

THE WILL OF GOD & OUR CHOICES

1. The more diligent we are as Christians, the more eager we will be to do the Will of God, and the more anxious we will be to know what it is.
2. Some Christians think that God *always* has what I would call a **single-route will**. Imagine you have to cross London on its Underground network. There are an almost limitless number of ways in which it might be done. Those who believe that God has always a **single-route will**, will believe that only one route is the right one and the others are all wrong. This is often the case – but is it always so?
3. Is God's will always and invariably **single-route**? I do not think so. I do know for certain that Christians can put themselves under tremendous pressure to find God's will and in considerable dread of missing it.
4. The interplay of God's Will and our Response was brought home to me many years ago by a teacher-friend of mine who had regularly to inject himself. One day he had an infection, which, he knew, rendered his usual injections risky. He sought medical opinion and it was unclear. If he *did not* inject himself there might well be snags; if he *did* inject himself there might well be snags! Poor man! He was a devout Christian who regularly sought to obey God in all he did. He asked me would I pray that he would make the right decision. Yes.
5. How does God view our choices? Imagine you are a parent and your child is walking ahead of you across the moors and you see him come to a divide in the path. If you knew that one route was dangerous and the other not, what would you do? I imagine you would hurry ahead and warn you child of the dangerous route. If you knew that both routes reached the same place and were equally safe, you would probably go along with whatever choice the child took. Does this help us understand how God relates to your choices? **God's response to our danger can surely be no less loving and caring!**
6. Bearing that in mind, I said to my teacher-friend:
'Humanly speaking there seems to be no obviously right choice. If God knows that one choice would be bad for you, I think it is **his responsibility to tell you!** If it is necessary, he will. If he seems to give you no special direction, then probably he's not bothered that much one way or the other! If that is so, make you choice you think or feel to be best, God, I believe will respect it, and it will be within his will for you.'
7. I think it is sometimes true that God's will for us can contain a variety of responses on our part. To return to the analogy of an ordinary human parent. It is Sunday afternoon. Your young daughter has a choice of going riding or going to tea with a friend. It is easily possible that the parents' will could embrace either, and that the child's choice and preference would not only be respected, but that the parent would go along with the choice and co-operate with it.
8. Are there not situations in the lives of conscientious Christians when God's love and will

embraces our choices? (Of course, for the Christian who does *not* seek to listen and obey, there is the opposite problem: whether their will has room for God's! But that's another story!)