

OUR WILL & THE WILL OF GOD

"Whose will will I choose?"

God made us _____. I have the right of choice in determining what I do, who I serve, where I go, & how I live. We have been given the ability to _____.

"The power to decide or make a decision is the most powerful right given to man. Therein lies the greatest of responsibility & the gravest of accountability; the power of choice."

Have you ever considered how choosing your will affects God's will or even thought that your will can affect God's will?

Matt. 26:39-41

39 And He went a little further, and fell on His face, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from Me: nevertheless not as I will, but as Thou wilt.

40 And He cometh unto the disciples, and findeth them asleep, and saith unto Peter, What, could ye not watch with Me one hour?

41 Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed *is* willing, but the flesh *is* weak.

What Jesus is saying is, "I have a will. I can choose. I know the facts, but I also know the truth. So I will do Your will." When He told the disciples "the spirit indeed *is* willing, but the flesh *is* weak." I don't believe that He was describing their condition, but his own condition. If Jesus would have fallen here, the will of God would have gone undone. There was no Plan B.

Lk 5:5 "...nevertheless, at Thy Word I will..."

Faith begins where the will of God is known. When we know the will of God, then we can act on it. But even then, we have the _____ of not doing what we know.

One word from God can change our life forever! But if it's not what we want to hear, then we may choose not to do it. The Word can influence you from doing your will to choosing His will, but you can still over-ride it. "Thy Word...I will."

Rom 12:2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, in order to prove by you what *is* that good and pleasing and perfect will of God.

What is the "will"? The will is the faculty of choice, the immediate cause of all action. It means to deliberately choose a course of action.

Choice implies the _____ of one thing and the _____ of another. The positive and the negative must both be present to the mind before there can be any choice. In every act of the will there is a _____ — the desiring of one thing over another. Choice is determined by various influences brought to bear upon the individual. That which gives us volition (*an act of making a choice or decision; the power of choosing or determining*) is the effect of these considerations and influences. Acts of the will cannot come to pass of themselves. In other words, my will cannot operate independent of my choices. My choices are reflections of my desires; it's what I really want.

Ps 37:4 Delight thyself also in the LORD; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart.

What is it that determines the will? That which has the strongest motive power and greatest influence. What this motive power is, varies in different cases. With one it may be the logic of reason, with another the voice of conscience, with another the impulse of the emotions, with another the whisper of the tempter, with another the power of the Holy

Spirit, with another the influence of The Word; whichever of these presents the strongest motive power and exerts the greatest influence upon the individual himself, is that which impels the will to act. In other words, the action of the will is determined by that condition of mind &/or heart (which in turn is influenced by the world, the flesh, and the Devil, as well as by God).

Isa 14:12-15

12 How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! *How* art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations!

13 For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north:

14 I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High.

15 Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit.

Human philosophy insists that it is the will which governs the man, but the Word of God teaches that it is the _____ which is the dominating centre of our being.

Prov 4:23 Keep thy heart with all diligence; for *out of it* are the issues of life.

Mk 7:21-23

21 For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders,

22 Thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness:

23 All these evil things come from within, and defile the man.

The word “heart” is found in the Bible more than three times oftener than is the word “will”, even though nearly half of the references to the latter refer to *God’s* will!

Why do we make the choices we do? Because of preferences. And why do we prefer something?

Because our heart wants it. We choose what we prefer.

James 4:7 Submit yourselves therefore to God, resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

Submission to God is the key to victory. When our will is submitted to Him we won’t have to worry about going wrong & making mistakes. When we obey it will turn out ok! Because He’s in charge!

A prime example of wrong choices resulting in fatal & near-fatal endings.

2Chron 18:1-7, 13, 16, 17, 27-34

1 And Jehoshaphat had riches and honor in abundance, and he contracted a marriage with Ahab.

2 And after *some* years *he* went down to Ahab to Samaria. And Ahab killed sheep and oxen in abundance for him, and for the people that were with him. And he persuaded him to go up with him to Ramoth-gilead.

3 And Ahab king of Israel said to Jehoshaphat king of Judah, Will you go with me to Ramoth-gilead? And he answered him, I *am* as you, and my people are as your people, and *we* with you in the war.

