

His Will: Your Abundance
Living and Loving God's Plan for Your Life

Tina Simmons

Chapter 1

1. Is there a particular area of your life that you know needs a change?
2. If you could do anything in the world with that area of your life, what would you do? What is keeping you from pursuing it?
3. Does anyone have a story to share about disobedient misery? Why do you think God uses that tactic to get our attention? Can anyone draw parallels between this and parenting?
4. Does anyone have a story to share about joyful submission when you didn't think you wanted to do what God was asking? How did it feel before your submission? How did it feel afterward? How has God used this obedience?
5. Don't answer this aloud, but how has your prayer life grown over the past few years? Why is prayer so difficult?

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Chapter 2

1. How many of you use some kind of formatted prayer method? (raise hands)
Does anyone want to share the method you use and why? Does anyone have a very different method that you use?
2. What do you think the benefit is of having structure? What could be the negative consequence of having the structure?
3. Can anyone share a story about how including worship in your prayers has impacted you?
4. Why do you think it is so hard to accept God's forgiveness? Does anyone have a testimony about the power of living free from guilt?
5. Does anyone have a favorite prayer scripture they would like to share?

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Chapter 3

1. How should knowing God's purpose affect our perspective of daily life? How can knowing this impact your hope, your relationships, your confidence, your fear, etc?
2. Tina suggests that we can only get a grasp of God's sovereignty when we "fear God". Do you think we, as a society, have lost our fear of God? What impact has this had? How do you achieve the right balance between fearing God and knowing God as a loving Father? Do you think this is especially difficult for people who have grown up with overbearing human fathers?
3. How do both pride and humility (or lack thereof) cause people to disbelieve the providence of God? Which has been harder for you to get in check? Is there a difference between believing God's providence is guaranteed and living your life depending upon it?
4. God's determined will is achieved through providence, whereas His desired will is impacted by our faith and actions. Could anyone share a story of a time when you were out of God's desired will, but He aligned circumstances to achieve His determined will anyway--a time when He brought you back from wandering to make sure something integral to your future happened on schedule?
5. Tina calls providential trials, "divine appointments" and includes this scripture from James in her discussion. "Consider it a great joy, by brothers and sisters, whenever you experience various trials, because you know that the testing of your faith produces endurance. And let endurance have its full effect so that you may be mature and complete, lacking nothing." (James 1:2-4) Can anyone share a story about how a trial impacted your sanctification? How do we go about partnering with the Holy Spirit in His efforts toward our sanctification?

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Chapter 4

1. Can anyone share your perspective of how a specific verse has meant more to you when you were going through a different season of life?
2. Do you find yourselves longing for God's purpose to be realized more the longer you live here on earth? Does anyone want to share?
3. What is the most important thing we can learn from Job? What about from Joseph?
4. In Daniel's story, we see God's providence both in the outcomes for Daniel and in the outcomes of human history through kings and kingdoms. Did anyone see something new when you read about Daniel while focusing on God's providence in meditation?
5. Finally, we look at how human pride stands up against God's sovereignty. We can choose to humble ourselves and submit, or we can trust in God to humble us Himself in order to accomplish His purpose. Can anyone offer a testimony about God's grace in humbling us when needed?

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Chapter 5

1. The first misconception is “God’s will is supposed to be a mystery. He does not want us to know His will for our lives.”--How does God’s Word prove this to be false? How does what you know about God’s character prove that this is wrong thinking?
2. The second misconception is “God’s will for my life will be something hard that will make me miserable.” —What scriptures prove this thinking false?
3. The third misconception is “If God has not revealed His will, we are justified in doing what is right in our own eyes.”—We need to collect some verses for this one, so that we will be able to remind the enemy of truth when he tempts us to get ahead of God.
 - a. Isaiah 40:31
 - b. James 4:13-15
 - c. Psalm 27:14
 - d. Proverbs 3:5-6
 - e. Lamentations 3:25-26
 - f. Psalm 37:7
 - g. Isaiah 55:8-9
4. The fourth misconception involves waiting, too. “If we seek God’s will earnestly, we won’t have to wait.”—This seems a little silly on the surface because we all know that waiting is part of faith, but at the heart of this misconception is fear--fear that you aren’t doing it right. That you aren’t seeking hard enough or praying worthy prayers, and so forth. Can anyone offer some insight into this?

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Chapter 6

1. First, let's focus on God's omniscience, omnipresence, and omnipotence. Look at the "Day 2" reading. Let's share passages that we highlighted and how these attributes of God have impacted our own lives. (This is an opportunity to praise and glorify God together. Encourage people to share and have conversation, even if it means not finishing the rest of the questions.)
2. On "Day 3," we shifted to consider God's love, justice, and mercy. These attributes are challenging to grasp in relation to each other. If someone asked you how these attributes are all equally manifested by God, what would you say? Have you ever found yourself magnifying one of these attributes over the others? Why is that common and how can we correct our perspectives in this?
3. Day 4 focused on God's wisdom and His faithfulness. Is there anyone who has not shared who has a personal testimony of God's wisdom or God's faithfulness? (If no one shares, open this up to those who have already shared, or offer a testimony of your own.)
4. Finally, on Day 5, we focused on God's holiness. Tina shared, "This final attribute that we will discuss (though there are so many more) is a concept that is so far removed from our earthliness that it can only be understood in light of all of His other attributes, and even then, we have only the most simplistic view of the most magnificent truth---only visible in the heavenly realm, yet felt in the welling up of tears as we worship and the prickle of our skin as hair stands on end, rising to our feet, hands lifted high in awe of the God of the universe and our good, good, Father." and "Sometimes when I am worshiping deeply, when I am completely focused on praising God, I feel a warmth that I imagine is a radiation of His Holiness in communion with the Holy Spirit dwelling within me." How do these descriptions of experiencing God's holiness compare to your own?

