



*Knowing and Living
the Will of God*

Ephesians 5:15-17

15 See then that you **walk circumspectly**, not as fools but **as wise**, **16 redeeming the time, because the days are evil.**

17 Therefore **do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is.**



Knowing and Living the Will of God:

1. Understanding God's Will

→ The two broad wills of God

2. Wrestling with God's Will

→ Foreknowledge, human free will and predestination

3. Walking in God's Will

→ Knowing it and living it out daily



Knowing and Living the Will of God:

1. **Understanding God's Will**

→ The two broad wills of God



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2 **Greek Words** in English for Will of God in the Bible:

- **Boulema:** God's unchangeable, sovereign purpose that always comes to pass
- **Thelema:** God's desire revealed in Scripture via moral instructions and commands but depends on our choice to obey or not



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- **Boulema:** God's unchangeable, sovereign purpose that always comes to pass

Creation	Laws & Principles	Free will of Man	Calvary
God's Redemptive Plan	Israel	Judgements	Eternity
Pentecost	The Anti-Christ	The Rapture	Tribulation
Second Coming of Christ	Millennial Kingdom	The Church	



2 Greek Words in English for Will of God in the Bible:

- **Thelema:** God's revealed will in Scripture - His commands and moral guidance, which we are free to obey or reject.

Deuteronomy 30:19 I call heaven and earth as witnesses today against you, that I have **set before you life and death, blessing and cursing**; therefore **choose** life, that both you and your descendants may live.



2 Greek Words in English for Will of God in the Bible:

- **Thelema:** God's revealed will in Scripture - His commands and moral guidance, which we are free to obey or reject.

- **Thelema:** God's desire dependent on man's response

Salvation 2 Peter 3:9	Healing & Health	Nations	Integrity	
Relationship w God	Local Church	Family	Work - Career	
Parenting	Marriage	Finances	Businesses	Relationships

- Choices & Consequences
- Sowing & Reaping - **Galatians 6:7-8**
- Fallen World - Fallen People-Systems-Structures
- Different degrees of choices and weightage of outcomes
- Impact on those in the path of the decisions

