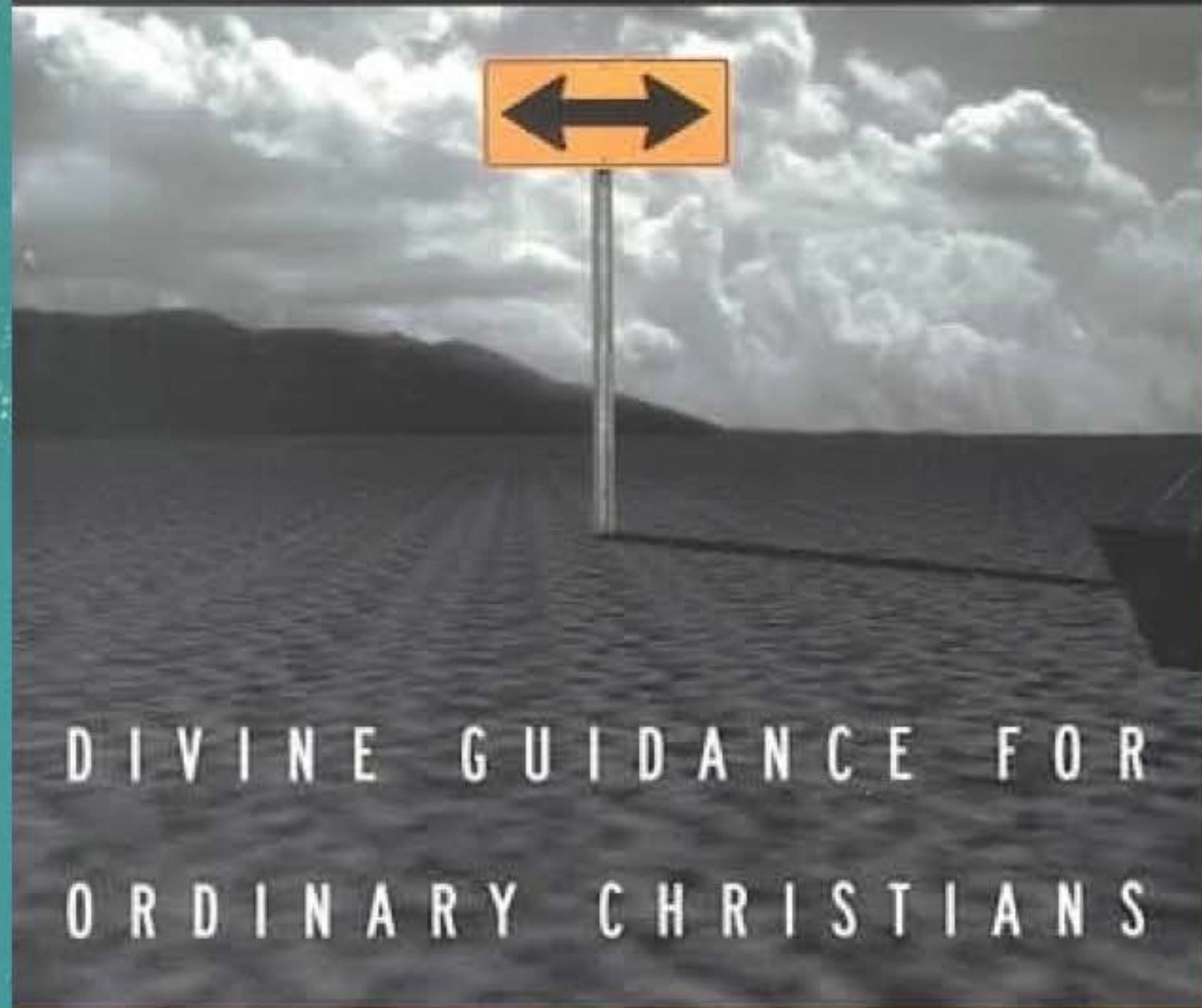




RESOURCES FOR CHANGING LIVES



DIVINE GUIDANCE FOR
ORDINARY CHRISTIANS

STEPBYSTEP

JAMES C. PETTY



SEARCHING FOR GOD'S WILL:
A FRESH LOOK AT
HOW GOD LEADS US



Week 2:
Problems With the Traditional View,
and Towards a Biblical Model of
God's Will

Ken Christy



Problems With the Traditional View of God's Will



A Better Way



Also we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to His purpose who works all things after the counsel of His will,

Ephesians 1:11



"All the inhabitants of the earth
are accounted as nothing, But
He does according to His will in
the host of heaven *And among*
the inhabitants of earth; And no
one can ward off His hand Or say
to Him, 'What have You done?'

