

GOD'S DIRECTIVE WILL AND GOD'S PERMISSIVE WILL

By Joseph More

At this time, draw a large circle on a piece of paper, and another circle just inside of it. The outer circle represent God's Directive Will. The inner circle represents God's Permissive Will. God's Directive Will is what was operating when He created the universe and everything in it. The Permissive Will is operating when the human Free Will - created by God's Directive Will - is allowed to function independently by the choices made by each individual.

If God rewarded every good action performed on Earth and punished every bad action, the result would be a non-necessity of Faith. One would see the instant results of an action. It would be easy to be good if there was an instant reward for it, and it would be easy to avoid sin if there was an instant punishment for it. Our Free Will choices in this life, however, determines our reward or punishment in the next life. Free Will is a two-edged sword, and we just have to choose the good edge if we want to get to Heaven.

If God made all the choices for us, we would not have this Free Will. Because God's Permissive Will is involved with humans maybe 98% of the time, we see all the negative that people choose. Those negatives, of course, do not only involve themselves. When a person gets drunk, then drives 100 miles-an-hour, and ends up killing an innocent family - that is an example of God's Permissive Will and the drunk's Free Will. It is also an example of one type of mystery involving God's Permissive Will. This is an appropriate time to mention that God's Directive Will only operates at the present time in two circumstances - when He does a miracle, and when He specifically answers a personal prayer in a particular way. First of all, it's not God's Directive Will *versus* God's Permissive Will. There is never a conflict between the two. The first mistake that people often make about them is to use them interchangeability. Each one, however, has its own specific function.

The Directive Will is the one that was used for all creative functions. Now since God is not only perfect, He Always Was and Always Will Be. God can neither create any type of being that also "always was", and also not create any other being that is equal to perfection. The created can never equal the creator.

This includes His first creation, that of the angels. Angels weren't created perfect, because the having of Free Will meant they were created with the possibility of committing sin. Since all sin is based on PRIDE (the center of all pride is "I"), they had the possibility of committing first a sin of PRIDE. Satan fell to his own temptation of PRIDE, and one-third of the angels followed him. It was the first case of followers to a bad leader. God's Permissive Will allowed them to reject God, and then the Directive Will doled out the punishment that the Permissive Will had allowed.

It may be good to make the point now, that God is first of all a **mystery**. He is not the kind of mystery that is on television or in a movie, where it is solved at the end of the show. The real definition of a **mystery** is something we don't understand, and something we cannot understand. God is an infinite being; humans are finite beings. A finite being, while having reason and intelligence, can never fully understand an infinite being. Every creation needs a creator, and this universe and everything in it - especially human beings - reflects the ultimate Creator.

Any knowledge about God must come from God Himself, and accepted by Faith. While reason tells us there is a God, it is Faith in what God has revealed to us that tells us that there is Three Persons in one God. This is the first - of a multitude - of **mysteries** in which God has revealed the definition, and expecting it to be believed without our understanding of it. One of the things we don't understand is why God created angels in the first place. The usual definition is "Because God is Love, and wanted to give other beings a chance for perfect happiness in Heaven with Him." That still doesn't explain the "why" for our finite minds.

The same thing of course, involved God's creation of human beings. Angels are pure spirit and humans are a combination of spirit (the Soul) and body. Having a body means that humans have another area of potential sin that the angels did not have. Since Adam and Eve were created with Free Will, they also were not perfect and also had possibility of committing sin. In order to test their Free Will - like the angels - they were given a test. Also, like one-third of the angels, they failed it. It involved PRIDE - to be like God - and then that led to disobedience.

So God's Directive Will created both angels and human beings, and in the second **mystery** concerning both, is the Permissive Will allowing a relationship between the two. It is a negative thing in our finite mind that God's Permissive Will allowed Satan to tempt

Adam and Eve in the first place. It would certainly seem better for us if there had never been any interaction between the two sets of creatures. Our Free Will had to be tested, and evidently Satan was allowed to be the instrument of that test.

This brings up another **mystery** that we cannot understand. God is All-Knowing, and knew before He created angels and human beings, that both would sin, and one-third of angels and some percentage of humans would end up in Hell for all eternity. (The topic of “eternity” will be covered later.) Then why did He go ahead and create us anyway? The usual explanation is that no one is in Hell - angels or humans - unless it was their own choice. It should be mentioned that it is not always a direct choice, “I want to go to Hell.” It is just a matter of refusing to worship God, follow his Laws, and then earn the punishment that eventually followed.