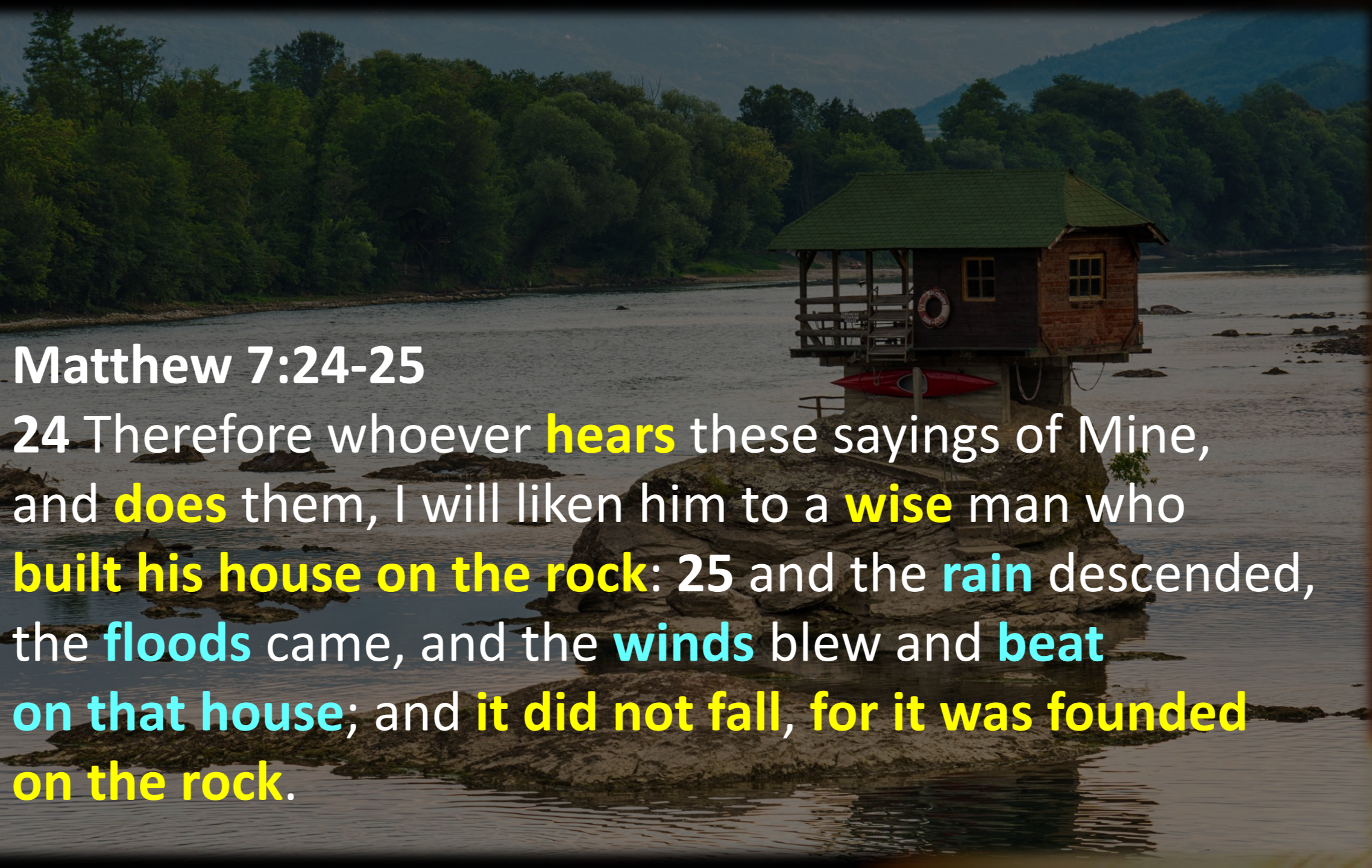


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- **Thelema:** God's revealed will in Scripture - His commands and moral guidance, which we are free to obey or reject.

Matthew 7:24-25

24 Therefore whoever **hears** these sayings of Mine, and **does** them, I will liken him to a **wise** man who **built his house on the rock**: 25 and the **rain** descended, the **floods** came, and the **winds** blew and **beat on that house**; and **it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock**.



2 Greek Words in English for Will of God in the Bible:

• **Boulema**



**Laws &
Principles**



Thelema dynamics in our lives



- **James 4:6** - proud-humble-brokenness
- **2 Corinthians 4:13** - spirit of faith
- **Deuteronomy 16:16** - giving to God
- **Ephesians 6** - honouring parents
- **Proverbs** - Integrity; diligence, righteousness, etc.



Knowing and Living the Will of God:

2. **Wrestling with God's Will**

→ Foreknowledge, human free will and predestination



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- God is **all-knowing**.

Psalm 139:2-3

2 **You know** my sitting down and my rising up;

You understand my thought afar off.

3 **You comprehend** my path and my lying down,
and **are acquainted** with all my ways.



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being yet unformed. And **in Your book**
they all were written, the days fashioned for me,
when as yet there were none of them.



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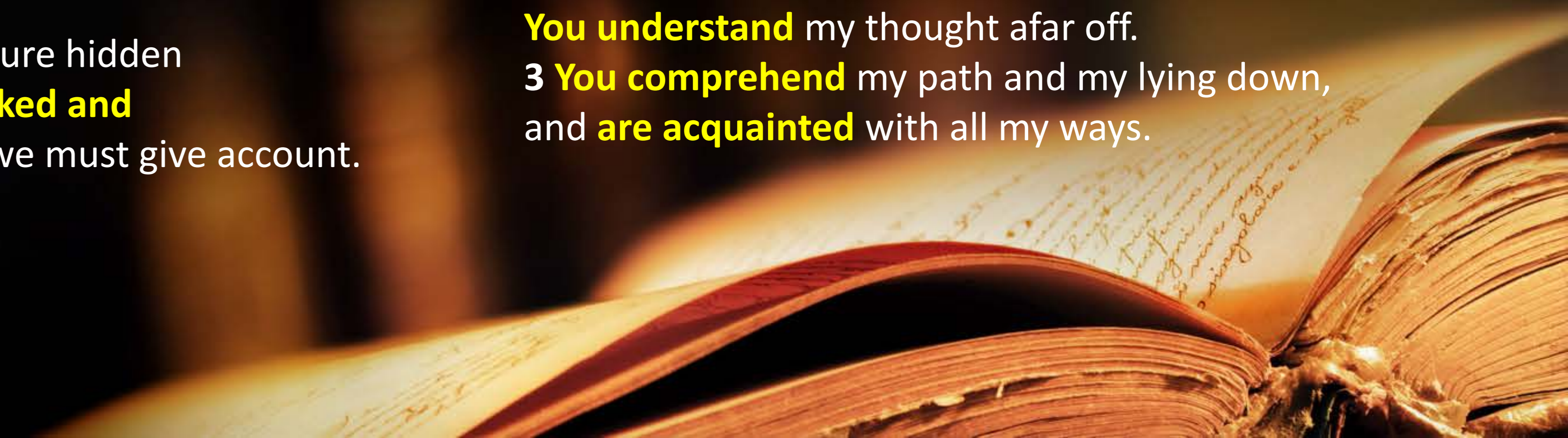
- God is **all-knowing**.

