

# Will Power – Your Way or Yahweh?

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“The tempted one needs to understand the true force of the will. This is the governing power in the nature of man the power of decision, of choice. Everything depends on the right action of the will. Desires for goodness and purity are right, so far as they go; but if we stop here, they avail nothing. Many will go down to ruin while hoping and desiring to overcome their evil propensities. They do not yield the will to God. They do not choose to serve Him.

God has given us the power of choice; it is ours to exercise. We cannot change our hearts; **we cannot control our thoughts, our impulses, or our affections.** We cannot make ourselves pure, fit for God's service. **But we can choose to serve God, we can give Him our will; then He will work in us to will and to do according to His good pleasure.** Thus our whole nature will be brought under the control of Christ.

Through the right exercise of the will, an entire change may be made in the life. **By yielding up the will to Christ, we ally ourselves with divine power.** We receive strength from above to hold us steadfast. **A pure and noble life, a life of victory over appetite and lust, is possible to everyone** who will unite his weak, wavering human will to the omnipotent, unwavering will of God.” (*Ministry of Healing, page 176*)

The heavenly intelligences will work with the human agent... Christ says, I am at your right hand to help you. **As the will of man co-operates with the will of God, it becomes omnipotent.** Whatever is to be done at His command may be accomplished in His strength. **All His biddings are enablings.** (*Christ's Object Lessons 332-333*)

## ♥ **We cannot control our thoughts, our impulses, our affections**

Romans 7:21-23; Matthew 26:41; John 5:19, 30; John 15:5; Romans 9:16.

## ♥ **We can choose to serve God**

Joshua 24:15; Deuteronomy 30:19. yt

## ♥ **We can give Him our will**

Matthew 7:21; Acts 9:6; Matthew 26:39, 42; Psalm 40:8; John 6:38; 1 Corinthians 15:31; 1 John 2:17; Romans 8:13.

## ♥ **Then He will work in us to will and to do according to His good pleasure**

Psalm 143:10; Phil. 2:13; 2 Timothy 1:9; Isaiah 30:21; Hebrews 13:5; Matthew 28:20; John 10:27; Psalm 32:8,9.

## ♥ **Thus our whole nature will be brought under the control of Christ**

Ezekiel 36:26-27; 2 Corinthians 10:5; John 15:4.

## ♥ **By yielding up the will to Christ, we ally ourselves with divine power**

Revelation 3:20; 2 Corinthians 4:10, 11; Colossians 3:1-4; 2 Cor. 3:5; Ephesians 3:16-21.

## ♥ **A pure and noble life, a life of victory ... is possible to everyone...**

1 Corinthians 10:13; Matthew 1:21; 1 Corinthians 15:57; Philippians 4:13; Revelation 15:2, 14:12; Hebrews 13:20, 21.

## ♥ **The Secret of Death**

Galatians 2:20; EGW MS16, 1900; Colossians 1:25-27, 3:3-5; Jude 24, 25.

## We cannot control our thoughts, our impulses, or our affections

**Romans 7:21-23** I find then a law, that, when I would do good, evil is present with me. For I delight in the law of God after the inward man: But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members.

**John 5:19,30** I can of mine own self do nothing ... **John 15:5** ... without me ye can do nothing.

**Matthew 26:41** ... the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.

**Romans 9:16** So then it is not of him that willeth, nor of him that runneth, but of God that sheweth mercy.

## We can choose to serve God

**Joshua 24:15** ... choose you this day whom ye will serve; ... as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.

**Deuteronomy 30:19** ... choose life that both thou and thy seed may live:

## We can give Him our will

**Matthew 7:21** Not everyone that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father.

**John 6:38** For I came ... not to do mine own will, but the will of Him that sent me. **1 John 2:17** ... he that doeth the will of god abideth for ever.

**Matthew 26:39,42** ... not as I will, but as thou wilt ... thy will be done.. **Psalm 40:8** I delight to do thy will, O my God ...

**1 Corinthians 15:31** ... I die daily. **Acts 9:6** ... Lord, what wilt thou have me to do? ...

**Rom. 8:13** if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live.

## Then He will work in us to will and to do according to His good pleasure

**Psalm 143:10** Teach me to do thy will; for thou art my God: ...

**Philippians 2:13** For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.

**2 Timothy 1:9** ... not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace...

**Isaiah 30:21** And thine ears shall hear a word behind thee, saying, This is the way, walk ye in it...

**Hebrews 13:5** ... I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee. **Matthew 28:20** ... lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world...

**John 10:27** My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me:

**Psalm 32:8,9** I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go: I will guide thee with mine eye, but don't be like the senseless mule...

## Thus our whole nature will be brought under the control of Christ

**Ezekiel 36:26-27** A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh. And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them.

**2 Corinthians 10:5** ... bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;

**John 15:4** Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me.

## By yielding up the will to Christ, we ally ourselves with divine power

**Revelation 3:20** Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hears my voice, and opens the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him,

**2 Corinthians 4:10,11** Always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our body. For we who live are always delivered unto death for Jesus' sake, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our mortal flesh.

**Colossians 3:1-4** if ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God. When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory.

**2 Corinthians 3:5** Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think anything as of ourselves; but our sufficiency is of God;

**Ephesians 3:16-21** That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man; That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; ... And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fullness of God. Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us...

**2 Peter 1:4** Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature...

## A pure and noble life, a life of victory ... is possible to everyone

**1 Corinthians 10:13** There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.

**Matthew 1:21** ... thou shalt call his name JESUS: for He shall save his people from their sins.

**1 Corinthians 15:57** ... thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

**Philippians 4:13** I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.

**Revelation 15:2** And I saw ... them that had gotten the victory ... stand on the sea of glass, having the harps of God.

