

## **CONFIDENCE IN THE WILL OF GOD**

Our lesson text and title come from the 4<sup>th</sup> of 5<sup>th</sup> warnings against apostate reversionism (Heb.10:25-39). Jewish believers, having believed the grace gospel of Jesus Christ, were leaving the New Covenant, grace-faith system of spirituality, and returning to the Old Covenant, Law-works system of spirituality. (1 Cor.15:3-4; Rom.1:16; Eph.2:8-9)

(Heb.10:35-36) “Therefore (oun) [Ref. to Heb.10:32-34], **do not throw away your confidence, which has a great reward. For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God, you may receive what was promised.**”

It is a great challenge to tell believers, suffering under Undeserved Suffering, who have lost everything but life itself, and who are under attack in the Angelic Conflict - **“Do not throw away your confidence in directive will of God.”**

**This lesson will study three aspects of remaining Confident in the Will of God amidst great undeserved suffering.**

### **1. The writer of Hebrews makes an issue of the danger of “throwing away (me apoballo/ a.a.subj.2pl) your confidence in the Will of God”, amidst of Underserved Suffering.**

The Greek word for confidence is (parrhesia) [speaking openly, boldly, and publicly about some issue]. In our lesson text, it is the Directive Will of God. (to thelema tou Theos)

“At the height of Greek democracy, the full citizen alone had the right to say anything publicly in the ekklesia. For this reason, there is no higher possession than **parrhesia** and no greater loss that to lose it.” (TD of NT, vol.5, pg.872)

Jesus was unwilling to walk in Judea during the Feast of Booths because the “Jews were seeking to kill Him.” (Jn.7:1-13). “Yet no one was speaking openly of Him for fear of the Jews.” (Jn.7:13)

Jesus was arrested and was being interrogated by the Jewish court (Jn.18:12-13, 20-24).

(Jn.18:20) “Jesus answered him, ‘I have spoken openly to the world; I always taught in synagogues and in the temple, where all the Jews come together; and I spoke nothing in secret.”

### **2. There are three categories of God’s Will that are important to the Christian way of life.**

- **Directive Will** is God’s revealed choices for the believer (Eph.5:17; 6:6; Rom.12:2; Col.4:12).
- **Permissive Will** is God allowing free will to choose against His Directive Will (Jonah 1:1-4; Luke 17:23; Gen.19:17-26) [Lot’s wife].
- **Over-ruling Will** is God superseding the other categories of His Will (Gen.12:10-20; James 2:21-24; Heb.11:17-19; Gen.22). God doesn’t permit anyone or anything to interfere with the outcome of the Plan of God (Nathan to David) (2 Sam.12:7-15).

All three categories of God's Will have three functional aspects to them. **We will use Jonah.**

	<b>DIRECTIVE</b>	<b>PERMISSIVE</b>	<b>OVER-RULING</b>
<b>Geographical Will</b> (where)	Jonah 1:2a	Jonah 1:3	Jonah 3:1-2
<b>Operational Will</b> (what)	Jonah 1:2b	Jonah 1:15-17	Jonah 3:1-4
<b>Mental Will</b> (why)	Jonah 1:2c	Jonah 2:1-2	Jonah 4:1-2, 9

### **The Plan of God**

(Jonah 3:10) When God saw their deeds, that they turned from their wicked way, then God relented concerning the calamity which He had declared He would bring upon them. And He did not do *it*.

(Jonah 4:11) Should I not have compassion on Nineveh, the great city in which there are more than 120,000 persons who do not know *the difference* between their right and left hand, as well as many animals?"

### **3. The New Covenant believer can have confidence in the six stages of New Covenant Grace.**

- Saving (Eph.2:8-9)
- Logistical (Phil.4:19)
- Spiritual growth (2 Pet.3:18)
- Suffering (2 Cor.12:9-10)
- Dying (Phil.1:21-23)
- Surpassing (1 Thess.5:10) (eternity)

(Heb.10:19-20) "Since therefore, brethren, we have confidence to enter the holy place (surpassing grace/third heaven) **by the blood of Jesus**, by **a new and living way** which He inaugurated for us through the veil, that is, His flesh." (Heb.8:1; 9:8-12)

(Heb.9:24) "For Christ did not enter a holy place made with hands, a mere copy of the true one, **but into heaven itself**, now to appear in the presence of God for us." (Heb.9:24)

### **Watch the difference between the next two verses?**

(2 Cor.5:8) "We are of good courage, I say, and prefer rather to be absent from the body and to **be at home with the Lord.**" (John 14:1-4)

(Lk. 24:43) "Truly I say to you, today you shall be with Me in Paradise." (Lk.16:22-23)