Hebrews 4:13 And there is no creature hidden
from His sight, but **all things are naked and**
open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.

Psalm 139:2-3

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and **are acquainted** with all my ways.



2. Wrestling with God's Will

→ Foreknowledge, human free will and predestination

- God is **all-knowing**.

God's omniscience does **NOT**:

- ✓ violate the free-will of man;
- ✓ preclude man from making decisions.



Knowing and Living the Will of God:

2. Wrestling with God's Will

→ Foreknowledge, human free will and predestination

There was a time when there was **NO** time

Eternity (Past)

Eternity (Future)

Psalm 90:2b From **everlasting to everlasting**,
you are God.

Isaiah 57:15a For thus says the High and Lofty One
Who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy:





There was a time when God created **time**



Genesis 1:14 Then God said, “Let there be lights in the firmament of the heavens to divide **the day from the night**; and let them be for **signs and seasons**, and for **days and years**.”



There was a time when God created **time**



Then God created **space**



Jeremiah 51:15

He has made the **earth** by His power; He has established the **world** by His wisdom, and stretched out the **heaven** by His understanding.

Isaiah 45:18

For thus says the LORD, **Who created the heavens,** Who is God, **Who formed the earth** and made it ...



Finally, within the dimension of time and space,
God created **man** (Genesis 1:26-27)

Genesis 1:26-27

26 Then God said, "Let Us **make man in Our image**, according to our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."