The second **mystery** is why God allows Satan and his devils to tempt every one of us today. In our finite thinking, it would seem that being born in Original Sin, which means having an innate tendency to sin, would be enough of a test for us without having to deal with the Devil constantly tempting us every day to sin by thought, word or action. For us, the “world” and the “flesh” should be temptation enough. Again, in our finite way of thinking, it would be more fair for each of us to have the same benefit of Adam and Eve to be able to choose to commit our first sin of **PRIDE** and then disobedience, rather than be conceived in Original Sin with the tendency to sin already built in. This is just another of the things we must accept - that God’s infinite wisdom is greater than ours.

Now once Adam and Eve were banished from the Garden of Eden by the Directive Will, 99% of everything that has happened with human beings since then, has involved the Permissive Will. The Directive Will set everything in motion, but the Permissive Will then allowed human’s Free Will to choose and determine 99% of what has occurred on this earth since that time. It should be added here that there is a positive relationship with the angels in Heaven and those of us on earth. It involves all of us having a Guardian Angel.

The first part of the 1% remaining was the Directive Will’s inspiration to us of who God is. Whatever knowledge Adam and Eve had of God in the Garden of Eden was evidently lost when they left it. While early humans believed in a “god” - something greater than themselves they evidently had no knowledge of Him. This led to belief in a rain god, a sun god, a fire god, etc. in order to have some type of explanation to what involved their universe. So the first part

of that 1% was for God to reveal Himself as One God. The next part was to reveal Himself as Three Persons in One God. That is not only something that a human's mind could not discover by reason, it's the essence of God that must be accepted by Faith. (It is worse than a waste of time to try to understand this **mystery**.)

Everything that happens in this life involves a choice - either ours or someone else's. Let's repeat that: everything that happens in this life involves a choice - either ours or someone else's. Let's examine that in one example of a chain of events. A male and a female have sex. It should only be between a husband and his wife. Their choice of performing that act, on a purely natural basis, can result in a child being conceived or it can not. While sex between a husband and a wife is a positive thing, they can change that into a negative by practicing artificial birth control.

Let's pause here to interject something about God's Plans. God's Directive Will, in creating human beings, involves a Plan for humans in general and for each of us in specific. The means there is a certain way in which each of us is supposed to live our life - by our choices - in order to serve God and gain Heaven. While the Directive Will has that Plan, the Permissive Will allows us to choose to not follow it. And while the Devil has his own plan for us - to be in Hell with him - he tempts us to not follow God's Plan in small, medium-sized, and large ways. Therefore, artificial birth control, not being part of God's Plan, means it is part of the Devil's plan. Unfortunately, a good percentage of the sex taking place on this planet is not part of God's Plan. That include the widespread acts of fornication and adultery, as well as the ones of rape and incest. And that also includes homosexuality.

Now in our finite way of thinking, it might seem to be better if God's Directive Will would have created us in a situation in which conception could only take place when sex was between a husband and wife. It might even seem better if it was only when a child was "wanted." However, the Permissive Will allows conception in any particular act on a purely natural basis. This brings up the Mortal Sin of abortion. It is obvious that all abortions involve an "unwanted" child regardless of the situation. But the choice of having an abortion is still the end result of all the choices that were made before that one. And the Devil's temptations were part of those ongoing choices that lead to the considering of abortion, and he is definitely part of that end choice.

While this should not be all of the counseling of girls and

women concerning abortion, it should certainly be a big part of it. That counseling could go like this: “The Devil is a liar. When he tempted Eve in the Garden of Eden, he didn’t tell her, ‘If you eat this apple, you will lose your perfect happiness. You’ll have to suffer the discomfort or pain of PMS every month after puberty and until menopause that you don’t conceive. When you do, you’ll have anything from discomfort to intense pain for the nine months your baby is growing, and you can’t imagine the pain you’ll have in giving birth. You will have sickness and disease instead of perfect health the rest of your life, and then in the end you will die. All that waits for you if you eat this apple. Doesn’t that all sound appealing? Here, take a bite.”

