

**20:20 Vision Ministries -- Devotions by Roger Browning**  
**Week 11 (March 9-15, 2014)**

In this week's devotions, we will continue to explore the will of God.

**Sunday** – March 9

*This is good, and pleases God our Savior, who wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth. (1 Timothy 2:3-4)*

These verses are part of Paul's instructions to his young student, Timothy, on the subject of effective praying (see January 11 devotion). He reveals a truth that has become the most important revelation to me as I **pray God's promises**. God created hell for the devil and his angels (see Matthew 25:41), but all who reject His offer of salvation will spend eternity there as well. This is **not** the will of the Lord! I have learned to pray with boldness for the souls of the lost because I do not have to include the phrase, "if it be thy will." I already know from this verse that their salvation is **His will**. Tomorrow's devotion will amplify this truth as well.

**Monday** – March 10 (read 2 Peter 3:3-9)

*The Lord is not slow in keeping His promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance. (2 Peter 3:9)*

Almost 2000 years have passed since Jesus said He would "come again to receive us unto Himself" (John 14:3), therefore, many people ridicule those of us who continue to preach His **imminent return**. Second Peter 3:3-4 declares that this is exactly what they would do. Today's verse clearly explains why the Lord is staying away for a long time: He is **not willing** for anyone to perish. However, He knows exactly how many Gentiles will be saved (see Romans 11:25). When that last Gentile receives God's free gift of salvation, the **rapture** will occur and the seven years of **tribulation** will begin on earth. Pray for those who have not yet received Christ! Pray with boldness and faith for those in your own family (Acts 16:31). The "Day of God's Grace" will soon be over!

**Tuesday** – March 11

*Yet it was the Lord's will to crush Him and cause Him to suffer, and though the Lord makes His life a guilt offering, He will see His offspring and prolong His days, and the will of the Lord will prosper in His hand. (Isaiah 53:10)*

Many people cringe when they first read this verse. How could it be the **will of God** for His beloved Son to suffer such agony? People who ask this question do not understand God's **holiness** or His **hatred of sin**. Jesus is the only One who could pay the price, because He is the only One with no sins of His own. The "guilt offering" has been made and Jesus has returned to Heaven to pray for all people who accept His free gift of salvation. The Father, who wants all men to be saved, paid a dear price so that the blood of the Lamb could cover our sins. Don't receive God's grace in vain (2 Corinthians 6:2).

**Wednesday** – March 12 (read 1 Thessalonians 4:3-8)

*“It is God’s will that you should be holy; . . . (1 Thessalonians 4:3a)*

Salvation is a free gift paid for by the blood of our Lord on Calvary. We can add nothing to it and we can take nothing away from it. Having reiterated that truth, let’s continue to explore the **will of God**. Today’s partial verse makes it quite clear: “It is God’s will that you should be holy!” King James uses the word “sanctification” for holy. Sanctify means “to set apart” and “to make holy.” The moment we are saved, Jesus imputes His holiness to us so that we are **inwardly** pure (see 1 Corinthians 1:30). Then He immediately begins a process of purifying our minds and bodies so that we can be witnesses to the lost world that observes the way we live (see Psalm 23:3). Be sure to read 1 Thessalonians 4:3-8 so that you will never forget Whom we reject when we ignore this truth. Then read Matthew 12:31-32 to see how serious this omission is to the Holy Trinity!

**Thursday** – March 13

*Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from the will of your Father. (Matthew 10:29)*

I am experiencing a heavy heart all week because of an invasion of my home on February 5. A bandit with a striped mask (raccoon) broke through the screen on my porch and killed my beloved pet, Spooky. My little feline pal avoided the eagle that tried to get her (see week 9 devotions), but she could not get away from the masked bandit. Today’s verse is a comfort to me as I grieve my loss. Because of Spooky, **many** sparrows have fallen to the ground by way of her claws and teeth, but as I look out my window now, birds of all species are out in my yard, enjoying their breakfast without fear for the first time in five years. The Lord used Spooky to eliminate my prejudice against cats and to teach me more about His unconditional love. She did her job in five short years before it was the will of the Father to allow nature to complete the cycle. “The Lord gave and the Lord has taken away; may the name of the Lord be praised.” (Job 1:21).

**Friday** – March 14

*Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus. (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18)*

How are you doing on these three quick-hitting commands in today’s verse? Some wise man told me a long time back that you experience “**joy**” by putting **Jesus** first, **others** second and **yourself** last. Doing this will help you to keep the prayer lines open to God all day long so that you can “**pray continually**” by shooting up “arrow prayers” wherever you are. This week, I have been called to “**give thanks in all circumstances**,” even while my heart is heavy. This is clearly **God’s will** for me and for you. I want all of you to understand that I am still a “work in progress.” I write these devotions, not out of my years of experience, but out of my need to draw closer to the Lord everyday. I pray that my journey will encourage you and enrich you as we learn to seek Him with all of our hearts (Jeremiah 29:13).

**Saturday** – March 15

*We know that God does not listen to sinners. He listens to the godly man who does His will. (John 9:31)*

I have so much more to share with you on the **will of God** that I will spend one more week on the subject. Let’s conclude this week by praising the Lord for allowing **saved sinners** to come into the presence of our Holy God using the Name of Jesus. Otherwise, we could never appear before a Holy Father who cannot look upon sin (see Habakkuk 1:13). The **will of God** is for every lost sinner to receive salvation through the sacrifice of His Son (see March 9 & 10 devotions). After that, **His will** is for His children to be sanctified (see March 12 devotion). Having accepted these two facts from God’s Word, how confident should you be when you pray to your Heavenly Father for salvation and sanctification for those you love? (Hebrews 4:16)