



Desiring God's Will: Aligning Our Hearts with the Heart of God

David G. Benner, Thomas H. Green (Foreword by)

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A Formatio book. We overhear Jesus' prayer in the garden of Gethsemane--"not my will, but thine be done"--but have trouble honestly making it our own. (from the Introduction)Most people think of Go

Desiring God's Will: Aligning Our Hearts with the Heart of God Details

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From Reader Review Desiring God's Will: Aligning Our Hearts with the Heart of God for online ebook

Circle of Hope Pastors says

David Benner explores what it means to pray "Father... not as I will, but as you will." I particularly enjoyed his distinction between willfulness vs. willingness, in the beginning; and some of the methods of paying attention to feelings as they provide clues to a person's spirit interacting with God's Spirit. But more than anything else, he encouraged people to pray the prayer of Jesus, actually to pray it, and to trust God to aid in the surrender of the will to God's will. For that encouragement I am grateful. -- Art

Lindsey says

Short book but took me awhile to finish because each chapter you kinda have to take in before you can move on.. I want to read it again; it challenged how I think about will, desire, determination etc...I want to read it again because I think upon the second reading I will get something else new from it.

Quote: "Willfulness. On the one hand, people admire others who are self-disciplined. Those type who make a decision and stick to it, like a New Year's Eve resolution. I will lose weight. However, willfulness has a dark side. A side that can be stubborn or proud because it looks down on those who don't have the same "strength" or resolve."

Susan says

Gently probing and encouraging

I liked it because it was helpful but I minus one star because he touched on the topic of emotions as useful to our discernment process but I wish he had expanded more on this. I didn't like it being brought up and then oversimplified. I wanted more!

Scott says

The topic of God's will can be very perplexing if we let it. We think of it as an equation: If I do "this" and then do "that" it will equal the will of God. It's not quite that simple, or is it? I remember hearing someone say "Find where God is active in your life and join Him." David G. Benner's book Desiring God's Will: Aligning Our Hearts with the Heart of God tries to shed some light on how we can truly desire God's will, embrace it, and live in it.

This book is the third and final book in a series (Surrender to Love and The Gift of Being Yourself being the first and second books respectively).

Read my review in its entirety at: <http://scottcouey.com/2013/08/28/desi...>

Nikki Kamp says

Really enjoyed this book. Suggested by a friend (thanks Andrew!!) and it spoke to a lot of my questions about God's will in daily life. Looked at the self holistically too, which I really appreciate. Def would recommend!

Cary says

Ever since I first get to know Jesus personally, it has always been my desire to grow and mature in my faith in Him. As a relatively young Christian, I know I still have a long way to go to reach at least that same level of maturity exemplified by Paul in the bible. I still find it hard to submit to Jesus completely and I still commit sin over and over again. My only consolation is that I'm holding to God's promise that He will finish into completion the good thing He has started in me. I'm holding to my faith that in Him I can have eternal life not because of my performance but because He is gracious and loving.

Jesus said that if we will accept Him as the Lord and Saviour of our life, we can have eternal life. When I first heard about this, I refuse to believe it. Is the way to heaven really that easy? Just by accepting Jesus in my life I can be assured of going to heaven? I don't think so. The bible even says that you have to choose the narrow road before you can go to heaven.

But then God opened my heart and He made me accept the truth and truly, accepting and believing in Jesus as our Lord and Savior is actually not that easy. Well, believing that He is a Saviour, yeah maybe, but as Lord, that's a different thing. Imagine allowing someone to tell you things you need to do even if you don't want to. Who would want that? But then, that's what Jesus really wants from us. He cannot be our Savior unless He is Lord. It may seem difficult to surrender our life to Him but the truth is, it's the other way around. Life with Jesus is a lot more easy. He can even make us the kind of person that He wants us to be, if we will only let Him do the work for us. All we need to do is align our hearts with Him. And the message of this book revolves around this truth.

