

God created the universe  
as an incubator for faith.

As Hebrews 12:22 describes the city of the living God – an innumerable company of angels are part of the general assembly and church of the firstborn. Angels who caught on to faith by observing people will make it. If we can catch on to what it means to be seated in the heavenly places right now (Ephesians 2:6), so will we.

Ephesians 5:15 – 17, “See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be unwise but understand what the will of the Lord is.”

#### **We can understand the will of God**

- Ephesians 1:9, “Having made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure, which He purposed in Himself.”
- Colossians 1:9, “That you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding.”

#### **God does not always get His way:**

- Matthew 9:13 “I desire mercy and not sacrifice.”
- Matthew 18:14 “It is not the will of your Father who is in heaven that one of these little ones should perish.”
- 2 Timothy 2:4 “Who desires all men to be saved and come to a knowledge of the truth.”
- 1 Thessalonians 4:3 “For this is the will of God, your sanctification.”

- Romans 12:2 “Be transformed ...that you may prove what is that...perfect will of God.”
- Galatians 1:3 – 4 “...deliver us from this present evil age; according to the will of our God and Father.”
- Ephesians 1:4 – 5 “...adoption as sons ... according to the good pleasure of His will.”
- 1 Thessalonians 5:18 “In everything give thanks, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.”

How do we figure out which specific activities constitute doing the will of God?

**Wisdom**

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Wisdom

is based on **evidence**.

We cannot find the will of God by filling in the blanks God left unfilled.

We cannot find the will of God by trying harder.

**Endeavor to be filled with the Spirit**  
Ephesians 5:18

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**Redeem the time.**

Do I have enough time to redeem time?

Colossians 4:5, “Walk in wisdom toward those who are outside, redeeming the time. Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how to answer each one.”

**Do you control time  
or does time control you?**

**Recognizing opportunities to redeem time:**

1. When you see a miserable person – give them real hope by caring.
2. When someone asks a question – care about them rather than fearing failure.

**The will of the Lord is that**

- All men be saved and come to a knowledge of the truth.
- The faithful participate.
- We are circumspect (we think it through).
- We are comfortable not knowing everything.

**Build an incubator for faith  
so that both people and angels may live.**