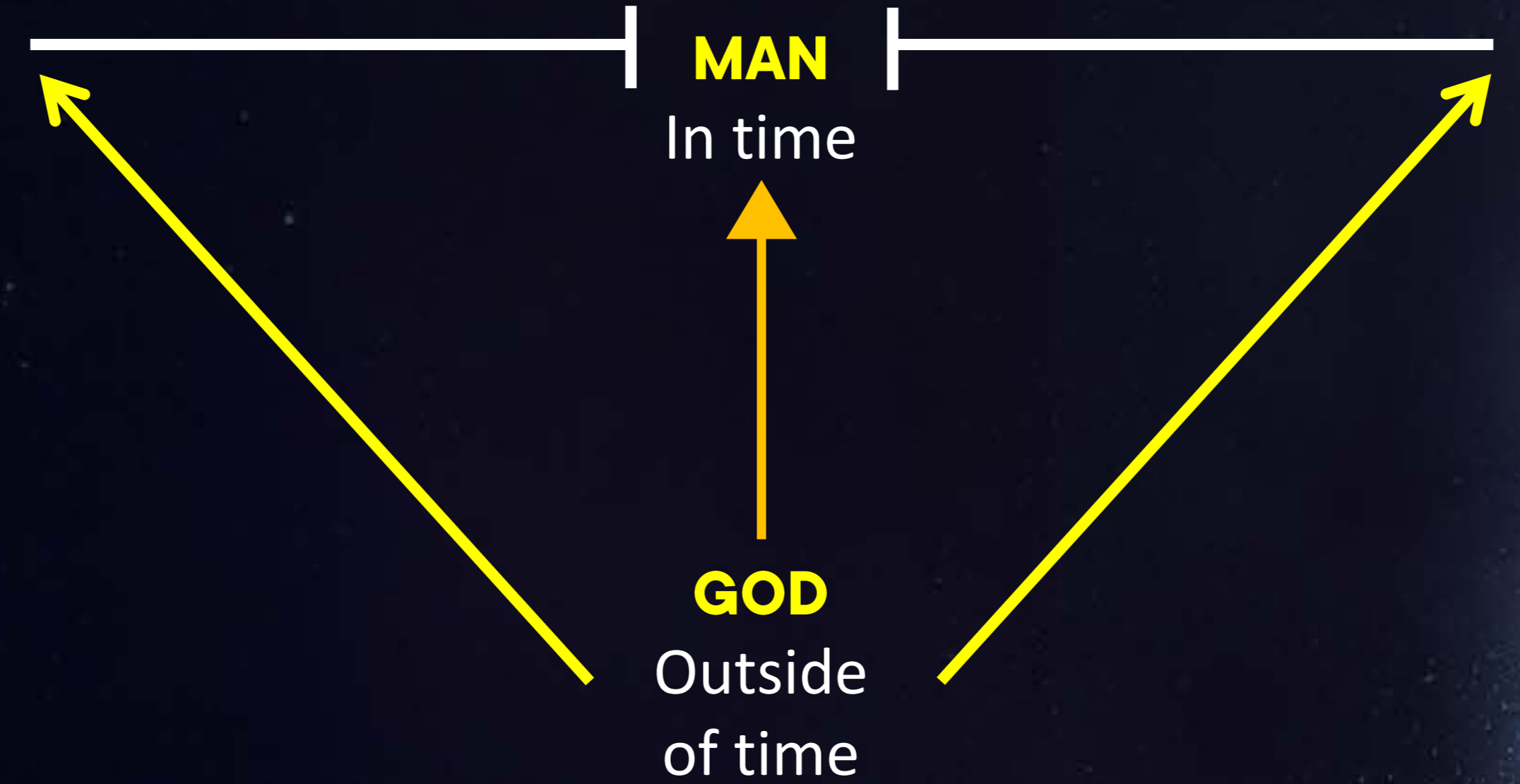
27 So God **created man in His own image**; in the image of God He created him; **male and female** He created them.



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Knowing and Living the Will of God:

2. Wrestling with God's Will

→ Foreknowledge, human free will and predestination

- God is all-knowing.
- Humans have free will.
- God's foreknowledge does not cancel human choice.
- God already knows the choices we will make.
- And from our choices, we will reap their outcomes and consequences.
- Because God knows the **choices** we make, the **outcome** is certain (**predestined** from God's perspective).

Therefore, our choices and what we sow matter



Knowing and Living the Will of God:

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Ephesians 5:15-17

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Ephesians 5:17 Therefore do not be unwise, but **understand what the will of the Lord is.**

Why know and live the Will of God?

- His will is to give us **peace, future, hope** (Jeremiah 29:11)
- His will is always **good, acceptable and perfect** (Romans 12:2)
- His will always help us prosper, succeed, overcome (Psalm 1:2-3; Joshua 1:8; Jeremiah 17:7-8)
- He who does the will of God abides forever (1 John 2:17)



Ephesians 5:17 Therefore do not be unwise, but **understand what the will of the Lord is.**



A. The Will of God is that we be **saved.**

2 Peter 3:9 The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, **not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.**



Ephesians 5:17 Therefore do not be unwise, but **understand what the will of the Lord is.**

A. The Will of God is that we be **saved**.
Salvation depends on man's **response** to
the **revelation of God:**

Creation: Romans 1:19-21; Psalm 19:1-4

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Romans 1:19-21

19 because **what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them.** 20 For since the creation of the world **His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead,** so that **they are without excuse,** 21 because, although **they knew God,** they **did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful,** but **became futile in their thoughts,** and **their foolish hearts were darkened.**

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Creation: Romans 1:19-21; Psalm 19:1-4

Psalm 19:1-4

1 The **heavens declare the glory of God**; and **the firmament shows His handiwork**. 2 Day unto day **utters speech**, and night unto night **reveals knowledge**. 3 There is **no speech nor language where their voice is not heard**. 4 **Their line** has gone out through all the earth, and **their words** to the end of the world. In them He has set a tabernacle for the sun,

*Natural rocks-stones can cry out
- Genesis 31; Joshua 4; Luke 19*

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Conscience: *Romans 2:15*

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Romans 2:15 who show the **work of the law written in their hearts**, their **conscience also bearing witness**, and between themselves **their thoughts accusing or else excusing them**)

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Eternity in Man: Spirit of Man (Ecclesiastes 3:11)

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- We are created in the image of God.
- God has placed eternity in the human spirit.
- Our spirit was created to have a relationship with God.
There is a God-shaped void that only He can fill
- We are created with purpose to reflect God.
When we live out that purpose, we experience joy and fulfilment (e.g. generosity, helping the poor and disadvantage, doing good).

