His message was a call to repentance (**Matthew 3:2**) and he baptised his followers in the river Jordan. Jesus himself called John the greatest man to have ever lived (**Luke 7:28**). John the Baptist was arrested and killed by Herod Antipas around AD 29.

HIS MINISTRY

1/ PREPARATION FOR THE MINISTRY LUKE 3:21-23 & MATTHEW 3:13-17

Jesus demonstrates by His own life on Earth that much time was spent on preparation for His service to His Father. It has taken about thirty years of growth ([see life of Christ 2a](#)) and learning before He began His public ministry.

In our reading the Lord Jesus proves His commitment to the Father by complete obedience to Him in Baptism. In many portions of God's word we see Him obeying the Father completely even in instances we would think He would be exempt! (subjection to earthly parents, attending Synagogue)

John the Baptist was surprised that one such as Jesus would need to be baptised, he said, "You should be baptising me!" But Jesus pointed out the importance of His complete obedience.

God's word demands complete obedience of all Christ's followers. Half hearted Christians make God sick! ([see Revelation 3:16](#)) How obedient are we to God's word?

There are three aspects to the will of God,

1/ God's general will. - His desire for all believers to obey.

2/ God's directive will. - His specific will for one or a particular group to obey for a certain situation.

3/ God's permissive will. - Something that is not desired by God but is allowed so as to teach, rebuke or change the direction the believer is going.

For today's thoughts we will think on the *general will of God. You can think of these as all Christian's baby steps.

As you can not take your fifth step before you take your fourth, neither can you expect God to give you His Directive will before you obey first baby steps of the General will. In **Acts 2** we see 5 baby steps for a new-born Christian. **1/salvation. 2/ baptism. 3/ fellowship. 4/breaking of bread. 5/prayer.**

In this modern age of instant gratification, (fast food, 24 hour shopping etc.) most Christians are not willing to take the time to grow or be trained by God.

Moses was trained for 80 yrs before being called to service, Noah spent 120 yrs preparing the ark before the flood, Jesus Himself spent 30 yrs, waiting time is not wasted time remember, God is not in a hurry!



BIBLICAL REFERENCES FOR THE THREE ASPECTS TO GODS WILL

***GENERAL WILL.** Acts 2:41-47
SPECIFIC WILL. Ephesians 4:11
PERMISSIVE WILL. Genesis 50:20, Acts 2:23, Acts 4:28

If the Lord Jesus Christ thought it so important to obey in this area, have we followed in His example? How can we expect God to trust us with our ministry if we fail in the baby steps of our walk with Him?

The result of Christ's obedience was the Father's satisfaction, **Matthew 3:17** this is our objective as Christians **Matthew 25:21**. God is looking for faithful servants today!



Thank God for saving your soul!

Commit yourself to His complete will in your life and run through the various steps of His general will ensuring you are totally obedient.

Ask Him to direct you into deeper obedience so that you may please Him more.

(Pray for the work of theBiblezone.com as we seek to serve God today.)

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