Daniel 4:35



In the exercise of His will
He brought us forth by
the word of truth, so that
we would be a kind of
first fruits among His
creatures.

James 1:18



"Remember the former things
long past, For I am God, and
there is no other; *I am* God,
and there is no one like Me,

Isaiah 46:9–10



Declaring the end from the
beginning, And from ancient
times things which have not
been done, Saying, 'My
purpose will be established,
And I will accomplish all My
good pleasure';

Isaiah 46:9–10




Your eyes have seen my
unformed substance; And in
Your book were all written
The days that were ordained
for me, When as yet there
was not one of them.

Psalms 139:16



"For truly in this city there
were gathered together
against Your holy servant
Jesus, whom You anointed,
both Herod and Pontius Pilate,
along with the Gentiles and
the peoples of Israel,

Acts 4:27–28



to do whatever Your hand and
Your purpose predestined to
occur.

Acts 4:27–28



Do not love the world nor
the things in the world. If
anyone loves the world,
the love of the Father is
not in him.

1 John 2:15–17



For all that is in the world,
the lust of the flesh and
the lust of the eyes and
the boastful pride of life,
is not from the Father, but
is from the world.

1 John 2:15–17



The world is passing
away, and *also* its lusts;
but the one who does the
will of God lives forever.

1 John 2:15–17



And do not be conformed to
this world, but be
transformed by the renewing
of your mind, so that you may
prove what the will of God is,
that which is good and
acceptable and perfect.

Romans 12:2



Now the God of peace, who
brought up from the dead
the great Shepherd of the
sheep through the blood of
the eternal covenant, *even*
Jesus our Lord,

Hebrews 13:20–21



equip you in every good
thing to do His will, working
in us that which is pleasing
in His sight, through Jesus
Christ, to whom *be* the glory
forever and ever. Amen.

Hebrews 13:20–21



"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



1. It's **COMMUNICATION**: It is **FULLY
REVEALED** in Scripture



All Scripture is inspired
by God and profitable for
teaching, for reproof, for
correction, for training in
righteousness;

2 Timothy 3:16–17



so that the man of God
may be adequate,
equipped for every good
work.

2 Timothy 3:16–17



2. It's ORIGIN or NATURE: It is the expression of GOD'S CHARACTER



So then, the Law is
holy, and the
commandment is holy
and righteous and
good.

Romans 7:12



3. It's SCOPE: It touches EVERY
ASPECT AND MOMENT OF LIFE



Rejoice always; pray
without ceasing; in
everything give thanks;
for this is God's will for
you in Christ Jesus.

1 Thessalonians 5:16–18



For this reason also, since the day we heard *of it*, we have not ceased to pray for you and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding,

Colossians 1:9–10



so that you will walk in a
manner worthy of the Lord,
to please *Him* in all respects,
bearing fruit in every good
work and increasing in the
knowledge of God;

Colossians 1:9–10



for you were formerly
darkness, but now you are
Light in the Lord; walk as
children of Light (for the fruit
of the Light *consists* in all
goodness and righteousness
and truth),

Ephesians 5:8–17



trying to learn what is
pleasing to the Lord. Do not
participate in the unfruitful
deeds of darkness, but
instead even expose them;

Ephesians 5:8–17



for it is disgraceful even to speak of the things which are done by them in secret. But all things become visible when they are exposed by the light, for everything that becomes visible is light.

Ephesians 5:8–17



For this reason it says,
"Awake, sleeper, And arise
from the dead, And Christ will
shine on you." Therefore be
careful how you walk, not as
unwise men but as wise,

Ephesians 5:8–17



making the most of your
time, because the days are
evil. So then do not be
foolish, but understand what
the will of the Lord is.

Ephesians 5:8–17



"No one can serve two masters;
for either he will hate the one and
love the other, or he will be
devoted to one and despise the
other. You cannot serve God and
wealth.

Matthew 6:24–34



“For this reason I say to you, do not be worried about your life, *as to what you will eat or what you will drink*; nor for your body, *as to what you will put on*. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing?

Matthew 6:24–34



"Look at the birds of the air, that they do not sow, nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not worth much more than they?"

