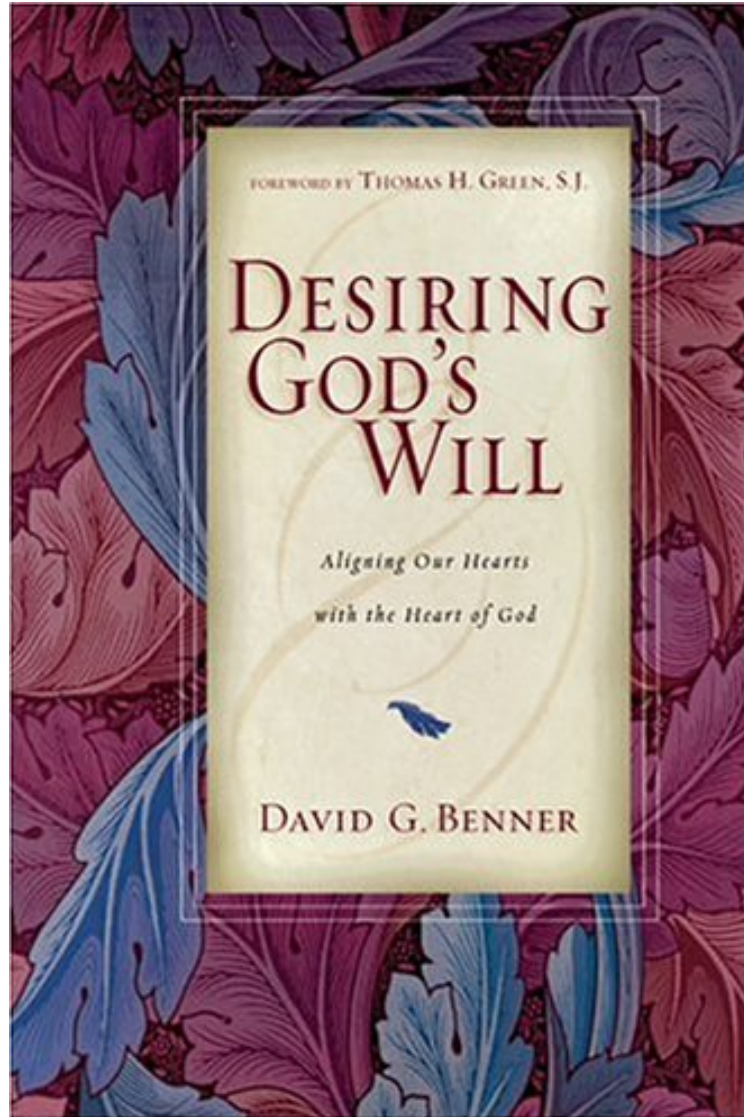


(Mobile book) Desiring God's Will: Aligning Our Hearts with the Heart of God

Desiring God's Will: Aligning Our Hearts with the Heart of God

Von David G. Benner

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Von David G. Benner : Desiring God's Will: Aligning Our Hearts with the Heart of God before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Desiring God's Will: Aligning Our Hearts with the Heart of God:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen2 von 2 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Knowing God's willVon FrKurt MessickDavid Benner states in his epilogue that there is a difference between doing the right 'thing' and following the right 'way'. It is by going the right way that our will is most aligned with God's will

for us - it is not something that is simply reducible to a list of things to do, or even a figuring out for particular decisions 'What would Jesus do?' This might have a component in the process, but this is not the entirety of the process. In the Benedictine rule, one of the vows made is conversion of life. This isn't the road to Damascus kind of conversion, and Benner recognises that in the kind of transformation most of us are called to seek. 'Our response to God's presence is not usually the Damascus Road knocked-off-our-feet-and-struck-blind experience of Paul (Acts 9:1-9). Typically, God's presence is more subtle, and our reactions are correspondingly attenuated.' Benner discusses the Examen and discernment process of St. Ignatius as a key way of looking at how our will and God's will might work together. The opposite poles of consolation and desolation are highlighted as means by which we can attune ourselves more completely with God's will. This is a very different thing than seeing the idea of following God's will as one more new year's resolution (an analogy Benner draws early in the book). We all have willfulness, which can have a darker side (Benner highlights the character of Judas, among others, and certainly the apostle Paul spoke at length about the problems of the will). Benner calls love the antidote of this dark side of willfulness. This is contained in the Lord's Prayer - how often do we say this prayer by rote recitation, rather than hearing the impact of the words. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done. These are very different from our natural impulses, which would guide each of us to say to herself or himself, 'my will be done.' Benner says that the question is not whether to pray or not, but rather which prayer to say, and that, 'when it comes right down to it, there are really only two possible prayers that can be prayed.' My will be done, or thy will be done. Benner also introduces the spiritual practice of lectio divina, a time honoured practice that engages scripture and other spiritual classic writing with our heart, head and spirit. Approaching the scripture with open heart and mind, with an air of expectation that something new from the spirit will be revealed, is at the centre of this practice. Benner is honest in saying that the will of God does not always lead to happiness, at least not as the world perceives it. This is no 'prosperity gospel' text. Sometimes the will of God leads to the cross, as any Christian should be well aware. However, there is the consolation, the heart-felt acceptance of God's presence, that comes from the entry into this kind of process. Benner's book is a wonderful guide to the beginnings of spiritual direction. While spiritual direction is something best done in community or with a more experienced person as guide, there are insights to be gained from this text about individual practices. Hopefully it will motivate the reader to continue further into discernment of where God's will lies.

