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God's Will

Fr. Randy Roche

Loyola Marymount University

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God's Will

Most of us want what we want, and we want it sooner rather than later. However, once we have learned a little about love, even at the level of relating with a new friend or associate, we are also concerned for the wants of others. We do not always need to have everything as we would wish for us to be happy, fulfilled, and effective as persons.

If we have had positive experiences associated with God, we have probably also developed some level of trust in God's care for us. In addition, we may well have found it rather natural to desire guidance and direction from God, and to entertain the possibility of wanting to do God's will.

The expression "God's will" can be understood in different ways, some more helpful than others. If we think of God as having all the power, and we none, it might appear that we could not possibly have any meaningful freedom. In such an understanding, whatever God wants, God gets, and we must go along with it, as weak and dependent creatures. If there is an opening for love in such a concept, it would be hard to find.

If we put love back into the equation, our understanding of "God's will" takes on a new meaning. God first loves us, and wants what is best for us, including the option of loving God freely in return. Rather than exercising controlling power over us, God gives us real freedom, by which we make the choices for or against love: love of self, love of God, and love of others. What God wants for us, we can want, and in that sense, be completely in accord with God's will – a win-win, will-will situation.

When we reflect on our experiences rather than on our thoughts and ideas about our experiences, we will discover additional significance to the words: "God's will." However we might describe our prayerful thoughts and desires that are directed towards God, all real communication leads to unity: we want to be connected with Love. How can we love without at the same time wanting some of what God wants? Our experiences verify and confirm that every movement towards God is good for us, no matter how many contrary thoughts arise. We find ourselves filled and fulfilled whenever we let our hearts and minds move in the direction of God, and whenever we make decisions that we believe are in line with what God desires for us and for others.

"God's will" is not opposed to ours, though we have the capacity to choose contrary to what God wants for us. We might, like Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane, struggle greatly with a very deep mystery: loving trust and painful suffering not being mutually exclusive. None of us would choose suffering in any form for its own sake. Yet all of us suffer at times, and often as a consequence of preferring to love rather than the opposite. Parents, teachers, and care-givers of every kind accept serious inconveniences on behalf of others. In all such cases, we make the decisions to act; we are not coerced. But when we and others suffer because of injustice, poor health, or any other cause outside our control, whose will is done? Where is God, as Love, when our only options seem to be acceptance or rejection?

God's will is most often found in our deepest desires rather than in some force external to us. Our integrity and our purpose in life cannot be subverted by anything outside our spirits, including bodily and emotional suffering. We do not want pain, but we do want to exercise our free will in facing anything and everything that is beyond our control. The sacred place in us where we make our choices is the very holy ground where our will and God's will become one.

"God's will" becomes our will whenever we choose to live our present reality.