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Chapter 7

1. Does anyone have a testimony to share about the breakthroughs that come when we become disciplined in our prayer and study time?
2. The second roadblock that Tina discussed was our tendency to have preconceptions about the way God will answer our prayers. Does anyone have an experience to share where God's plan was so different and so much better than your preconception?
3. The third obstacle to knowing God's will was a combination of busyness and procrastination. Have you ever thought about how interrelated these two sins are? Discuss.
4. Another very common obstacle is fear. We all struggle with the unknown, and we have a tendency to lean toward negative thinking when we are coming to a new season in life. Does anyone have a testimony about overcoming fear through leaning on God's Word?
5. The last question for this chapter focuses on feelings of unworthiness. This is so hard to overcome, yet it can be the key to everything. When we are able to see ourselves as beloved daughters of the Most High King, and we are able to lean into our identities in Christ, no challenge is too great. Why do you think it is so hard for us to find our identity in Christ alone?

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Chapter 8

1. On day one, Tina contrasted our common obstacles with what God offers us. Let's look at the bottom of day one together. Does anyone want to share thoughts about these contrasts? Which one resonates most in your life?
2. On day two, we looked at Israel's dependence on Egypt for their needs instead of God, and we discovered exactly how God feels about His children relying on other self-created gods. In our world, what are some "Egypt's" we might lean on, and how can we avoid putting our faith in the world and its promises?
3. At the end of day three, Tina challenges us with some questions. Let's look at those together. (Ask someone to read the last paragraph aloud.) Does anyone want to share a specific past (or current) conviction that this passage reminds you of and how you made changes as a result?
4. Will someone read the passage from the beginning of day four—Isaiah 30:18-26? (Wait for the reading.) God said that when the Israelites returned to Him and defiled their silver and gold plated idols, He would bless them abundantly. What kinds of idols might we defile when we return to rest in God?
5. Finally, we see on day five the main blessing that we have to gain by returning and resting in God. What is that blessing?

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Chapter 9

1. In our Christian lives, how do we “lock the gate”? What happens when we shut the gate, but we don't lock the gate?
2. In John 10:1–2, Jesus says, “Truly I tell you, anyone who doesn't enter the sheep pen by the gate but climbs in some other way is a thief and a robber. The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens it for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought all his own outside, he goes ahead of them. The sheep follow him because they know his voice.” How can we tell the difference between the voice of the Holy Spirit and the voice of the thief? Can anyone share about a time that you got the two voices mixed up? What do you think caused the confusion?
3. In verses 8–11, Jesus said, “All who came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep didn't listen to them. I am the gate. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will come in and go out and find pasture. A thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I have come so that they may have life and have it in abundance. I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.” What do we find when we “come in and go out and find pasture”? How does the contrast with the world's idea of abundance?
4. Later, in verses 14-16, Jesus says, “I am the good shepherd. I know my own, and my own know me, just as the Father knows me, and I know the Father. I lay down my life for the sheep. But I have other sheep that are not from this sheep pen; I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. Then there will be one flock, one shepherd.” Let's contrast this with Matthew 7:21-23, “Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father in heaven. On that day many will say to me, 'Lord, Lord, didn't we prophesy in your name, drive out demons in your name, and do

many miracles in your name?' Then I will announce to them, 'I never knew you. Depart from me, you lawbreakers!'" What is the difference in the relationship in these two passages? What does Jesus say His sheep will do that distinguishes them from others?

5. Finally, in John 10:28, we get the ultimate promise straight from our Savior. "I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand". How then, should we live—knowing the security in this promise?

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Chapter 10

1. Can anyone share a calling on your life that you have realized in this study, and perhaps any insecurities that you've had to face in order to begin that walk?
(Allow everyone who wants to share time to talk. And then lead a prayer over these new decisions. It would be great to have your teaching partner write these down so that you can continue to pray for these decisions, and check in with them from time to time in support.)
2. Tina gave several filters to use for testing if a direction is from God. Have any of you ever run with an idea, thinking it was from God, only to learn later that it was really your own?
3. She then prepared us for the inevitable attack from the enemy. She said that Eve made the mistake of engaging in conversation with the enemy. How does the enemy try to get in our heads when we are obeying God's direction? Does anyone want to share an example?
4. What did she caution us NOT to do when God gives us a season of waiting?
5. What are the three things she said are important to do while waiting?

Thank you for participating in this study! Your feedback means so much to me, and reviews are the best way to help new authors. Please take time to review my book on Amazon.

Joyfully,

Tina