



# Berean Christian Fellowship

## DEVOTIONAL 158.0

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### A Parent's Will—P3

**“And this is the confidence that we have toward Him, that if we ask anything according to His will He hears us” (1 John 5:14).**

There can be nothing more frustrating than a “will” that seems opposed to what we want, especially if we know it can give us what we want, but doesn’t. So, we become upset when God seems deaf to our prayers, gives us partial answers, or gives us the opposite. We know He can give us our desires, so when He doesn’t, we can get bent out of shape, discouraged, angry, bitter. This affects our life with Him and the people around us because we pout, smolder, or throw tantrums. A child’s bad mood does no one any good, but when they get their way, it causes even more harm.

Parents allow their children a great range of freedom, but always within the restraint of some boundaries, bonds, or yokes, which are in place to ensure the parent’s will for the child. Some examples might be, “Don’t ride your bikes in the street,” “No more candy for you,” “It’s bedtime,” “No, you can’t have that toy,” or “Do your homework.” These boundaries cause inevitable conflict between parents and child, because children want to be freed from restraint so they can have what is on the other side of the boundary, so rebellious children desire to *“burst their bonds apart and cast away their cords from us”* (Ps. 2:3).

We may think our parents’ restraint harsh, yet their yoke is not to enslave but to protect us in our ignorance from outside harm, from our self-will, which harms ourselves and others, and to provide as straight and smooth a path for our future as possible. God’s “yoke” is not the yoke of the world, which enslaves and exploits the illegitimate children of the world—it is the yoke of an adopting parent: *“Take my yoke upon you, and learn from Me, for I am*

*gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy, and My burden is light”* (Matt. 11:29-30).

The adopted Believer comes out from under the *“elemental spirits of the world”* (Gal. 4:3) and into the protective authority of our Heavenly Father: *“For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, ‘Abba! Father!’”* (Rom. 8:15) From the outside, children may seem no different from slaves because they are still told, “come here,” “sit down,” and “be quiet,” but of course there is a difference: *“I mean that the heir, as long as he is a child, is no different from a slave, though he is the owner of everything, but he is under guardians and managers until the date set by his father”* (Gal. 4:1-2), when he comes into an inheritance of great responsibility and authority. *“For it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure”* (Phil. 2:13). But children sometimes foolishly think they’d be better off with actual slave-masters, and turn *“to the weak and worthless elementary principles of the world, whose slaves you want to be once more?”* (Gal. 4:9b) A slave does the will of his master for his master’s benefit; a child does the will of his father for his own benefit. Our Father *“disciplines us for our good, that we may share His holiness”* (Heb. 12:10b).

We must not confuse God’s restraint in our lives for the bonds of slavery. His will for us is entirely for our good, even if it might seem unfair or even harsh at times to our childish minds, *“but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it”* (Heb. 12:11b). We need to seek our Father’s will by continually surrendering our thoughts and desires to the restraint of the Spirit, so that we may have confidence *“He hears us”* (1 John 5:14b) *“in whatever we ask”* (1 John 5:15). Even so, Amen.

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