

BIBLE STUDY REFERENCE LIST - CHAPTER 11
The Mystery of God's Will

INTRODUCTION

Quick reference Bible studies for the 12 Mysteries are essential for two purposes: defending the gospel against skeptics, and teaching Christians reasons they should hope in the Word of God. This book's length naturally begs for a quick reference guide for Biblical proof "*the mystery of God*"¹ has been finished, or revealed.

Below you'll find Bible study references for **Chapter 11** only. References for remaining chapters are available for free at www.pastorjessesmith.com/12mysteriesbook. You can also reach me via email, jesse.smith11@sbcglobal.net, or text 330-929-2037.

As Christians, we must verbally defend our faith. Twice Paul says he was set for the defense of the gospel in Philippians 1:7 and 17. In Greek, "defence" means "verbal defence, speech in defence, a reasoned statement or argument." The same Greek word for "defence" is also translated as "answer" in Peter's first epistle: "*But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear.*"² You can be ready to share the truth with any inquirer.

Ministers especially must faithfully test all beliefs. Paul commands us to "*Prove all things*" in 1 Thessalonians 5:21. Prove means "to test, examine, prove, scrutinize (to see whether a thing is genuine or not), as metals" in the Greek. Since the Bible is our Absolute, all revelations are proven true by the pure words of Scripture alone.

Paul's message to Timothy in 2 Timothy 2:15 is: "*Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.*" Acts 17:11 labels the Bereans as a noble group because they searched the Scriptures daily to verify Paul's preaching.

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11TH MYSTERY: GOD'S WILL

Revelation: God initiates and reveals His will to every person, making them responsible for responding to Him and seeking His future desires.

God's will (choice, desire, or pleasure) calls us to holiness and must not be rejected:

2 Tim. 1:9 *Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling*

Eph. 1:4 *he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love*

1 Thes. 4:7-8 we're not called to uncleanness, but to holiness

Heb. 12:14-15 *Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord. Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God*

¹ Revelation 10:7

² 1 Peter 3:15

Heb. 10:29 many will fail the grace of God by disobeying Jesus' command for further holiness

Mat. 7:21-23 doing God's will is a requirement to enter heaven

Luke 22:42 Jesus models the ideal prayer regarding God's will: *Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done*

John 8:29 Jesus always pleased the Father, or always did His will

God initiates a relationship with every human by revealing Himself and His eternal power:

Rom. 1:19-20 God manifests His power in every human mind and shows it in creation/nature so men are *without excuse* on Judgment Day

Acts 17:28 God's mercy allows us to *live, and more, and have our being*; life is a beautiful, divine opportunity to know God and His will

Eccles. 11:9 we have freedom to enjoy life but we're accountable for our actions

Ps. 42:2 every soul thirsts for God—*My soul thirsteth for God, for the living God*

Luke 12:20 God is going to require each soul to give account of his choices

John 3:16-19 God so loved the world but worldly men love darkness more than Him

Three aspects to God's will:

God's sovereign, immutable, eternal, unchanging will

God's known will to man

God's progressive, unknown, or future will for man

God's sovereign will:

1 Pet 1:2 God preplanned all human history by His foreknowledge of every human decision

Isa. 40:13-14 God needed no instructor or counselor when He planned the universe

Ps. 33:10-11 God allows freedom in decision making, but His ultimate purpose will be done

Dan. 2:21 God alone changes the times and seasons of earthly leaders

Job 1:6-12, 2:1-6 everything Satan does must be approved by God

1 Cor. 10:13 all temptations upon man are similar and shared; God will only allow a test in your life if you can overcome it

Eph. 1:11 God predestinates all things according to the counsel of His own will

Rom. 8:28, Deu. 6:24, 8:16, 10:13 God works every event for our good, always

God's known will for man is twofold—to save from hell and be filled with the Holy Ghost:

Rom. 1:19-20, 2:14-16 every soul an awareness and thirst for fellowship with Him, their Creator, so all men are without excuse on Judgment Day; God writes His law upon every human conscience

2 Pet. 3:9 God is patient, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance (the first fold—God desires all men to be saved from hell)

1 Tim. 2:4 God desires all meant to be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth

Mat. 18:14 it is not the will of the Father that one of these little ones should perish

John 6:40 God's will is to give everlasting life to everyone who believes on Jesus