Matthew 6:24–34



“And who of you by being worried
can add a *single* hour to his life?
“And why are you worried about
clothing? Observe how the lilies of
the field grow; they do not toil nor
do they spin, yet I say to you that
not even Solomon in all his glory
clothed himself like one of these.

Matthew 6:24–34



"But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is *alive* today and tomorrow is thrown into the furnace, *will He* not much more *clothe* you? You of little faith!

Matthew 6:24–34



“Do not worry then, saying, ‘What will we eat?’ or ‘What will we drink?’ or ‘What will we wear for clothing?’ “For the Gentiles eagerly seek all these things; for your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things.

Matthew 6:24–34



"But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. "So do not worry about tomorrow; for tomorrow will care for itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

Matthew 6:24–34



Whether, then, you eat
or drink or whatever
you do, do all to the
glory of God.

1 Corinthians 10:31



So then we pursue the things which make for peace and the building up of one another.

Romans 14:19



As each one has received
a *special* gift, employ it
in serving one another as
good stewards of the
manifold grace of God.

1 Peter 4:10



"Go therefore and make
disciples of all the nations,
baptizing them in the name
of the Father and the Son and
the Holy Spirit, teaching them
to observe all that I
commanded you."

Matthew 28:19–20a

COMPARING GOD'S SOVEREIGN & MORAL WILLS

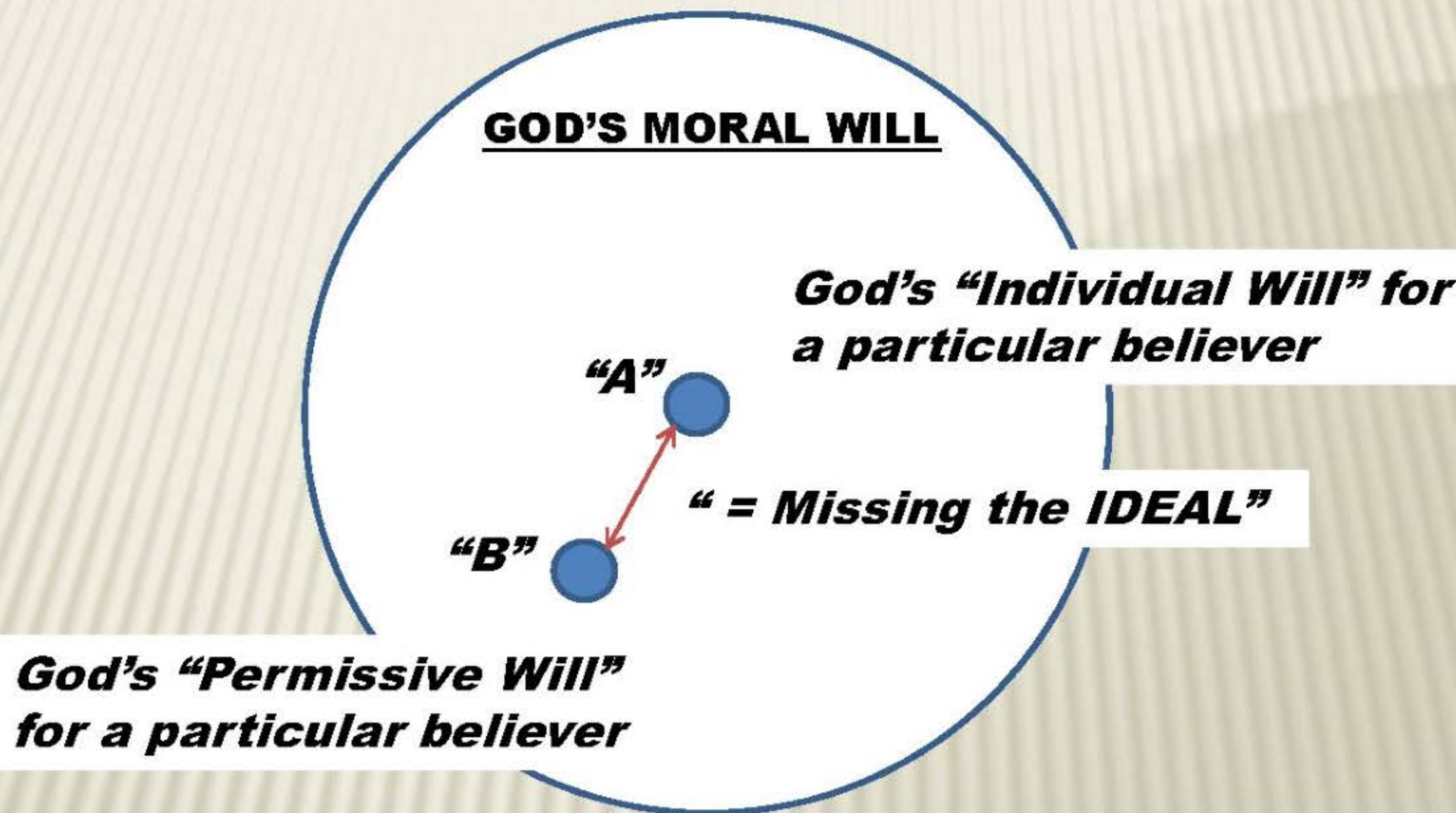
God's SOVEREIGN will

1. **God's secret plan – determines everything that happens in universe**
2. **Mostly hidden**
3. **Cannot be learned before**
4. **Cannot be “missed” should be humbly accepted**
5. **INDIRECTLY ideal plan: Though it includes evil acts & foolish decisions, it will ultimately lead to God's glory**

God's MORAL will

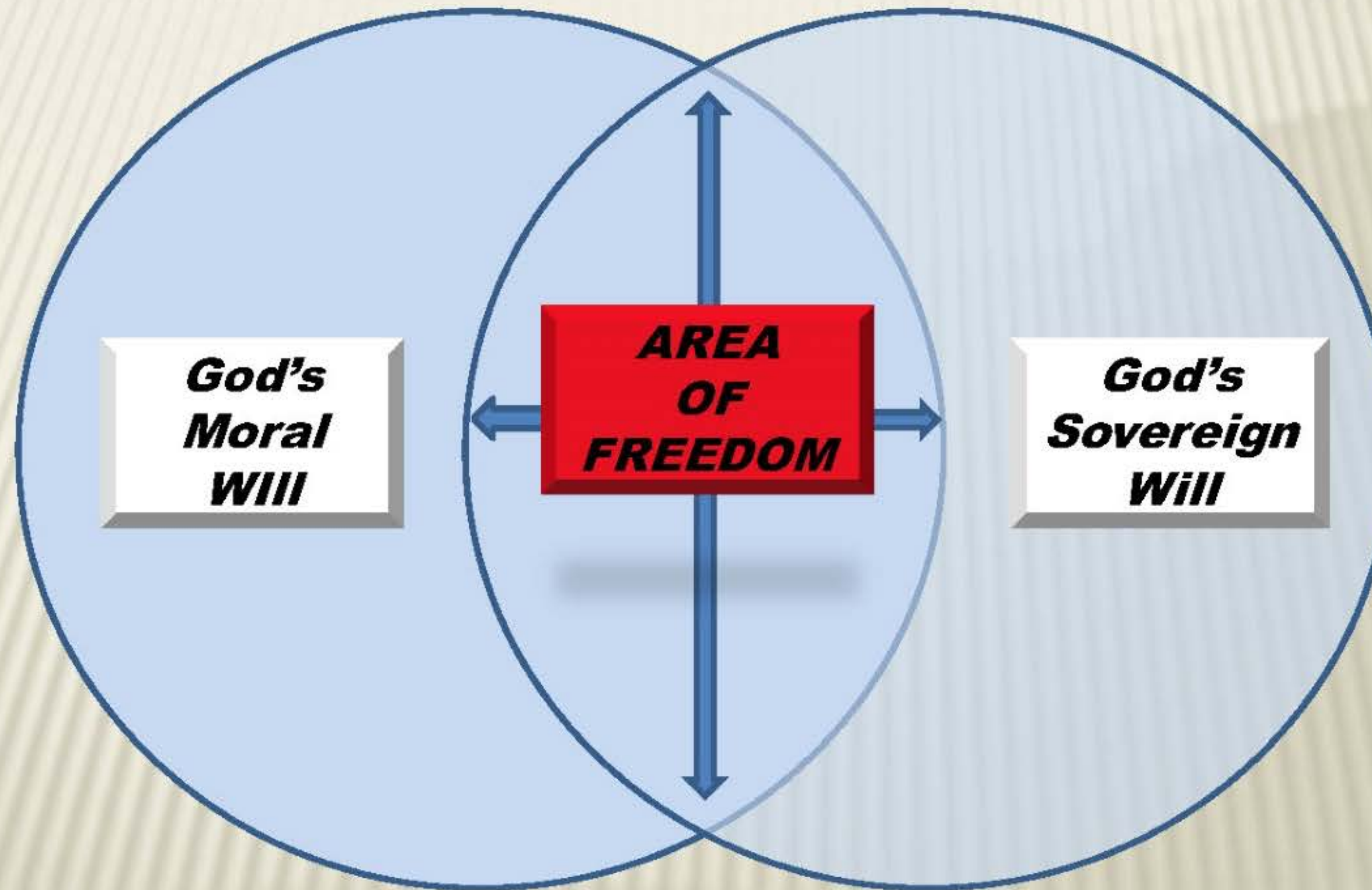
1. **God's revealed commands in the Bible that teach how men ought to believe & live**
2. **Totally revealed**
3. **Must be learned for guidance**
4. **Can be “missed” through ignorance or disobedience**
5. **DIRECTLY ideal pattern: Includes only those behaviors & attitudes that conform to God's character, thereby glorifying Him**

