

# Siri 5 - March 31 & April 1, 2012

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## 2 ASPECTS OF THE WILL OF GOD

1. General or Universal Will of God
2. Specific or Individualized Will of God

We are positioned to receive the specific will of God, by consistently yielding to the general will of God or the Word of God.

Refusing God's Word is refusing God's will.

### How To Know the Specific Will of God

God directs from the outside – in under the Old Covenant.

God directs from the inside – out under the New Covenant.

Under the New Covenant, every believer has the Holy Spirit within them!

Under the New Covenant God leads us through the inward man, not through external means like in the Old Testament.

Romans 8:14-16 – **14** For as many as are **LED BY THE SPIRIT OF GOD**, they are the sons of God. **15** For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship **16** The Spirit Himself **bears witness** with our spirit or **assures our spirit** or **endorses our inward conviction** or **speaks to us deep in our hearts** and **tells us** that we are the children of God!

Your conscience is the voice of the inward witnesses.

Once you have been born again or made Jesus the Lord of your life, your conscience is a safe guide!

Acts 23:1 - Paul looked straight at the Sanhedrin and said, "My brothers, I have fulfilled my duty to God in all **good conscience** to this day."

Acts 24:16 - So I strive always to **keep my conscience clear** before **God** and **man**.

1 Timothy 1:5 - The **goal of this command** is **love**, which comes from a **pure heart** and a **good conscience** and a sincere faith.

1 Timothy 3:9 - They must keep **hold of the deep truths of the faith** with a **clear conscience**.

**It is important to have a clear conscience, since it is your conscience that bears witness in the Holy Spirit.**

Romans 9:1 - I tell the truth in Christ, I am not lying, **my conscience also bearing me witness in the Holy Spirit.**

Acts 27:10 - And said to them, "Sirs ***I PERCEIVE*** that this voyage will be with hurt and much damage, not only to the cargo and the ship, but also our lives."

Our conscience is what the Holy Spirit bears witness to when leading the Christian.

### **Keeping Your Conscience Clear**

How do I ensure that my inward voice or my conscience doesn't get laryngitis?

**The Old Covenant couldn't deal with clearing our conscience.**

Hebrews 9:8-9 – **8** The Holy Spirit was showing by this that the way into the Most Holy Place had not yet been disclosed as long as the first tabernacle was still standing. **9** This is an illustration for the present time, indicating that the gifts and sacrifices being offered were not able to ***clear the conscience*** of the worshipper.

**The New Covenant clears or purges our conscience.**

Hebrews 9:14 - How much more shall the Blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, ***purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?***

If our conscience isn't clear, we will have extinguished the voice God uses to lead us in regards to His specific will.

We don't want to get laryngitis of the inward man.

Hebrews 3:7-8 – **7** So, as the Holy Spirit says: "Today, if you ***hear His voice***, **8** do not ***harden your hearts*** as you did in the rebellion, during the time of testing in the desert,

Hebrews 3:13 - but exhort one another daily, while it is called "Today," lest any of you be hardened ***through the deceitfulness of sin***.

**Yielding to sin will harden your heart and mute your conscience.**

**When our ways aren't in line with His ways, God calls us to repentance!**

1 Timothy 4:1-2 – **1** The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons. **2** Such teachings come through hypocritical liars, whose ***consciences have been seared as with a hot iron***.

Ignoring your conscience will cause it to be effectively muted.

When your conscience is injured or muted, you are headed for trouble.

1 Timothy 1:19 - ***Holding faith***, and a ***good conscience***; which some having ***put away*** concerning faith have made ***shipwreck***.

**Once you put away conscience you will lose your personal course and as a result make shipwreck of your life.**