

**“GOS IS SUPREME IN 2019”**

**DEVELOPING A LISTENING EAR TO GOD**

Isaiah 30:21

“And **thine ears** shall hear a word behind thee, saying, This is the way, walk ye in it, when ye turn to the right hand, and when ye turn to the left”.

**Bible Fact:** **God expects** for His chosen, i.e. saved people, to hear His voice in order for them to demonstrate and communicate an effective response of obedience and **acceptance** of His will.

**The Big Idea:** By developing a **sensitive spiritual ear** to the voice of God the faith, righteousness, peace, prosperity, power and joy of every believer will become more **personally rewarding** and to the glory of God.

**Lesson 22**

I. **12 spiritual tools Christians must effectively use to develop a listening ear to God.**

* + - 1. **Faith = to follow God**
      2. **Obedience = the action performed after believing God**
      3. **Prayer = to communicate with God**
      4. **The Word of God = God speaking to His people**
      5. **The Will = authorizes actions to perform for God**
* The New Birth (John 3:3,5)

1. The **MIND** must be **ILLUMINATED** (conversion) change
2. The **HEART** must be **MOTIVATED** (conviction) confidence
3. The **WILL** must be **CAPTIVATED** (commitment) charge

* **The Christian will** to perform for God comes from Jesus Christ; Philippians 2:1-16
* The 10 different types of wills of God: knowing the will of God enables Christians to know about the thoughts of God.

1. **God’s Intentional Will** – These are the desires of God’s heart for us, His ideal plan, flowing out of His goodness, such as that none should be lost [Matthew. 18:14; Luke 19:10].

* The Will of God, by Leslie D. Weatherhead, Abingdon Press, 1944, 1972, ISBN 0-687-07482-7

1. **God’s Permissive Will** – This is what God will accept, given our choices, good or bad, in particular circumstances, so as to not limit the free will He has given us. God will not overrule volition. He accepts that some will be lost [1 Corinthians 1:18; 2 Corinthians 6:14; ]. For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of His good pleasure (Philippians 2:13).

The king's heart is in the hand of the Lord, as the rivers of water: he turneth it whithersoever he will (Proverbs 21:1). God can direct the mind of a king so that the king's actions fulfill His intent. If God can do that with a king, can He not do the same with us?

* The Church in the New Testament, by Kevin J. Conner, BT Publ.., Portland, OR, www.btpublishing.com, 1982, ISBN 1-886849-15-3.

1. **God’s Ultimate Will** – This is how God achieves His ends, given man’s choices, be they good or bad. He works all things together for the good of those He called, who love Him [Genesis 50:19, 20; Romans 8:28]. This means he can ultimately get His good in spite of man’s bad.
   * *Healing Your Heart of Painful Emotions, by David A. Seamands, Inspirational Press (BBS), 1993, ISBN 088486-080-9.*
2. **Sovereign will of God**: What God declares, nothing can change it. Ephesians 1:3-6
3. **The secret will of God**: What God wants that may be reveal in the coming of the future. The secret things belong to the Lord our God, but the things revealed belong to us and to our sons forever, that we may observe all the words of this law (Deuteronomy 29:29).
4. **The providential will of God**: God’s plans for the future. Exodus 23:20; Jeremiah 29:11
5. **The command will of God**; An action that God demands happen. **Exodus 20:1-17**
6. **The directive will of God**: This refers to the Holy Spirit’s persona and direct guidance in our lives. He speaks to our hearts or through a dream, vision, or other means. Acts 10 The “Macedonian call” (Acts 8:26;16:6-10)
7. **The discerned will of God**: This is guidance through the application of directions (principles) in the Bible to situations that have no clear directives in the written word. Common daily decisions may come to play hear. God wants you to live in a house but He will let you discern what the right community would be and leave it to your discern the choice. The discerning will of God may also be employed on a job. You may discern if there is room for future promotions; Joshua 1:9
8. **The disposition will of God**: This will describes God’s attitude or disposition towards something. It tells us what is pleasing to Him–what gives God pleasure, and what does not. I Timothy 2:3,4

**10.8.19**