

DAY 1: Our Decision-Maker (Will)

We have already discovered that we have been created in God's image. Just as God has a will, so He has given us a will too. Our will is not "I think" or "I feel" but "I will decide." The will is the decision-making capacity which God has placed within our soul. When we see our will as a gift from God, we can then appropriately use this gift for His glory and not our own pleasure.

We have already discovered that our soul, or specifically our will, can decide to either join forces with our body (flesh) or with our spirit. Our will places us in "drive" mode.



If we see our soul as the driving wheel of our life, then we can better understand the reality that we can either turn to the left (to our flesh) or turn to the right (toward our spirit). It's our choice; and the choice that we make can have eternal ramifications.

Read Matthew 7:21. How important is our will in experiencing Kingdom life?

In other words, we have been given free will (the steering wheel) to either choose to walk in the Father's will or in our own selfish desires. Jesus said that only those who align their will with His and then follow through with action are able to enter into Kingdom living. Some Christians actually cease "driving" their life at the point of their salvation. They are on auto-pilot and their Christian life continues to be driven by their flesh (soul/body connection) rather than by their renewed heart (soul/spirit connection).

Although God has placed our will in our control, it can be activated, or influenced through various means.

Read the following Scriptures and note what influences the will is subject to:

Numbers 11:4

Mark 4:19

2 Peter 2:10

John 8:44

Ephesians 6:11-12

1 John 2:27

Acts 1:8

DIG DEEPER

Greed and evil are often connected in Scripture. Read the following Scriptures and note what you learn about evil desires:

Psalm 52:7

Proverbs 13:19

Micah 7:3

Colossians 3:5

The will can be activated by human power and manifest as greedy, evil desires. These desires choke out the working of the Word of God in our lives and lead us away from God's will for us.

Our soul can also be influenced by demonic power. Scripture tells us that we do not wrestle with flesh and blood but with demonic forces. These demonic forces roam about looking for our weaknesses so that they can trample us down and thus affect our "steering wheel."

We should be aware that these demonic forces cannot violate our "will." The enemy wants to control our destiny and steer it away from God's purposes. Satan's attacks are designed to weaken our will, so that each time it becomes easier for us to give in to his desires. But the devil can only win if we give in to him. God has given us a greater power which can overcome the demonic influences in our lives. That power is only obtained in the Holy Spirit.

Finally, the soul can also be activated by Divine Power by the Holy Spirit. We have been given an anointing or the presence of the Holy Spirit, who enables us to steer our life in God's direction. This Spirit is an empowering one that can overcome both fleshly desires and demonic forces.

We must learn to protect our will from the fleshly desires and demonic influences which bombard us every day. One way to protect our will is to stay in the Word of God. We cannot do God's will if we do not know God's will. Allowing the Scriptures to become ingrained in us is a sure way of protecting our will against the enemy's attacks and our own selfish desires.

Worship is another way to preserve our will. Worship brings us into God's presence and there is nothing that the devil despises more than being there!

Consistent obedience will begin to train our "steering wheel" to drive in God's direction. The more we obey Him, the easier it becomes to withstand our fleshly desires and satan's roaring voice!

SELAH!

How has the reality that our will is like a steering wheel helped you understand that we have a choice whether to walk in the flesh or in the Spirit. What prompts you to turn toward the flesh rather than the Spirit, even though you have been saved?

Which most often influences your decisions: human power, demonic power or Divine power? Why?

We mentioned a couple of ways to protect your will from fleshly or demonic powers. Can you think of any other ways to do this?

DIG DEEPER

**Read Psalm 22:3.
How are our praises
and worship of God
connected to His
Presence?**

**There are two ways
this verse is translated:
1) God inhabits our
praise or 2) God sits
enthroned upon our
praises. How are both
of these an accurate
picture of what occurs
when we worship
God?**