**Revelation 14:12** ... here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.

**Hebrews 13:20,21** Now the God of peace ... Make you perfect in every good work to do his will, ... through Jesus Christ; ...

## The Secret of Death

**Galatians 2:20** I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

**Commentary on Galatians 2:20:** "Everything good in men and women is the fruit of the working of the Holy Spirit. The Spirit teaches us to reveal righteousness in our lives. The greatest work that can be done in our world is to glorify God by living the character of Christ. God will make perfect only those who will die to self. Those who are willing to do this can say 'I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me.'" (EGW MS 16, 1900 & SDA Bible Commentary, Page 1109)

**Colossians 1:25-27; 3:3-5** God has given me(Paul) the responsibility of... proclaiming His entire message... This message was kept secret for Centuries...

**This is the secret: Christ lives in you! This gives you assurance of sharing His glory...** For you died to this life and your real life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is your life, is revealed..., you will share in all His Glory! So, put to death the sinful, earthly things lurking within you.

**Jude 1:24-25** Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy, To the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen.

# Jesus – our perfect example

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1. Upper Room -> Gethsemane –John 15&16
  - a. Jesus said that He must \_\_\_\_\_ Matthew 26:24
  - b. Where does the Holy Spirit desire to live? \_\_\_\_\_ John 14:15-21
  - c. Jesus bore the sin of many -Isaiah 53:12
  - d. Disciples determined to never \_\_\_\_\_ Matthew 26:31, 35
  - e. Even when my spirit is willing, my \_\_\_\_\_ is \_\_\_\_\_ Luke 22:40
  - f. “All that the Lord has said, we \_\_\_\_\_ ” Exodus 19:8
  - g. So... why the golden calf? -Exodus 32:1-6
  - h. In His humanity, how much could Jesus do, without the Father? \_\_\_\_\_ John 5:19&30
  - i. How much can I do without Jesus? \_\_\_\_\_ John 15:1-8
  - j. God opposes the \_\_\_\_\_ but gives grace to the \_\_\_\_\_ Prov. 3:34, James 4:6, 1Peter 5:5
2. In Gethsemane –Matthew 26:30-46, Mark 14:26-42, Luke 22:39-46, John 18:1
  - a. I should watch & pray so I don’t enter into \_\_\_\_\_ Luke 22:40
  - b. Jesus was severely tested and suffered greatly –Matthew 26:36-38, Mark 14:32-35
  - c. Jesus example of submission/surrender to Father God –Mt 26:39-44, Mk 14:35-36, Lk 22:42-44
  - d. What qualifies Jesus to be my example, “High Priest”, helper, and judge? Hebrews 2:14-18
  - e. Do I ask, “Lord, what would you have me to do?” Acts 9:6
  - f. All things work together for \_\_\_\_\_ for me as I love God –Romans 8:28
  - g. Why did Jesus endure all this suffering? \_\_\_\_\_ Hebrews 12:2
  - h. Why should I rejoice in my troubles and trials? Romans 5:3-5, James 1:2-4, 1Peter 4:12-14
  - i. An angel strengthened Jesus. Will God do that for me too? Luke 22:43
3. The Angry Mob –Matthew 26:47-56, Mark 14:43-52, Luke 22:47-53, John 18:2-12
  - a. How did Jesus react to Peter using his sword? \_\_\_\_\_ Mt 26:51-54, Lk 22:50-51, Jn 18:10-11
  - b. The wages of sin is \_\_\_\_\_ Romans 6:23
  - c. Am I a sinner? \_\_\_\_\_ (1John 1:8)
  - d. Did Jesus experience all the temptations I have experienced? \_\_\_\_\_ Hebrews 4:15
  - e. Who is going to pay the wages for my sins? Me? Jesus? (1Peter 2:24, Romans 6:23)
  - f. Have I checked my oil lately? Matthew 25:1-13
4. Annas, Caiaphas, & Peter
  - a. Did Jesus, in any way, defend Himself? \_\_\_\_\_ Mark 14:55-61, Matthew 22:63-65
  - b. Peter’s Denial –Matthew 26:58-75, Mark 14:54, Luke 22:54-62, John 18:15-27
  - c. Do I honestly believe that all things work together for good for me? Romans 8:28
  - d. Those responsible for Jesus’ death will witness His 2<sup>nd</sup> coming –Mark 14:61-62, Revelation 1:7
  - e. What will I do when it becomes dangerous for me to admit my convictions?
  - f. Do I give God permission to work in and through me? \_\_\_\_\_ Gal 2:20, Philippians 2:13
5. Pilot -> Herod -> Pilot –Matthew 27:2-26, Mark 15:2-15, Luke 23:1-25, John 18:28-39, 19:1-16
  - a. Jesus infers that nothing can happen to us who love God, without God’s permission John 19:10-11
6. Crucifixion –Matthew 27:31-56, Mark 15:20-41, Luke 23:26-49, John 19:16-30
  - a. Jesus saved the thief on the cross by grace. Do I qualify? \_\_\_\_\_ Romans 5:5-11, Ephesians 3:20
  - b. After Peter denied that he even knew Jesus, am I encouraged that Peter was still accepted? Mark 16:7
  - c. Do I choose to surrender all I am and all I have to Jesus? \_\_\_\_\_

**Further Study:** Desire of Ages, page 685 to the end of the book

Audio and Transcript of this message: <http://sidnash.org/crucified>

How to use Will Power: <http://sidnash.org/willpower> (including Sid’s testimony)

Story illustrating the principles of Romans 8:28: <http://sidnash.org/romans828>