TRADITIONAL VIEW: "THE CENTER OF GOD'S WILL"

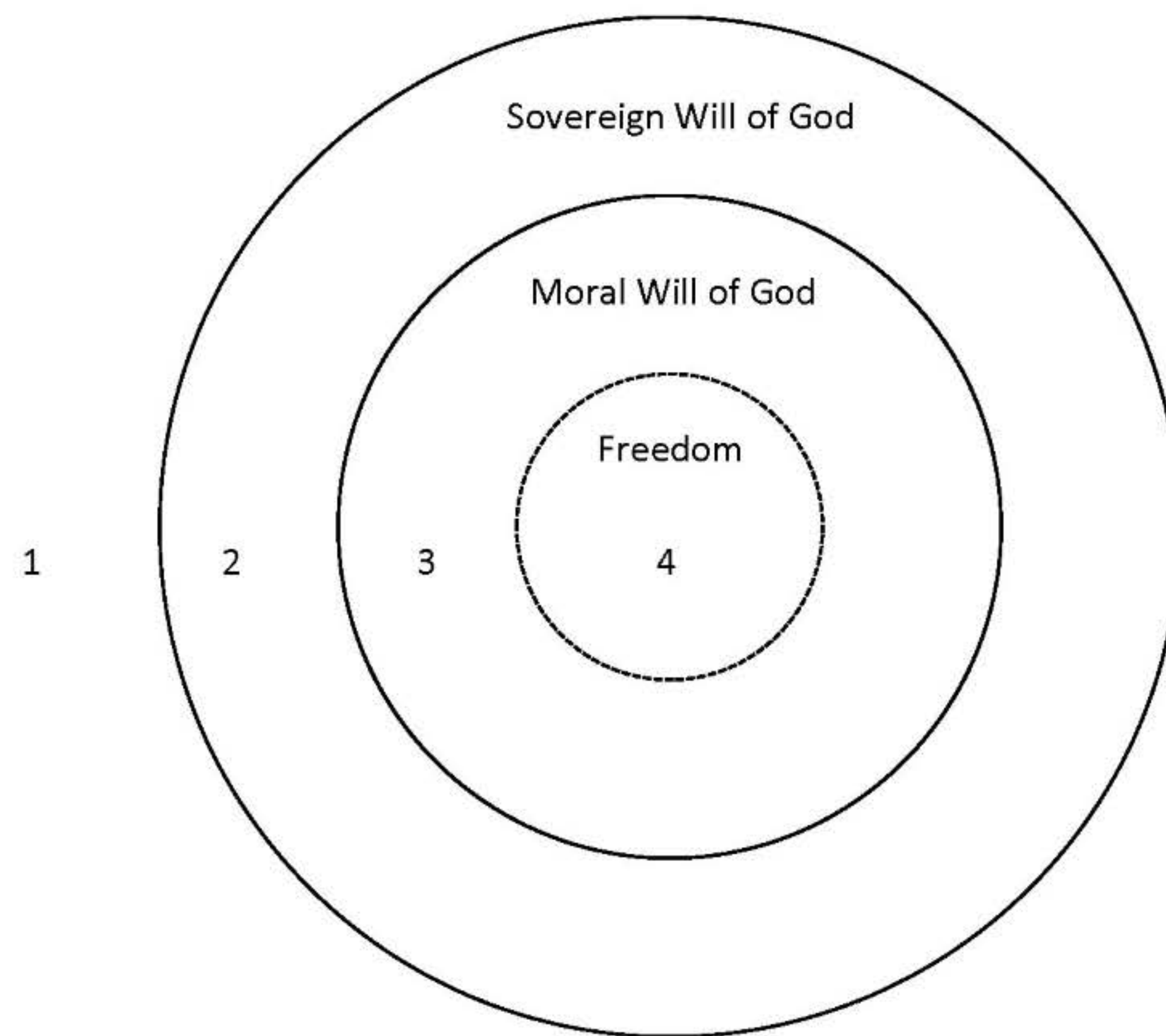


GAINING A BIBLICAL MODEL FOR DECISION-MAKING

RELATIONSHIPS AMONG ASPECTS OF GOD'S WILL



Interrelationships Between the Various Aspects of God's Will





PRINCIPLE 1: OBEDIENCE: Where God commands, we must obey. In moral areas, God guides by scriptural commands and principles.



PRINCIPLE 2: FREEDOM: Where there is no command or clear principle, God gives us freedom (AND RESPONSIBILITY) to choose.



PRINCIPLE 3: WISDOM: Where there is no command, God gives us wisdom sufficient for every decision.



PRINCIPLE 4: HUMBLE TRUST: When we have done our best to wisely choose what is right, we must trust that the sovereign God will work all the details together for GOOD (God's glory and our good).



GOD'S SOVEREIGN WILL IS...

CERTAIN
DETAILED
PERFECT
HIDDEN
SUPREME

TRADITIONAL VIEW: COMPARING/CONTRASTING GOD'S INDIVIDUAL & SOVEREIGN WILLS

INDIVIDUAL WILL

1. **Detailed plan for all decisions in believer's life**
2. **Believer can find & know it**
3. **Believer is expected to find it**
4. **Believer can miss it by failure to discover or obey it**
5. **Includes only the good & ideal**
6. **Decision-making requires discovering it**
7. **DIRECTLY ideal plan:**
 - **In harmony with Scripture**
 - **Decision is always ideal**
 - **Brings glory to God**

SOVEREIGN WILL

1. **Detailed plan for all events in the universe**
2. **Hidden ... cannot be found or known**
3. **Believer is not expected to find it**
4. **It always comes to pass, so believer cannot miss it**
5. **Includes both good & evil**
6. **Will be discovered only after it happens**
