

I WILL

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Romans Chapter 7; 12:3; 1 Corinthians 3:18-21

In Isaiah 14:22 Lucifer's for the first time thought independent of God. His thinking went from God only to Lucifer only; from "God's Will" to "I will." The result was the fall of Lucifer who became Satan and evil entered creation. Notice the five "I wills."

In Ecclesiastes 2:1-11 Solomon's thinking went from God first to Solomon first. In other words he got out of fellowship and the result was both failure and disaster in his life. Notice that the personal pronoun "I" appears 36 times in this chapter.

In Romans chapter 7 the great Apostle Paul expresses what happens to the believer who gets out of fellowship – all is failure, vanity and vexation. The personal pronoun "I" appears 30 times in this chapter. In chapter 8 Paul is in fellowship looking to Christ and "I" rarely occurs; his thoughts are absorbed in God, in Christ and the Holy Spirit is in control. Notice how many times the Godhead is mentioned in chapter 8 compared to the "I" in chapter 7.

As Christians, when we sin, we are under the control of self and the Holy Spirit is "quenched" (not in control). (1 Thessalonians 5:19). When we look to God (name sins 1 John 1:9) God restores us to fellowship – God is back in control. When God is continually given control of our lives we cannot fail in life and we cannot fail God.

When we become more important than God "I" dominates our thinking. When God is more important than self, God dominates our thinking and our lives. Self is God of our life or God is God of our life.

"I" is our greatest enemy. "I" is the "flesh." The flesh lusts against the spirit. We are constantly engaged in a battle of spiritual warfare between the flesh and the spirit. And, if that is not enough, we still must contend with other people {the world} and of course the devil – temptation to do evil (Gal. 5:17). The unbeliever fights the same battle except they are doomed in a losing battle. The only way to victory is faith in Jesus Christ. Our goal as believers and God's plan for our lives is that we stay in fellowship so God stays in control (Rom. 8:8). Mk. 14:38). When God controls victory is assured and God is glorified in the Angelic Conflict with Satan.

Both believer and unbeliever live life under the influence or control of self, other people, or/and, Satan. The believer only has the option of living under the control of the Holy Spirit. The

unbeliever has no other option because he has not humbled himself to the Cross Work of Christ.

We are influenced in our thinking. Therefore, it is imperative that our thinking be dominated by the Word of God because that is the power by which the Holy Spirit conforms and transforms our thinking. This is how we become like Christ – we learn Divine Viewpoint in Scripture. (1 Corinthians. 2:16). If you want to be an imitator of our Lord then you must learn to think and act like our Lord by consistently, daily inhaling God's Holy Word.

Christ always performed the Father's Will even when confronted with the suffering and torturing death of the Cross; even knowing in advance the agony of the nails (Luke 22:42). Here in the garden of Gethsemane our Savior is on bended knee. He remains submissive to the Father; He remained loyal to His calling. That loyalty to the Father's plan brought about our so great salvation. Jesus Christ remained loyal; He remained faithful; He remained on the Cross until our salvation was complete.

We must consistently learn Biblical Principles. We must constantly listen to the silent voice of God IN Scripture and from our memory of learned Scripture. When tempted we must immediately pray in the privacy of our soul (mind) so that we do not succumb to temptation (Luke 22:40; Mk. 14:38). The flesh is always weak, but the spirit is always willing to let God.

Victory in the Christian life means maturity and maturity means victory in Christ. Victory is assured when we follow Christ. Following Christ means Christ is allowed to lead us through every trial, every difficulty, every situation in life. No matter what happens He is with us. Nothing can happen to us unless our Lord allows it to happen. The Lord is perfectly righteous. He is perfectly trustworthy. If you ever doubt just take another look at the Cross - just bend your knees at the feet of Jesus. Jesus Christ controls history and if you give him control of your life He will hold your hand and lead you home.

The key to pleasing God is HUMILITY! Humility is submission. Humility is yielding control. Submission means choosing for rather than against God. Choice means free will – choose you this day who you will serve/follow as for me and my house we will serve the Lord (Josh.24:15). Obedience is non-meritorious.

NON-MERITORIOUS STEPS TO LIVING THE CHRISTIAN LIFE

1). Confession - name sins immediately and often, remaining consistently in fellowship. By definition, confession is: acknowledging sin or naming sins; it is cleansing. The immediate result is restoration to fellowship. Fellowship means God is in control; we are walking in step, in harmony with our Savior and Creator; He literally holds our hand and leads us down the plan (path) of righteousness for His Name sake (His Glory - our benefit) as His child and friend

(Psalm. 32:5; 38:18; 51:3,4; Proverbs. 28:13; Nehemiah 1:6; Dan. 9:4, 20; Lev.5:5; Josh 7:19; 1 Corinthians. 11:31; 2 Corinthians. 7:1; 2 Tim. 2: 21,22; 1 John 1:9; 1 Pet. 4:17.

2). God's Word –study daily, learn and apply to life's experience. The power of the Holy Spirit is the Bible - the God breathed (inhale/exhale) from God's own nostrils (Josh. 1:8, 9; 1 Corinthians. 10:42; 2 Tim. 2:15; 3: 14-17.

3). Pray without ceasing (mindset of thinking); pray for God's Will not your own; listen; make your requests Luke 11:1;18:1; 1 Cor.14:15; Eph.6:18; Phil. 4:6; Col. 4:2;1 Thessalonians. 5:17; 1 Tim. 2:1-3. Be thankful.

4). Humility, Faith, Trust, Believe: Romans chapters 8 & 10; 1 Corinthians. 10:11-13; 1:26-31; 2:1-16; 1Heb. Chapter 11 & 12; 2 Tim. 4:17,18.

5). Obey God's Will, God's Way: Rom. 12:1,2; 1 Corinthians. 3; 15:58; Phil. 4:18; Heb. Chapter12;

Confession IS yielding! Naming sins is non-meritorious. Salvation and the Christian life are both NON-MERITORIOUS. They are both gifts of Grace. Grace is: all that God is free to do because of the blood sacrifice (atoning work) of His Son on Calvary. God planned salvation; Christ executed the plan; the Holy Spirit reveals the plan. God planned the Christian life; Christ made it possible; the Holy Spirit executes it. We mature as Christians in direct proportion to the amount of time we spend in fellowship; the amount of time we spend in the Word; the amount of time we spend applying God's plan in our daily lives. We must be submissive to God more often than we are submissive to self.

God's Grace is totally sufficient! He doesn't need our help to complete His Plan! He desires our submission! He wants our attention! Each of us has a choice...God's Will or I will.

The more virtuous a man becomes the more he appreciates God's veracity. From man's viewpoint, God commands things because they are right. From God's viewpoint, things He commands are right. Human will becomes our own when it is truly God's. Because we are doing what we should have done which is His Will.

Thank You Father for your Son, your Holy Spirit, your Word and your Plan for our lives. In Jesus name, amen.