



God's will, or God's plan, is something we've all heard within our faith walk. Our church, St. John's West Bend, has three truths: *It's all His, He saves, and His will is what's best for us.* It was with this last truth — His will is what's best for us — that my husband and I struggled.

# The Abundant Blessings of His Will

By Courtney Young

My husband and I always thought we would adopt someday. We envisioned having children naturally and then adopting. During the five years we waited and prayed for a family, we still envisioned having children naturally first. All of our efforts went that direction.

We prayed for His will and, truthfully, we taught it every day to our students, but we were still holding back and trying to control the situation according to what we wanted. A year ago June, we celebrated our seventh anniversary. It was on our anniversary that we truly gave the desire of our hearts to God — and meant it — when we told our heavenly Father that we believed His will is best and we will walk through any door He opens.

It was almost one month later that God didn't just open a door but kicked open the door as wide as only He could. When we woke up that morning, we had no idea how our lives would change. Within one day's time, we went from being asked if we were interested in adoption, to presenting our information to a birth mom, to being chosen. Let me assure you that this did not happen without a lot of prayer and moving parts.

However, on that day God made His will and His plan known to us, and we knew we had to have blind faith and walk through the door He opened.

I wish I could tell you that the journey waiting for the birth was easy from here on out, but it wasn't. There were a lot of ups and downs the next seven months. Through it all, we felt the peace that Jesus alone can bring and were so thankful for His people surrounding us and encouraging us when we needed it the most. Finally, we got the call that our birth mom was in labor. We then jumped in our car and trekked to Detroit through the worst snowstorm of the year.

On February 11, God gave us the greatest gift we have ever known. Our daughter, Stella Quinn, was born. We spent the next two days in the hospital where we shared a room with our birth mom and Stella. At the time it felt like the hardest and longest 48 hours of our life as we watched someone else take care of our daughter. Looking back, once again, our heavenly Father's will was best. Those 48 hours allowed us to build a stronger relationship with our birth mom, and she was able to spend precious time with the child she would always love but never raise.

Stella is now five months old, and we are just waiting for the judge to sign off on finalization. We are still amazed every single day by how perfect our daughter is and how perfect God's will and plan for our family has been. We are truly blessed, and we love being able to share our story and our Triune God's faithfulness after many years of waiting. His will is truly what's best for us! *Q*



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