Gal. 1:4 it's God's will to deliver us from this present world

Eze. 33:11 God has no pleasure in the death of the wicked

Eph. 1:9-12 believers know the mystery of God's will—He'll gather all things in Christ
John 3:7 Jesus teaches *ye must be born again* (the second fold—God desires all saved believers to be filled with the Holy Ghost)
Deu. 6:23 God brought Israel out of Egypt to bring them in to the promised land, a type of Jesus saving souls in order to bring them in to the born-again experience
John 7:37-39 Jesus gives universal invitation for all to be born again—*if any thirst*
Rev. 22:17 another universal invitation to be born again—*whosoever will*
Mat. 22:37-40, Rom. 13:8-10, Gal. 5:14 you only need genuine love if you want God's will for salvation and the new birth, as Jesus and Paul says love is the fulfilling of the law
1 John 5:1-4 being born-again is the source of God's divine love and overcoming power

God's progressive will for man is governed by two principles—it aligns with His known will in the Bible and it will happen in His ordained time and season:

Heb. 11:8, Rom. 1:17, 2 Cor. 3:18 like Abraham followed God's progressive will, not knowing where he was going, we follow the Holy Spirit from faith to faith, from glory to glory
Mat. 4:1-11 Jesus knew it was not time for Him to rule the world because Satan's temptation would have caused Him to break the known will of God (worshipping Satan)
2 Sam. 6:1-23, Ex. 25:14, 1 Chron. 15:15 David failed on his first attempt to bring the Ark into Jerusalem because he disobeyed the known will of God that the Ark must be carried upon the Levities' shoulders; David was successful 3 months later through obedience to God's known will
Dan. 9:1-2 Daniel understood God's progressive will for the season of Israel returning to Jerusalem by reading God's known will (Jeremiah's books)
Deu. 13:1-5, 2 Cor. 11:14, Ex. 4:8-9 never trust a sign or wonder if it contains instructions that disagree with God's known will, for it is Satan disguising himself as an angel of light; God's signs always have a voice pointing you to holiness and obedience
1 Sam. 1:1-4, 2 Tim 4:2 King Saul rejected because he couldn't wait upon God's timing
2 Sam. 11:1-27 David committed murder and adultery when he was out of position in the season of war, teaching Christians to obey all the known will of God in every season
Luke 12:56 Jesus rebukes the multitude for not recognizing the season of His ministry; Christians must recognize and act upon God's seasons

Service, submission, and suffering are part of God's progressive will:

Acts 13:36, 2 Sam. 5:2 [Service] *David...served his own generation by the will of God*; David served God's purpose leading Israel; he fed them, built the military, and established true worship
Acts 13:22 *David...a man after mine own heart, which shall fulfill all my will*
1 Kings 1:11-21 Bathsheba's service to God assured Solomon ascended to Israel's throne
1 Chron. chs. 15 & 16 David established Levitical worship, even creating instruments to praise God
Acts 2:30, Ps. 16:10, 22:7-16, 27:12 through a prophetic music gift, David wrote 70+ psalms, some of which prophesied of Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection 1,000 years in the future
Josh. 1:4, 2 Sam. 8:3 David expanded Israel's borders to boundaries God promised Joshua nearly 400 years earlier
Jam. 4:7 [Submission] submit first to God—*submit yourselves therefore to God*

Eph. 5:21 sacrifice your selfish desires, *submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God*

Heb. 13:17 submit to godly leadership in your local church

1 Pet. 2:13-15, Acts 5:29 submission to the government is God's will, as long as it agrees with Scripture

Heb. 5:8 [Suffering] Jesus learned obedience through His sufferings

2 Tim. 3:12 *all that live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution*

2 Tim. 2:11-12 *if we suffer, we shall also reign with him*

1 Pet. 2:20 God accepts you when you endure suffering with patience

1 Pet. 3:13-17 be happy if you suffer for righteousness' sake

1 Pet. 4:19 commit your soul to God in constant well doing when suffering according to God's will

1 Pet. 5:10 suffering makes you want God intends you to be—*after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect*

1 Cor. 4:17 all suffering is momentary, or *light affliction*, yet produces a great *eternal weight of glory*

Phil. 3:10 through suffering you develop intimacy with Christ—*that I may know him...the fellowship of his sufferings*

How to find the perfect will of God for your life:

Rom. 12:1-2 two steps for finding the perfect will of God—present your body as a living sacrifice and renew your mind [more on this later]; notice it's two out of three of man's parts of his being—body, mind, soul (1 Thes. 5:23)

