

the three wills of god by leslie weatherhead

the three wills of god by leslie weatherhead is a profound theological concept explored by the renowned Christian thinker Leslie Weatherhead. This teaching delves into understanding the different dimensions of God's will as it relates to human experience, divine purpose, and spiritual growth. Weatherhead's interpretation helps believers navigate the complexities of faith by distinguishing between the sovereign, moral, and individual wills of God. This article provides an in-depth examination of the three wills of God by Leslie Weatherhead, highlighting their biblical foundations, practical implications, and spiritual significance. By exploring these aspects, readers can gain clearer insight into how God's will operates in the world and in their personal lives. The discussion also addresses common questions and misunderstandings, encouraging a balanced and informed perspective on divine will.

- Understanding the Concept of God's Will
- The Sovereign Will of God
- The Moral Will of God
- The Individual Will of God
- Practical Applications of the Three Wills
- Common Misconceptions and Clarifications

Understanding the Concept of God's Will

Before exploring the three wills of God by Leslie Weatherhead, it is essential to clarify what is meant by "God's will." In Christian theology, God's will broadly refers to His intentions, desires, and purposes for creation and humanity. However, this concept is multifaceted, encompassing various levels of divine governance and human responsibility. Weatherhead emphasized that understanding these different dimensions can help believers reconcile the tension between God's control and human freedom.

The three wills of God are often distinguished as the sovereign will, the moral will, and the individual will. Each represents a unique aspect of how God's will is manifested and experienced in the world. Recognizing these distinctions enables a more nuanced approach to prayer, decision-making, and spiritual discernment.

The Sovereign Will of God

Definition and Characteristics

The sovereign will of God refers to His ultimate authority and control over all creation. It is the all-encompassing plan that God ordains and accomplishes, regardless of human understanding or intervention. Leslie Weatherhead described the sovereign will as God's overarching purpose that governs the universe, including events that may seem beyond human comprehension or contrary to human desires.

Biblical Foundations

Scriptural references frequently affirm God's sovereign will. Verses such as Proverbs 19:21 ("Many are the plans in a person's heart, but it is the Lord's purpose that prevails") and Romans 8:28 ("And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him") underscore the certainty and supremacy of God's sovereign will. This will encompasses everything from natural laws to historical events and individual life circumstances.

Examples of the Sovereign Will

The sovereign will is often seen in God's providential guidance of nations, the unfolding of salvation history, and the ultimate fulfillment of His kingdom. It includes:

- The creation and sustaining of the universe
- The rise and fall of empires
- The timing and means of Christ's incarnation
- The final judgment and establishment of eternal order

The Moral Will of God

Understanding God's Moral Expectations

The moral will of God, as outlined by Leslie Weatherhead, is revealed through Scripture and expresses God's ethical standards and commandments for human behavior. This will defines what is right and wrong, guiding believers toward holiness and righteousness. Unlike the sovereign will, which is unconditional and inevitable, the moral will is prescriptive and calls for human obedience.

Scriptural Basis

The moral will is clearly communicated in the Ten Commandments, the teachings of Jesus, and apostolic instructions. Passages such as Micah 6:8 ("What does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God") and Matthew 22:37-40 ("Love the Lord your God...and love your neighbor as yourself") encapsulate the essence of God's moral will.

Implications for Christian Living