Not quite. He told her that she would be like God. She believed that lie, and we are all conceived (Except the Blessed Virgin Mary) and born (except also St. John the Baptist) with the results. Now the Devil still is lying to you. Whatever trouble you may be having, the Devil is telling you that abortion is the solution. He is not telling you about the ensuing sorrow that you’ll have for the rest of your life. And he’s certainly not telling you that it’s a Mortal Sin, and that if you’re not sorry for it and are forgiven before you die, you will spend Hell in eternity. And the Devil is also not comparing the suffering in Hell to whatever lesser suffering you may have in this life by not having the abortion. Tell the Devil, “No. I’m not falling for your lies,” and choose life.

Now back to the Permissive Will again. It is often when there is a tragedy to hear someone say “It was God’s Will.” There is *some* truth in that. (If you say, “March has 28 days,” that is a true statement. But it is not a completely true statement. The completely true statement is “March has 28 days plus 3 more.”)

To say something is God’s Will needs a delineation as whether it was the Directive Will or Permissive Will to make it completely true.

Suppose a person gets drunk, drives 100 miles-per-hour, crashes against a tree, and kills himself. Every step of that process involved the person’s Free Will, and a natural consequence of it. Unfortunately, relatives and friends often try to deny his choices which ended up in what happened, by saying “It was God’s Will.” This insinuates that it was part of God’s Plan for him and there was nothing he could have done to prevent it. It is a classic case of someone trying to absolve themselves or someone else for the responsibility of their own actions. It also insinuates that it was

“predestined ” - which is a denial of Free Will itself.

No, that was not part of God’s Plan for him. It could have God’s Plan for him to become a doctor and discover a cure for cancer. However, he may have chosen alcohol as a minor to “feel adult.” That is PRIDE He may have chosen alcohol to “fit it” or be popular with his peers who drink alcohol. That is PRIDE He could have chosen alcohol as a minor for the thrill of doing something “forbidden.” That is PRIDE Then he could have used the excuse not to stop by calling it a “disease,” instead of a developed mental and physical obsession and habit. That also is PRIDE (The terms “tobacco” and “illegal drugs” may also be substituted here for “alcohol.”) The point is that there were many choices along the way before the choice of the last bout with alcohol that led to his death. The point is that the devil’s temptations were part of every one of the choices that were made.

So if you hear someone say about a self-inflicted tragedy, “It was God’s Will,” ask them, “Which one?” That can lead to a discussion which may have a positive influence on that person, and anyone else listening, and also anyone in the future who make benefit from this new understanding.

Warning: This may not make you popular with people who are only interested at that time in making themselves lessen the effect of the tragedy on their emotions. However, a concern for the truth should always be more important than concern for someone’s emotions. And this principle is supposed to applied in many, many areas of life. Many great Saints became great Saints by telling people what they needed to hear. They told people what was necessary to save their immortal Souls, regardless of the price they paid - including torture and martyrdom. It would seem that we should be willing to suffer a little unpopularity to try to accomplish the same.

Another example of something that is not part of “God’s Plan” for someone is for them to commit suicide. For someone to say, “It must have been God’s Will,” is to put a big stamp of approval on suicide. To say, “His troubles are over now” is to deny any suffering that may result of his not being willing to carry his crosses - no matter what they were in this life.

And the worst possible thing to say is, “Well, he’s in Heaven now.” Depending on his mental culpability - not “state of mind” - he may not be in Hell for committing suicide, but it is certainly doubtful he is in Heaven. Any culpability at all on his part - like drugs, then depression; more drugs, then despair; excess drugs, then suicide,

certainly -at minimum - earns him Purgatory. And anyone believing he is Heaven only accomplishes to make themselves feel less sad, but deserts him in Purgatory instead of praying for his release.

And, of course, let us not forget that the devil's temptations - and a person's falling for them - which involved every step of the process.

God's Permissive Will also allows guilty people to affect the lives of innocent people. One example is a drunk driver causing an accident which kills one or more people in another car.

To return to the 1% of God's Directive Will since Adam and Eve, it is evidenced in two areas: 1) miracles, and 2) the answering of specific prayers of individuals and groups.

Therefore, everything that happens on this Earth is either an example of God's Directive Will or God's Permissive Will. And peace of mind comes when either one is responsible for both the good, the bad, and the indifferent that happens - and we accept with humility whichever one it is in every particular situation.