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The Gospel of Jesus Christ: Hebrews 1:2

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Salvation depends on man's **response** to the **revelation of God**:

The Gospel of Jesus Christ: Hebrews 1:2

John 3:16; 1:12; 5:24;

Romans 10:9-10;

Luke 16:29, 31: Moses, prophets, messengers
(Hebrews 1:1)

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A. The Will of God is that we be **saved**.

Evangelism: Share Christ

The Gospel of Jesus Christ:

Hence, every believer is:

- an ambassador of God (2 Corinthians 5);
- salt and light (Matthew 5:12-16);
- to share the Gospel (Mark 16:15).

Ephesians 5:17 Therefore do not be unwise, but **understand what the will of the Lord is.**



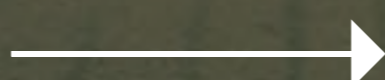
A. The Will of God is that we be **saved.**

Salvation depends on man's **response** to the **revelation of God** - Creation - Conscience - Eternity In Man - Gospel
Acts 17:27 – that man will seek, grope and find God

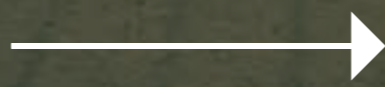
John 16:8

The Holy Spirit convicts to:

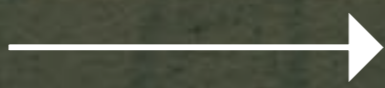
Sin



Righteousness



Judgment



Jeremiah 9:24

The Character of God

Loving and kind

Righteous

Just



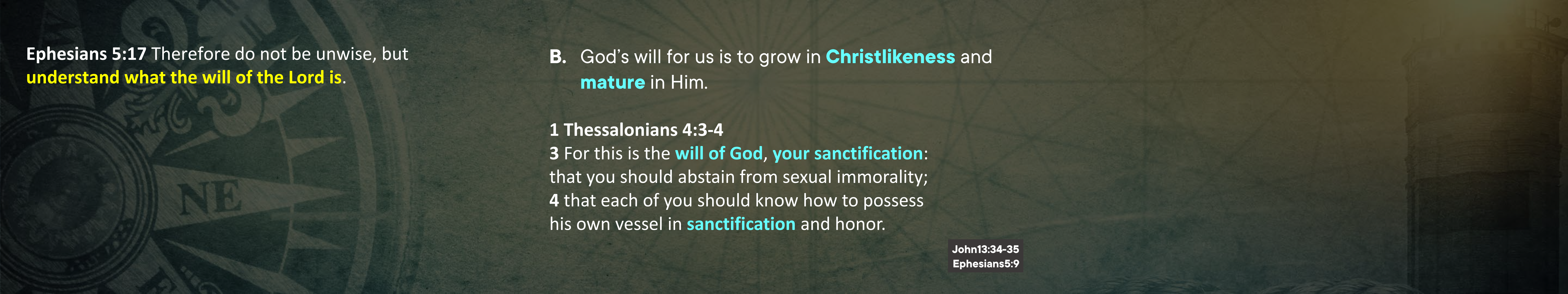
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B. God's will for us is to grow in **Christlikeness** and **mature** in Him.

Romans 8:29 For whom He foreknew, He also **predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son**, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.

Philippians 2:12-13

95% of Problems+TrialsOfFaith-Carnality



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B. God's will for us is to grow in **Christlikeness** and **mature** in Him.

1 Thessalonians 4:3-4

3 For this is the **will of God, your sanctification:** that you should abstain from sexual immorality;
4 that each of you should know how to possess his own vessel in **sanctification** and honor.

