

“Living in God’s Will” - Mark 1:39-45

- 39 *And He went into their synagogues throughout all Galilee, preaching and casting out the demons.*
- 40 *And a leper came to Jesus, beseeching Him and falling on his knees before Him, and saying, "If You are willing, you can make me clean."*
- 41 *Moved with compassion, Jesus stretched out His hand and touched him, and said to him, "I am willing; be cleansed." [MARK THE WORD OF JESUS FOR TODAY]*
- 42 *Immediately the leprosy left him, and he was cleansed.*
- 43 *And He sternly warned him and immediately sent him away,*
- 44 *and He said to him, "See that you say nothing to anyone; but go, show yourself to the priest and offer for your cleansing what Moses commanded, as a testimony to them."*
- 45 *But he went out and began to proclaim it freely and to spread the news around, to such an extent that Jesus could no longer publicly enter a city, but stayed out in unpopulated areas; and they were coming to Him from everywhere.*

GOD HAS A WILL (“I am willing”)

Personality = 1. Intellect (A thinking mind - Omniscience) +
2. Sensibility (Feelings & Emotions - Love, Anger, etc.) +
3. Will (Choice, Preference - Omnipotence)

Jesus in John 6:38: *"For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me."*

Jesus teaching us the “Lord’s Prayer” prayed in Matthew 6:10: *“Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.”*

GOD’S WILL HAS FREEDOM

God’s will for you does not have to mean a “predetermined, step by step blueprint of every move you should make. His “will” is less a predetermined plan and more a Fatherly concern for you within desired parameters. (Just like an earthly Father’s “will”.) God allows us a free will in the freedom of the Spirit.

Galatians 5:13 For you were called to freedom, brethren; only do not turn your freedom into an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.

GOD'S WILL FOR ME IN ONE WORD: CLEANSING ("be cleansed")

So how does God want us to be "cleansed"? A: In soul, mind, body & spirit.

We want God to always be able to say to us: "I am willing." In order for that to be the case we must live in His will. Thus, the title of today's lesson: "Living in His Will"

A. LIVING IN GOD'S WILL TO BE CLEANSED MEANS KNOWING HIS WILL FOR ME

1. SALVATION

Matthew 18:14 So it is not the will of your Father who is in heaven that one of these little ones perish.

John 6:40 For this is the will of My Father, that everyone who beholds the Son and believes in Him will have eternal life, and I Myself will raise him up on the last day.

2. SANCTIFICATION (morally pure)

1 Thessalonians 4:3 For this is the will of God, your sanctification; that is, that you abstain from sexual immorality.

1 Peter 1:14-15 As obedient children, do not be conformed to the former lusts which were yours in your ignorance, but like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves also in all your behavior.

Romans 8:28-29a and we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose. For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son...

3. SPIRIT-FILLED

Ephesians 5:17-18 So then do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but be filled with the Spirit.

4. SACRIFICE OF BODY AND MIND

Romans 12:1-2 Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing

of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.

B. LIVING IN GOD'S WILL FOR CLEANSING MEANS PRAYING IN HIS WILL (guaranteed answers)

1 John 5:14 This is the confidence which we have before Him, that, if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests which we have asked from Him.

John 9:31 We know that God does not hear sinners; but if anyone is God-fearing and does His will, He hears him.

IS IT ALWAYS GOD'S WILL FOR YOU TO BE HEALED? (MUCH confusion here)

1 Peter 4:19 Therefore, those also who suffer according to the will of God shall entrust their souls to a faithful Creator in doing what is right.

2 Corinthians 7:9-10 I now rejoice, not that you were made sorrowful, but that you were made sorrowful to the point of repentance; for you were made sorrowful according to the will of God, so that you might not suffer loss in anything through us. For the sorrow that is according to the will of God produces a repentance without regret, leading to salvation, but the sorrow of the world produces death.

1 Thessalonians 5:18 In everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

Matthew 26:39 And He [Jesus] went a little beyond them [the disciples], and fell on His face and prayed, saying, "My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; yet not as I will, but as You will."

2 Corinthians 12:7-11 Because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, for this reason, to keep me from exalting myself, there was given me a thorn in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to torment me--to keep me from exalting myself! Concerning this I implored the Lord three times that it might leave me. And He has said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness " Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me. Therefore, I am well content with weaknesses, with insults, with distresses, with persecutions, with difficulties, for Christ's sake; for when I am weak, then I am strong.

Answer: Yes and No.

Yes, in that God ultimately desires us to be conformed to the image of Jesus – completely whole. Colossians 2:10 tells us that we have been made complete in Jesus – meaning we have everything we need for godliness in this life.

Yes, in that God’s eternal plan for his children is to make them sinless and eternally without pain or sickness in His heavenly kingdom.

In that regard we see God perform many miracles of healing, cleansing and transformation both to glorify Himself and move us toward perfection.

No, in that suffering is a part of the earthly experience – even, and often especially, for the Christian. Suffering often includes sickness and pain.

No, in that God teaches that he often uses physical suffering in the life of his children to bring repentance and/or perseverance and proven character.

No, in that sickness is a part of dying – the curse we are all still under. Apart from Jesus return and our rapture, we will all die and be sick in the process of dying.

C. LIVING IN GOD’S WILL FOR CLEANSING MEANS BELIEVING GOD IS ABLE TO HEAL AND ASKING FOR HEALING – GIVING GOD THE GLORY WHETHER THE OUTCOME

Matthew 9:28-29 When He entered the house, the blind men came up to Him, and Jesus said to them, "Do you believe that I am able to do this?" They said to Him, "Yes, Lord." Then He touched their eyes, saying, "It shall be done to you according to your faith."

Job 1:21 He said, "naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked I shall return there. The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away. Blessed be the name of the Lord."

CONCLUSION:

Praise God that He says to us “I am willing – be cleansed”

Praise Him that He has a will and gives us a will.

Praise Him that He has given us the parameters for living in His will.

Praise Him that He is a healing and miracle working God and invites us to ask Him and believe Him for healing.

Praise Him when healing comes – He is the giver of all good things.

Praise Him when healing seems not to come – He is the giver of all good things.

Song of Response: "Blessed Be Your Name"

And, if you have a desire to be prayed over for cleaning of spirit, mind or body
– please come as we sing, and someone will meet you to pray with you.

Let's "MARK" the Word of Jesus: "I am willing, be cleansed"