4 And Jehoshaphat said to the king of Israel, Please inquire at the Word of Jehovah today.

5 And the king of Israel gathered four hundred men of the prophets and said to them, Shall we go to Ramoth-gilead to battle, or shall I wait? And they said, Go up, for God will deliver *it* into the king's hand.

6 But Jehoshaphat said, *Is there* not a prophet of Jehovah here besides, so that we might ask of Him?

7 And the king of Israel said to Jehoshaphat, *There is* yet one man by whom we may inquire of Jehovah. But I hate him, for he never prophesied good to me, but always evil. The same is Micaiah the son of Imla. And Jehoshaphat said, Let not the king say so.

13 And Micaiah said, *As the Lord lives, even what my God says, that I will speak.* (He had been told to say what the others said)

16 And he said, I saw all Israel scattered on the mountains, like sheep that *have* no shepherd. And Jehovah said, These *have* no master; let them return, each man to his own house in peace.

17 And the king of Israel said to Jehoshaphat, Did I not tell you he would not prophesy good concerning me, but evil?

27 And Micaiah said, If you certainly return in peace, *then* Jehovah has not spoken by me. And he said, Listen, all you people. (Watch this y'all)

28 And the king of Israel and Jehoshaphat the king of Judah went up to Ramoth-gilead.

29 And the king of Israel said to Jehoshaphat, I will disguise myself and will go to the battle. But you put on your robes. And the king of Israel disguised himself. And they went to the battle.

30 And the king of Syria had commanded the commanders of the chariots with him, saying, Do not fight with small or great, but only with the king of Israel.

31 And it happened when the commanders of the chariots saw Jehoshaphat, they said, It *is* the king of Israel. And they surrounded him to fight. But Jehoshaphat cried out, and Jehovah helped him. And God moved them *to leave* him. (O, God help me, I've made a mistake! God did)

32 For it happened when the commanders of the chariots saw that it was not the king of Israel, they turned back again from pursuing him.

33 And a *certain* man drew a bow at random, and struck the king of Israel between the joinings and the breastplate. And he said to the charioteer, Turn your hand, and you shall bring me out of the army, for I am wounded.

34 And the battle increased that day; and the king of Israel was made to stand up in *his* chariot against the Syrians until the evening. And about the time of the sunset he died.

Getting God's direction clear in your spirit is what will carry you through to victory when trials come; and they will come. You must know for certain what God's will is concerning you or you could be easily swayed. Never make a decision about anything you're not clear on. Don't say, "Well, I don't know what to do so I just try this & see if God is in it." That's dangerous! Knowing God's will in your spirit is like an anchor to keep you on course when you see others drifting by caught in the current. Keeping your heart clean & pure, desiring only what God wants for you, learning the tone of His voice, & maintaining a high level of sensitivity to His touch & leadings will ensure the choices you make & the discernment you have towards His will to be come more accurate. So go forward into His Will for your life!

Prayer of Consecration to Know and to Do God's Will: "Heavenly Father, I desire to fulfill Your will for my life. I lay down my plans, purposes, and pursuits so that Your plans, purposes, and pursuits can be expressed through my life. I will not be selfish, but I will walk in the love of God. I plant my life as a seed, knowing that as I do, I will receive a mighty harvest. Father, I thank You for putting Your desires in my heart. I know that if You put your desires in my heart, You will fulfill those desires. I have no fear or apprehension about Your plan for my life, but I trust You with every detail of that which concerns me. I believe that Your plan for my life will fulfill me beyond anything I could think of on my own. I will use my gifts, talents and abilities for the advancement of Your Kingdom and for the purpose of serving others. I believe I receive the prosperity and abundance that comes from fulfilling the will of God for my life. I know that my success lies in my willingness to do what You call me to do, even if I don't know how it will turn out. I am open to Your direction and will go where You tell me to go and will do what You tell me to do. I look forward to living the good life and experiencing days of Heaven on Earth, because I am submitted to the will of God for my life. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen."

Scriptural references: John 12: 24-26· Psalm 37:4· Psalm 138:8