



PERMISSIVE WILL

1. God's permissive will is clearly taught in two passages: the provision of quail in the wilderness (Num. 11:33–34) and Israel's plea for a king (1 Sam. 8).
2. God's permissive will is the opposite of God's perfect will.
3. At first permissive will appears to be a great blessing. It may involve a miraculous intervention (as the provision of quail). It seems that God is answering your prayers—you get what you want!
4. In reality permissive will is discipline and judgment. God is grieved and angered in granting his permissive will. Discipline soon follows.
5. Permissive will is granted to men with wrong motives, sinful attitudes, and complaining spirits.
6. To receive God's permissive will is to reap what you sow (cf. Gal. 6:7).
7. In permissive will you get what you ask for *and* what you deserve.
8. To reject God's perfect will is to court His permissive will.
9. God often allows his permissive will when his perfect will is rejected. He allows us to learn the hard way.
10. God's permissive will doesn't take effect until you accept or partake of the gift. You can always turn the gift down. If Israel, for instance, had at the last minute refused to eat the meat, even though it had already been provided, they would not have died (cf. Num. 11:33–34). If you realize God's gift or provision is His permissive will because you've been complaining and grumbling, turn it down before it's too late—no matter how much you need or want it. Confess your sin of complaining and pray for grace and mercy.
11. At best permissive will is "God's second best."
12. You don't want God's permissive will!