The message of this book is not actually new for it is a universal truth for Christians that doing the will of God should be our greatest desire. It is only by living the life according to His will that we can have a full and meaningful life - a life that is filled with purpose. As mentioned by the author, *"Learning to desire God's will is not something we can accomplish by resolve and willpower. It occurs only when we live so close to God's heart that the rhythm of our own heartbeat comes to reflect the divine pulse."*

This book is actually an encouragement and a challenge for me. Somehow God used this book to reveal to me and make me realize that I'm really doing things the wrong way. No matter how many sacrifices I made for God, it will be useless unless I do it with the right motivation, and that is love. Love for God, for other people and for the world. What really matters to God is the state of our heart and I know this is still one of the process items in my life. But, I don't despair because I know Jesus will help me and make me change my heart. A heart that is beating and longing only for Him. :)

Quin Marlow says

David Benner finishes out his Spiritual Transformation Trilogy very well.

Terri says

In this trilogy, Benner writes the kind of simple encouragement we need to learn to be able to grow and move forward in Christ. I recommend this and all three of the books. I suggest they be read in order.

Daniel says

This small book is third in a trilogy by David Benner. They are all about surrender to God and how to walk with a heart that desires God. It is like drinking fresh spring water in every page. Benner is refreshing in his approach, very conversational, and a hunger for God rises up every time I pick up his book. The trilogy is worth the read... and then worth re-reading!

Timothy N Brooks says

Living with God

Author does a good job of explaining that God's will is not primarily about what we do but about who we are becoming . He emphasizes that the key to knowing God's will is being in relationship with God . I think it would be helpful to read the first book in the trilogy, Surrendering To Love before reading, Desiring God's Will .

Chris says

Such a great book! This is the second one I've read by David Benner, the first being The Gift of Being Yourself. Both books have been easy-to-read, packed with deep insights and practical suggestions. In the case of Desiring God's Will it took me over a month to get through it, despite its being only 123 pages long. Every few pages I had to stop to process what Benner was saying, or to try out a spiritual practice.

In my job I talk to many Christian college students who are hungry to know what God wants them do with their lives. They want guidance for the big decisions. The same is often true for people my age (almost 40, gah!). Benner tackles this question, but quickly flips it around to address the bigger problem--how do we align ourselves so that we are submitted to God's will and heart? This sets up a number of profound points about how much Christian activity comes from an exercise of our own will, in direct opposition to true submission to God. He talks about how to recognize this tendency, how to release it to God, how to allow our distorted desires to point us to our deeper hunger for God, and how to be attentive to God in a way that makes room for God to act upon us.

Argh, even as I try to describe the book I can't do it justice. Just go read it. I went and looked for the book on my bookshelf just now to get some help in writing this review and I realized I don't have it, having already lent it to someone else. I have a feeling I'm going to be loaning this book out a lot.

Sara says

I'm glad to have found Benner. His writing is thoughtful and creative, deeply theological, and yet accessible.

Art says

David Benner explores what it means to pray "Father... not as I will, but as you will." I particularly enjoyed his distinction between willfulness vs. willingness, in the beginning; and some of the methods of paying attention to feelings as they provide clues to a person's spirit interacting with God's Spirit. But more than anything else, he encouraged people to pray the prayer of Jesus, actually to pray it, and to trust God to aid in the surrender of the will to God's will. For that encouragement I am grateful.

Ashley says

The first two books in this series were pretty huge for me but for some reason I found this one somewhat difficult. It just felt really dry (and strangely redundant) compared to the other two and took me a while to get through it.

That being said, I'm glad I stuck with it, because Benner spent some time talking about 'consolation vs. desolation' at the end, and that really brought a bunch of stuff together for me- so much so that I might have to go back through and read the rest of the book again.

Kara says

Stunning book. Short but dense with helpful guidance and advice. I absolutely love the psychological insight, which is so often missing from spiritual instruction. Eye-opening and encouraging.
