Read This Week’s Passage:
Jeremiah 29:11–14b

THE PREREQUISITE

Why would anyone not want to know God’s will for his or her life? After all, if God is all-knowing and all-caring, shouldn’t we be jumping up and down to find out what that plan is? But human history does not attest to this. Humanity has desired supernatural knowledge, insights, secrets, and understanding. Once this knowledge has been acquired (if at all), however, the human response has been, “I’m good; that’s enough; I would rather choose something (or someone) else.” Sometimes it’s called rationalization, or curiosity, or human philosophy; and at other times it’s just plain arrogance. This is because the core of the human heart is sinful and carnal. We don’t want what’s good for us; we want what we think we want, which usually means we cannot choose good in and of itself.

When presented with the divine will, the selfish response is to choose the alternative, or option B. Sometimes God goes forward with His scenario, knowing full well that humanity will reject it. The foreknowledge of God does not prevent Him from doing so—the love of God for humanity overrides. In other words, God doesn’t act from what He knows but from who He is: love. The problem is not on God’s end, because He always acts out of love. The problem lies with humanity, which acts out of selfishness and doubt of God’s love.

The first week of this study deals with the prerequisite to knowing the will of God.
Write out Jeremiah 29:11–14b from the translation of your choice. You may also rewrite the passage in your own words, outline, or mind map the chapter.
Go back to your scribed text and study the passage.

Circle repeated words/ phrases/ideas

Underline words/phrases that are important and have meaning to you

Draw Arrows to connect words/ phrases to other associated or related words/phrases

What special insights do your marks seem overall to point to?

Memorize your favorite verse in Jeremiah 29:11–14b. Write it out multiple times to help memorization.

If God says He knows you, what does He know? (c.f. Genesis 18:19)

Read more at www.inversebible.org/will1-3
After looking at your scribed and annotated text, what special insights do your marks overall seem to point to?

What questions emerge after studying this passage?
What parts are difficult?

What other principles and conclusions do you find?

Does worldliness enter your version of God’s will for you? Where?

Read more at www.inversebible.org/will1-4
What relationship do the following verses have with the primary passage?

Ezra 7:6–10
2 Tim. 2:4–5
Deut. 4:29; 10:12;
Luke 10:27
Ps. 143:7–12

What other verses/promises come to mind in connection with wholehearted willingness?

Review your memorized verse from Jeremiah 29:11–14b.
Meditate on Jeremiah 29:11–14b again and look for where Jesus is.

How was Jesus wholeheartedly and daily obedient to God’s will?

What is He saying to you through these texts?

How do you see Jesus differently or see Him again?

Prayer: How do you respond to seeing Jesus in this way?

Read more at www.inversebible.org/will1-6
Review the memory verse. How does it apply to your life this week?

After this week’s study of the chapter, what are personal applications you are convicted of in your life?

What are practical applications you must make?

How does one maintain a wholehearted devotional life daily?

Read more inSight from the Spirit of Prophecy at wwwVERSEBIBLE.ORG/will1-7
Share insights from this week’s memory verse and Bible study as well as any discoveries, observations, and questions with your Sabbath School class (or Bible study group). Consider these discussion questions with the rest of the group.

What is more powerful, will or grace? (Phil. 2:13)

What is more needed, will or grace?

What is the difference between a partially obedient, dilatorily obedient, and disobedient heart?

What are some manifestations of a partially obedient or disobedient heart?

What does a wholeheartedly willing heart look like?

Why doesn’t God reveal His will to an unwilling heart?

How does one know his or her own willingness?

Why does humanity prefer a method or a ritual rather than a relationship?

Why is heart-searching so painful?

What are ways to encourage more heart-searching today?