7. **INDIRECTLY ideal plan:**
 - **Includes evil acts & foolish decisions**
 - **Ultimately leads to God's glory**

TRADITIONAL VIEW: COMPARING/CONTRASTING GOD'S INDIVIDUAL & MORAL WILLS

INDIVIDUAL WILL

1. **Detailed plan for all decisions in believer's life**
2. **Believer is expected to find & do it**
3. **Believer can miss it by failure to discover or obey it**
4. **Is revealed to believer's heart – cannot be found in Bible**
5. **Holy Spirit reveals it through inward impressions by many means**
6. **Gives specific directives for one specific believer**

MORAL WILL

1. **Body of general commands & principles for life**
2. **Believer is expected to find & do it**
3. **Believer can miss it by failure to discover or obey it**
4. **Revealed to apostles & prophets – can be found completely in Bible**
5. **Holy Spirit revealed it in past by many means**
6. **Directives are generally for all believers**

FOUR DISTINCTIVE WAYS IN WHICH GOD GUIDES

	MORAL GUIDANCE	WISDOM GUIDANCE	SOVEREIGN GUIDANCE	SPECIAL GUIDANCE
SPHERE of Guidance	In MORAL Conduct	In "NON-MORAL" Decisions	In ALL things	In UNIQUE cases
NATURE of Guidance	God DIRECTLY Guides believers	God MEDIATELY Guides believers	God SECRETLY Guides believers	God SUPERNATURALLY Guides believers
MEANS of Guidance	By REVEALED: -Commands -Principles	By ACQUIRED Wisdom	By SOVEREIGN CONTROL Over all events	By -Divine Voice -Dreams -Miracles
GOVERNING PRINCIPLE God Uses	According to His MORAL WILL (Bible)	According to SPIRITUAL EXPEDIENCY (Gain His objectives, best way, best time)	According to His SOVEREIGN WILL	According to SPECIAL REVELATION