

Question: What is God's will -

(a) For Believers

(b) For Unbelievers

- **Concerning both good and bad things**
- **Is it the same for both groups?**

The general answer to this question is found in 1 Timothy 2:4.

1 Tim 2:3-6

3 This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, 4 who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. 5 For there is one God, and one mediator also between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, 6 who gave Himself as a ransom for all, the testimony given at the proper time.

What things do we learn about God's will from 1 Timothy 2:3-6?

God is love. His desire for every person is for only the best, only good things.

What does this passage say that God's will is for all unbelievers?

What does it say that God's will is for believers?

The Bible has some amazing things to say about what happens when we come to the knowledge of the truth.

I want you to think about that statement. Once you do you have my permission to also check out these verses:

John 8:32
John 16:12-15
John 17:3

Ephesians 4:11-16
Ephesians 6:14
1 Peter 1:22-24

We find a statement in 2 Peter 3:8-9 which is similar to 1 Timothy 2:4.

2 Peter 3:8-9

*8 But do not let this one fact escape your notice, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years like one day. 9 The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, **not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.***

What does this passage say about God's will for unbelievers?

John 3:16-17

16 "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life. 17 "For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through Him.

At this point, what can we say God's will is for unbelievers?

By the way – is there any limitation on who can be saved?

All right, that is the unbeliever. As you might expect, the Bible has a lot more to say about what God's will is for the believer.

Let's turn our attention now to that second document called THE WILL OF GOD. This is for believers. Let's spend time on these verses to learn more about what God's will is for His children, believers in Christ.

With respect to bad and good things happening to people, there is no simple statement in the Bible as to what the will of God is.

That's especially true when it comes to the unbeliever.

Let's have a discussion now about what the Bible says about good things and bad things happening to people – particularly to unbelievers.

Rom 8:26-39

26 In the same way the Spirit also helps our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we should, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words; 27 and He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

*28 And we know that **God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.** 29 For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become **conformed to the image of His Son**, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren; 30 and these whom He **predestined**, He also **called**; and these whom He called, He also **justified**; and these whom He justified, He also **glorified**.*

31 What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who is against us? 32 He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him over for us all, **how will He not also with Him freely give us all things?** 33 Who will bring a charge against God's elect? God is the one who justifies; 34 who is the one who condemns? Christ Jesus is He who died, yes, rather who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us. 35 Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? 36 Just as it is written,
"FOR YOUR SAKE WE ARE BEING PUT TO DEATH ALL DAY LONG; WE WERE CONSIDERED AS SHEEP TO BE SLAUGHTERED."
 37 But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us. 38 For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, 39 nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.
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When it comes to good things and bad things, we know that God's will for believers is that ultimately all things are going to work together for good.

That is not the same thing, of course, as saying that only good things happen to believers. That's ridiculous on its face.

Believers get sick, lose loved ones, suffer natural disasters, suffer in wars, and get persecuted for their faith.

Yet God's will for us, His children, does not change no matter what trials and tribulations we face.

Matt 7:9-11

Or what man is there among you who, when his son asks for a loaf, will give him a stone? 10 "Or if he asks for a fish, he will not give him a snake, will he? 11 "If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give what is good to those who ask Him!
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