John13:34-35
Ephesians5:9



Ephesians 5:17 Therefore do not be unwise, but **understand what the will of the Lord is.**

C. The Will of God is that we **give thanks** in all circumstances.

Ephesians 5:18 in everything **give thanks**; for this is the **will of God** in Christ Jesus for you.

Romans1:21



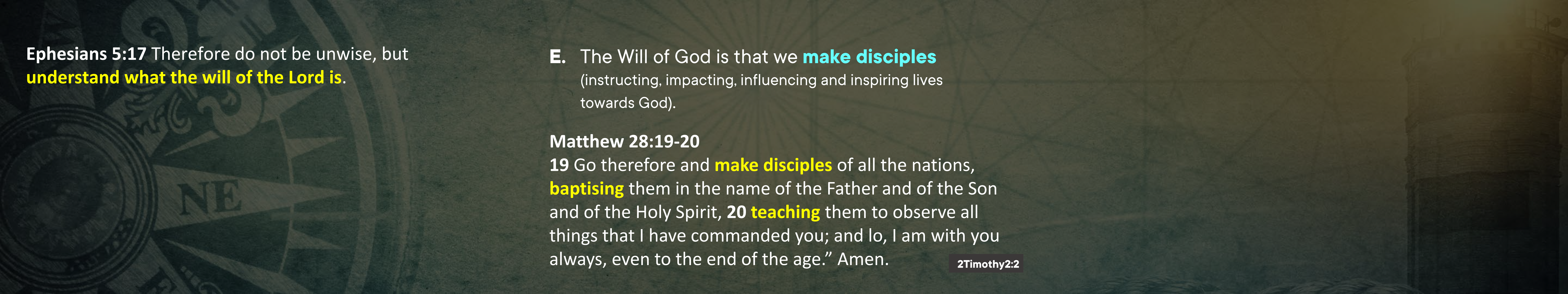
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D. The Will of God is that we **do good** to others.

Ephesians 2:10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for **good works**, which God prepared beforehand **that we should walk in them.**

Matthew 5:16

1 Peter 2:15 For this is the **will of God**, that by **doing good** you may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men—



Ephesians 5:17 Therefore do not be unwise, but **understand what the will of the Lord is.**

E. The Will of God is that we **make disciples** (instructing, impacting, influencing and inspiring lives towards God).

Matthew 28:19-20

19 Go therefore and **make disciples** of all the nations, **baptising** them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, **20 teaching** them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Amen.

2Timothy2:2



Ephesians 5:17 Therefore do not be unwise, but **understand what the will of the Lord is.**

F. The Will of God is that we **align** our hearts to His, **hear** Him clearly and respond accordingly.

1 John 5:14 Now this is the **confidence** that we have in Him, that if we **ask anything according to His will, He hears us.**

15 And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we **know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him.**

John 15:7; Jeremiah 9:23-24

Ephesians 5:17 Therefore do not be unwise, but **understand what the will of the Lord is.**

G. The Will of God is that we be **filled with the Holy Spirit.**

Outcomes of being filled with the Holy Spirit:

- overflow with **faith**: *2 Corinthians 4:13*
- overflow with **hope**: *Romans 15:13*
- overflow with **love**: *Ephesians 3:19-20*

1 Cor 12:8-11 - **gifts of the manifestations of the Holy Spirit**

word of wisdom; knowledge, faith, healings, miracles, prophecy, discerning of spirits, tongues, interpretation ...



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H. The Will of God is that we **submit** to one another in the **fear of God.**

Ephesians 5:21 **submitting to one another** in **the fear of God.**

Isaiah 11:2 The **Spirit of the Lord** shall rest upon Him, the **Spirit of wisdom** and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and of **the fear of the Lord.**

Proverbs 9:10 The **fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom**, and the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.



Knowing and Living the Will of God:

- to **save** us all. **Evangelism. Share** Christ!
- to grow into **Christlikeness. Mature** in Him;
- that we **give thanks** in all circumstances;
- to **be a blessing** to others;
- that we intentionally **make disciples**;
- to **align** to Him to **hear and answer us**;
- to be **filled with the Spirit**;
- to **submit** to one another in the **fear of God**.

•What aspects of His will are awaiting your obedience today?

Bottom Line:

Knowing and Living the Will of God:

In what specific ways is God asking you to respond to His will now?

Will you make room for God?