

HIS CHURCH LONDON

FREEDOM

THE WILL

LECTURE 5

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INTRODUCTION

God loves us, His people. God created us out of love and He gave us the ability to freely love in return. God's love for us is true. He gives us free will so we can have the freedom to choose to truly love Him back (or not).

GOD HAS GIVEN YOU AND I FREE WILL

We choose to get saved

Romans 10:9 (NIV)

"If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved."

We choose to live the set apart life

Deuteronomy 30:19 (NIV)

"This day I call the heavens and the earth as witnesses against you that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life, so that you and your children may live"

Galatians 5:16 (NIV)

16 So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.

God will not violate your free will

Psalms 89:34 (NIV)

"I will not violate my covenant or alter what my lips have uttered."

He respects your choice

He does not want to be in relationship with 'robots'

Your will is the essence of who you are. Your renewed mind can communicate His perfect will, your emotions communicate your conflicting desires, but it is your will that determines your actions.



Even Jesus had to yield His will

Luke 22:41-43 (NIV)

“He withdrew about a stone’s throw beyond them, knelt down and prayed, “Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done.” An angel from heaven appeared to him and strengthened him.”

He knew His calling, but, his flesh wanted to resist it. He had to yield to embrace the cross. We do not have a literal cross, but as followers of Christ we have to pick up our ‘cross’ and follow him – our cross denotes denying our flesh in one way or another

Matthew 16:24(NIV)

24 Then Jesus said to his disciples, “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.

We will reap from the choices we make

Galatians 6:7-11 (NIV)

“Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. Whoever sows to please their flesh, from the flesh will reap destruction; whoever sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life. Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up”

This is amazing when we are walking in God’s perfect will. Unfortunately, many of us open doors to the enemy by our actions.

To resist the devil, we have to activate our will and stand on God’s truth

James 4:7-8 (NIV)

“Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.”



God has a plan, so does the devil. We have to open our mouth and address the devil like James tell us to – this is how we begin to walk in victory!

To maintain victory over the enemy, we have to continually activate our will in line with God's truth

Luke 11:24-26 (NIV)

“When an impure spirit comes out of a person, it goes through arid places seeking rest and does not find it. Then it says, ‘I will return to the house I left.’ When it arrives, it finds the house swept clean and put in order. Then it goes and takes seven other spirits more wicked than itself, and they go in and live there. And the final condition of that person is worse than the first.”.

We have to always remember; the enemy wants us in bondage – not freedom!

God requires the will of man to be active to accomplish His will.

- We are creatures of dominion (Genesis)
- We are creatures of decision
- Spiritual life begins with a choice
- Spiritual life continues with choice. Our decisions establish God's will in our lives. Reach out and take hold of God's will - God moves
- God doesn't require you to give up your personality and who you are. God wants your character transformed into His image, our personality stays me, a more liberated version
- God never substitutes His will for man's. He requires intelligent, willing co-operation with His will
- Christians get off into deception when they want to let God make all their decisions. They are afraid of the responsibility of deciding courses of action that will determine their future, so will seek out counsellors or pastors to make these decisions for them. You are always responsible for your decisions – you cannot escape that responsibility



- Deception comes out of passivity.
- Passivity is the will that is not working.
- Satan requires a passive will to accomplish his purpose.

PASSIVE WILL

SYMPTOMS OF PASSIVITY

- Inertia – waiting for some external force to move him / her.
- Innumerable unfinished jobs – God requires endurance, i.e. following through with what you start. A passive person can be quick to respond but doesn't follow through.
- Unable to concentrate – Concentration is part of endurance. You need to think through and follow through so as to finish the job.
- Unable to make decisions or initiate
- Afraid of making decisions; want others to be responsible for their decisions.
- Always in doubt, fearful – governed by circumstances. (People with deep emotional problems have difficulty in this area).
- Will never come out of a deep problem without deciding to.
- Double-mindedness, instability – Passive person makes a decision then backs off, afraid that he has made the wrong decision. Never knows if he is in or out of God's will
- Physical inertia, mechanical actions – What happens to you spiritually affects you physically.



ROOTS OF PASSIVITY

- Overwork / exhaustion
- Extended ministry
- Persistent Illness
- Breakdowns
- Deep emotional hurts
- Trauma
- Domineering parent / friend / partner
- Continued negative circumstances
- Burn out

BURN-OUT

Be careful of:

- Striving – always having to overwork
- Wrong priorities – work before family
- Emotionally unresponsive to people – easily irritated
- Physical symptoms – backaches, ulcers, etc
- Relationship with God suffers
- Begins to procrastinate – so many problems that you put things off and they accumulate to the point of overwhelming you. You won't be able to cope, will avoid decisions and responsibility and will be overcome by passivity

The enemy has a way of burying us under our problems. We need to face the mountain, not hide from it. In order to walk in victory, we have to activate our will, stand on God's promises, rebuke the enemy and continue to stand until we see God's best!