Rom. 12:2, Ps. 119:105 there is a perfect will (full obedience) and permissive will of God (partial disobedience); David says obeying God's Word is a lamp unto our feet and light unto our path, so obeying the Word keeps you walking upon the path of God's perfect will; disobeying God's Word causes you to lose God's light source and stumble in His permissive will

Gen. 4:1-16, 1 John 3:12 Cain disdained God's perfect will for animal sacrifice, causing him to walk in the permissive will of God; this led to his murder of Abel, and his soul being lost

Num. chs. 22-25, 31:8, Rev. 2:14 Balaam heard God's first, perfect will, but prayed for the permissive will; once in it, he taught Israel to fornicate was slain in disgrace; likely lost to hell

Rom. 12:1, Luke 9:23-24 [first step to finding the perfect will of God] present your body as a living sacrifice; your altar is also your cross, or slow loss of your sinful desires

1 Thes. 5:22, 1 Pet. 4:3 as a living sacrifice, keep your body out of sinful places; avoid all evil

1 Cor. 15:31 to be a living sacrifice, your lusts and selfishness must die daily

2 Cor. 4:16, 10:4-5 [second step to finding the perfect will of God] daily renewing your mind; cast down any thought that's contrary to God's Word

Col. 3:1-2 set your affections on things above; focus your thinking on heaven

Eph. 4:22-24 the key to mind renewal is putting off the old thoughts and putting on the new, holy thoughts

Phil. 4:7-8, 1 Thes. 5:17 think upon God's 8 holy subjects—whatsoever is true, honest, just, pure, lovely, of good report, virtuous, and praise worthy; meditate on God all day and pray without ceasing

Mat. 6:10, Luke 18:1-8, Col. 1:9, 4:12 Jesus teaches us to pray for God's will to be on earth, as it is in heaven; prayer warriors, like Epaphras and Paul, will be hard to find on the earth when Jesus returns

Jude 1:20, Eph. 2:10, Gal. 5:6 praying in the Holy Spirit raises your faith, and faith does the works God designed for you to complete

Proving God's perfect will in relationships:

1 Cor. 7:1-40 Paul teaches God's will for relationship for singles, married, unmarried, widowed
1 Cor. 7:7, Mat. 19:10-12 some have the gift to remain single

Mat. 1:18-20, Num. 30:1-16 engagement vows are binding, and equal to being married because the angel of Lord called Mary Joseph's wife before they were married; pray much before becoming engaged

1 Thes. 4:3 if you're single and committing fornication with your partner, you know you are out of God's perfect will

1 Cor. 7:12-16 stay married to your unbelieving spouse; you might save their soul

1 Cor. 7:13, 34, Eph. 5:25, 33, Col. 3:19, Tit. 2:4 marriage is about pleasing and serving your spouse through divine love

Mal. 2:16 God hates divorce

Mat. 5:31-32, 19:1-9, 1:18-20 Jesus gives only one cause for remarriage after divorce—when a woman makes a false vow to her husband, claiming to be sexually pure but is not, as modeled in Joseph and Mary's situation (yet Mary was a virgin); adultery is not a cause for divorce and remarriage

Prov. 19:18, 20:11, 22:6, 22:15, 23:13, 29:15-17, 29:21, Col. 3:21 God's will for parents is to diligently love, teach, discipline, and provide for their children

Ps. 127:1-5 children are God's heritage (possession), rewards from His creative hand, and as arrows parents must sharpen their godly character to defeat future enemies

Rom. 12:18, Heb. 12:14, Col. 4:6, 1 Pet. 3:15, Mat. 5:44, Rom. 12:19-21 in all non-family relationships, seek to live at peace with all men as much as possible; have gracious answers ready for those who ask about your faith; bless and love your enemies to overcome evil with good

Proving God's perfect will for vocations:

Prov. 29:15 parenting is the most important vocation—*a child left to himself bringeth his mother to shame*

Prov. 19:18 Love and invest in your children's souls while there is hope—*Chasten thy son while there is hope*

Eccles. 9:10 *Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might*

Rom. 12:11 *Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord*

Eph. 6:6 no matter the job, we should serve from our hearts—*Not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but as the servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart.*

1 Tim. 6:6 your vocation is given for your contentment—*But godliness with contentment is great gain*

Proving God's perfect will for locations:

Acts 17:26-27 God determined the location of your dwelling so you would seek after Him
James 2:23, Gen. 11:31, 12:4-10, 13:18 Abraham, the father of the faith and friend of God, moved at least 15 times; you can trust God and have communion with Him every time He leads you to move

Gen. 13:12, 19:26, 2 Pet. 2:7-9 Lot's decision to move to Sodom for financial benefits resulted in him losing to wife (pillar of salt) and family (destroyed in fire and brimstone); put yourself and your family in a godly atmosphere even if you have less financial benefits

Heb. 10:24-25, Eph. 4:6-18 if you have the choice, choose to live where you can gather often with Christians and hear the fivefold preaching ministry that will perfect you and your family

Acts 20:28-29 have a pastor and church family because Satan desires to scatter you from believers and the fivefold ministry

Ministries:

Acts 13:1-3, 16:6 [missionary work] believers must seek God with prayer and fasting for every decision in missionary work, as sometimes God forbids us to preach in certain locations

Rom. 1:10, 15:32 Paul knew visits must be done by the will of God

Acts 12:5 [prayer ministry] continual prayer helped in Peter's loosing from imprisonment

1 Cor. 12:28, Luke 8:1-3, Acts 9:36-39, Rom. 16:1-2, 2 Cor. 8:1-5 [helping the poor] also called *helps* and *almsgiving*, believers should minister to the needy with food and clothing

Luke 8:1-3, Acts 4:34-37, 6:1-8 [believers supporting preachers and their leadership] converts to the faith often give financial donations to preachers, who direct it to help the needy

1 Cor. 16:15-16 find someone who's addicted to helping others and support them

The nine gifts of the Holy Ghost:

1 Cor. 12:8-10 all nine gifts of the Holy Ghost are listed

1 Cor. 12:7, Rom. 11:29 gifts are given to every person to profit others, whether they repent or not

Jer. 1:5 like He knew Jeremiah, God knew us before our birth and ordained us for His purpose

1 Cor. 14:23-25 ask God to use your gifts to magnify His presence to sinners

Prov. 18:16 *a man's gift makes room for him*—God has a place for your gifts to operate

1 Cor. 14:5 gifts edify the saints; prophecy is greater than the gift of tongues because it edifies more people; the greater gifts help more people

Acts 5:1-11 gifts keep the church clean; Peter's gift of discernment cleaned out the spirit of deception

1 Cor. 14:1 *follow after charity* [the baptism of the Holy Ghost], *and desire spiritual gifts*—get born again first, and then desire for gifts to be used

1 Cor. 12:1, 31 Christians should not ignore gifts, but desire the best gifts so more saints are helped

Mat. 25:21 after you double the impact of your gifts, Jesus will tell you *Well done*

Rom. 12:6 gifts have different measures of power; operate your gift *according to the proportion of faith*

Gift #1—Wisdom:

1 Cor. 12:8, Prov. 4:7 wisdom is the chief gift, listed first by Paul, and called the principal thing by Solomon; wisdom is sound advice, manifested by skillful and timely decision making
Mat. 11:19 Jesus says wisdom is validated by the results it bears—*wisdom is justified of her children*

Prov. 9:1, Mat. 7:24 wisdom tells you what to do and when to do it—*wisdom hath builded her house* and a wise man builds his house upon a rock

Mat. 22:15-22 Jesus' wisdom tells believers to pay taxes to Caesar and also give money to God

Mat. 25:1-13 wise virgins took time preparing extra oil for light in case the bridegroom tarried, while the foolish neglected to prepare

Acts 23:6-11 Paul's wise perception to share his belief in the resurrection before a divided, angry Jewish council helped save his life

Gift #2—Word of Knowledge:

Ex. 31:3, Prov. 2:6, 10-11 knowledge and wisdom are associated over 30 times in Scripture; knowledge is what to do and wisdom is when and how to do it

Luke 11:52 Jesus calls knowledge a key allowing you to enter into the door of God's will

2 Pet. 2:20 knowledge is understanding you need to possess God's promises and escape Satan's devices—we escape *the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ*

Acts 2, 8:26-40 Peter and Philip give Scriptural knowledge, citing Joel 2:28-32 and Isaiah 53:7-8 respectively, allowing 3,000 souls and the Ethiopian eunuch to enter the door of salvation through repentance and water baptism

Gift #3—Faith:

Heb. 11:1, 1 Cor. 13:2 faith is an assurance and inner substance of god's desire and power to move obstacles, problems, sicknesses, or adversaries, figuratively describes as mountains, by speaking God's Word

Mat. 17:20 Jesus teaches faith, a revelation of God's will about a specific work, makes anything possible

Mat. 8:1-13 Jesus commends the Roman centurion's great faith for requesting Him to speak the Word only for his servant's healing

Acts 14:7-10 Paul and a crippled man both had faith for healing, causing Paul to loudly command the man to walk for the first time

Gift #4—Gifts of Healing:

Acts 10:38 God anointed Jesus to heal all oppressed by the devil; healing is deliverance from demonic oppression in both the mind and body that usually takes time (not instant healing)

1 Sam. 16:13-23 Saul's mental torment from an evil spirit troubled his body but David's skillful harp playing cast the demon from him

Eze. 47:12, 2 Kings 20:7, Isa. 38:21 leaves and plants can be used as medicine and figs were used to heal boils

Mark 16:16-17 Jesus promises to heal the sick when we lay hands on them

Acts 28:8 Paul prayed and laid his hands on Publius' father and he was healed of fever and blood flux, an intestinal infection

Gift #5—Miracles:

Gal. 3:5 miracles are instant, spontaneous manifestations of healings or other phenomena performed by faith

John 20:30-31, 21:25 Jesus did so many miracles the world could not contain written about them

Mark 5:25-34, 6:52, John 2:11, 4:49-54, 6:1-14, 12:17-18 Jesus raised the dead, turned water to wine, multiplied fish and bread

Mark 9:38-39 casting out certain types of demons is a miraculous act

Acts 3:1-11, 4:16 Jesus used Peter and John in a notable miracle, causing a lame man to walk and leap

Acts 19:11-12 special miracles were performed by Paul

Gift #6—Prophecy:

1 Cor. 14:3 prophecy is the ability to foretell the future and gives believers edification, exhortation, and comfort

Acts 21:11 Agabus prophesied loudly with "Thus saith the Lord"

Daniel 2:1-49 prophecy can come via dreams, like Nebuchadnezzar

1 Cor. 14:29, 1 Thes. 5:19-21 when pronounced in public, prophecies should be judged by two or three witnesses

Mat. 26:34, 75 Jesus foretold Peter's 3 denials

Acts 11:27-28 Agabus prophesied a famine

Acts 21:9 Philip had four virgin daughters who prophesied

Gift #7—Discerning of spirits:

Heb. 4:12 discernment is like a sword that divides a man's soul and spirit, judging the thoughts and intents of his heart; discernment judges or distinguishes between the source or motivation behind actions, prophecies, or words

1 Cor. 14:29 discernment judges prophecies spoken publicly

1 Kings 3:16-28 Solomon used discernment to reveal the good intentions of the real mother of a baby

John 1:47-51, 4:4-29 Jesus discerned both Nathanael's guileless spirit and the woman at the well's sexual immorality with six men

Acts 5:1-5, 8:18-24 Peter exercised discernment by revealing Ananias' secret lie and Simon the sorcerer's wicked heart condition

1 Cor. 14:24-25 Paul says sinners will recognize God's Spirit is in a local church when their secrets are revealed through gifts of prophecy, interpretation, and discernment

Gifts #8 and #9—Divers kinds of tongues and interpretation of tongues:

1 Cor. 13:1 these gifts allow believers to speak in unknown or known human languages, or even tongues of angels; interpretations tell believers the meaning of unknown languages

Mark 16:17 Jesus promised believers would speak in new tongues

1 Cor. 14:11, 23 publicly-spoken tongues without interpretations create a barbaric, insane atmosphere; with no interpreter, tongues are strictly for private prayer and individual edification

1 Cor. 12:30 not all Christians speak in tongues

1 Cor. 14:1-5 Paul strongly supported prophetic, interpreted tongues because they edified the entire church rather than just one believer

Acts 2:1-12 at Pentecost, the 120 Spirit-filled believers were speaking in tongues, as they spoke in the human languages of the 17 different regions present in Jerusalem

1 Cor. 14:33 God does not authorize the confusion of instant, constant, and uninterpreted tongues in public services

Acts 10:44-48 while Peter preached at Cornelius' house, the Holy Ghost fell upon the hearers, who spoke in tongues and magnified God

Acts 19:1-6 Paul lays hands on 12 Ephesians and being filled with the Holy Ghost, they spoke in tongues and prophesied