Kurzbeschreibung We overhear Jesus' prayer in the garden of Gethsemane--"not my will, but thine be done"--but have trouble honestly making it our own. (from the Introduction) Most people think of God's will as something to be found or as the receiving of guidance from God when making decisions. We assume that if we just knew what God wanted, we'd do it. Too often, however, the problem is not that we don't know what God desires for our lives, but rather that we just don't want to do what we already know he wants. Sometimes, though, we try to live the Christian life out of sheer self-determination and grit, only to discover that our will is not sufficient to sustain us. How might our wills be changed so that we become both willing and able to do what God asks of us? In *Desiring God's Will* psychologist and spiritual director David G. Benner explores the transformation of the will in Christian spirituality. He examines why our desires are disordered and how our human volition can be brought into alignment with God's intentions so that we willingly choose that which God wants for us. In so doing, Benner shows us that cultivating discernment and being attuned to God's desires is the path to true life, spiritual health and freedom. God wants to change our choosing, not just our choices. By aligning our hearts with God's, we will find liberation from the kingdom of self and instead experience the joy of the kingdom of God. **Pressestimmen** "According to psychologist and spiritual director Benner, surrendering to God's will is choosing God over self in all areas of life."--Publishers Weekly, December 13, 2004 (starred review) "David G. Benner has done it again! *Desiring God's Will* is the perfect capstone for one of the finest trilogies of Christian spiritual formation that has ever been written. I recommend it for any serious seeker who desires for his or her heart to resonate in perfect pitch with the heart of God."--Gary W. Moon, director, Martin Family Institute and Dallas Willard Center for Spiritual Formation, Westmont College, author of *Apprenticeship with Jesus* "Can it really be that the things I most deeply want point me toward God? Can it be that these same things tell me something about what God deeply wants for me? With hope and clarity, David Benner demonstrates that the answers to these questions are a resounding yes. Psychologically sound and spiritually compelling, this book moves us beyond our fear and suspicion that somehow God's desires for us and ours for ourselves are mutually exclusive, to a path for discerning God's will that is deeply satisfying because it is congruent with our authentic self in God."--Ruth Haley Barton, cofounder, The Transforming Center, spiritual director, author of *Invitation to Solitude and Silence* "David Benner releases us from the burden of having to figure out God's will, which too often becomes an obsession to us. Instead, he invites us to embrace the will of God as we know it for today. Along the way he provides enormously helpful categories: we should be willing but not willful; we should explore our true desires, not dismiss all desire as bad; we should realize that God's will has less to do with a particular decision and more to do with the most important decision we will ever make to pursue God. I found this short book helpful and insightful. It was obvious that Benner did not

write this book on a whim. The material has been simmering in his soul for some time."--Gerald L. Sittser, professor of theology, Whitworth University, author of *Water from a Deep Well*"Desiring God's Will is a fresh alternative to today's common spiritual writing. David Benner has written a penetrating book, faithful to ancient truth, that goes beyond the facile 'how to' and seeks to confront the heart of our rebellion, independence and pride. This is a welcome gift to those who want to move past easy answers as they surrender to a truly authentic faith and walk with God."--Gary Thomas, author of *Sacred Pathways* and *Sacred Marriage*"David Benner has a unique perspective in assisting the contemporary pray-er to achieve that true openness which is essential for genuine discernment. . . . Desiring God's Will achieves a happy balance of tradition and contemporary relevance."--From the foreword by Thomas Green, S.J., author of *When the Well Runs Dry*"Benner has provided a masterful understanding of God's will that rightly places the emphasis upon a loving, responsive relationship with God rather than the correct performance of a structure of 'duties.' This is one of very few books on Christian spirituality that I couldn't wait to get back to when I had to break off reluctantly for other duties."--M. Robert Mulholland, author of *Invitation to a Journey*"This is really a wonderful book, a powerful book, a life-giving book--Benner speaks so honestly, openly and directly to our lust for the self-determination and control that keeps us from knowing the joy and freedom of a God-centered life, a life of willingness in response to God's constant personal love. Reading this book I came to know more fully than ever before how much God desires me."--M. Basil Pennington, OCSO, author of *Lectio Divina* and *Centering Prayer*"In *Desiring God's Will*, the third in his trilogy, David Benner writes in a deeply personal way of the corrective activist Christians need, not so much to seek guidance as to deeply desire God's will. No more important message could be given us in our narcissistic culture. Poignantly written, this is a life-changing book."--James M. Houston, emeritus professor, Regent College, Vancouver"David Benner never disappoints. He is intelligent without being academic, psychologically astute without being trendy, spiritually profound without being pious. He clearly knows the landscape from which he dares to speak."--Richard Rohr, OFM, Center for Action and Contemplation, Albuquerque, New Mexico"This is for people who want God. Even more, it is for people who want to want God. It is about not the taming of the will but its transformation."--John Ortberg, author, senior pastor, Menlo Park Presbyterian Church

Kurzbeschreibung

We overhear Jesus' prayer in the garden of Gethsemane--"not my will, but thine be done"--but have trouble honestly making it our own. (from the Introduction)

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