

## DOING GOD'S WILL, NOT OUR OWN WILL

(Praise Fellowship – 28/9/86)

### **Mark 14:34-37**

Jesus faced the Cross in the Garden of Gethsemane and prayed, v35, 36, to the Father, that another way might be found. It was not Jesus' will to go to the Cross, but He prayed and chose, "not My will, but Thine be done." Our eternal salvation depends on Jesus' denial of His own will, and His choosing of the Father's will. I am now saved because Jesus denied His own will, and chose what God wanted.

### **Genesis 3:5**

Satan's temptation in the Garden of Eden was a temptation to man, to reject God's will, *Gen 2:17*, and to become self-willed, independent of God, and self sufficient. Satan's lie was "you will become as gods," i.e. you will be your own boss, run your own life, do your own thing, and please yourself. Man's heart and nature changed radically from being God centred, to self centred.

(N.B. Jesus denied self and obeyed God, to win for us eternal salvation.) Man's action was rebellion against God's law, *Gen 2:16,17*, i.e. man chose to disobey God and obey Satan's lie.

As a result of this, all the descendants of Adam, everyone of us, are born into this world with a self willed nature, which is self sufficient, and seeks to live independent from God.

God's Word says, "everyone of us have gone our own way," like lost sheep, and this is iniquity. *Is 53:6, Ps 14:2,3, Rom 3:10-12, Jer 17:9, Eph 4:22, Lk 11:23, Rom 3:23.*

The only answer to this deep-rooted problem in our heart, of self-will, is **REPENTANCE**.

### **Mat 3:2,8,10.**

John the Baptist said **REPENT** because the Kingdom of heaven is at hand. God's Kingdom was coming to the earth, through God's Son the Lord Jesus Christ, and the only way anyone can enter the Kingdom, and the Rule of God, is by refusing and rejecting self will, and choosing the will of God. The Kingdom of God is the sphere where God is King. It is not possible to live in God's Kingdom and live in self-will, doing your own thing.

God's Kingdom is where God reigns, and where His will is done. It is light, life, love, liberty, healing, salvation, peace, truth, goodness, joy, freedom from demons, victory over the world, deliverance from death, destruction, disease and the devil. It is forgiveness, mercy and the fulness of God's Spirit and all and every promise of God fulfilled. It is not a place of **go your own way, do your own thing and please yourself**.

No-one can serve their own will and God's will at the same time. *Deut 12:8*

Jesus preached **REPENTANCE**: *Mat 4:17, Mat 9:13, Mk 1:14,15, Mk 6:12, Lk 13:3,5, Lk 15,7,10.*

The apostles preached **REPENTANCE**: *Ac 2:38, Ac 3:19, Ac 17:30, Ac 26:20.*

**REPENTANCE** is making Jesus No 1 in your life. making Him Lord, putting Him first, and rejecting self will.

Most problems in the church, and in the Christian life, stem from a lack of repentance, i.e. from self will. What we call **sins**, like pride, anger, hate, envy, fear, unbelief, doubt, greed, lust, immorality,

unforgiveness, lies, stealing, jealousy, unkindness, resentment, covetousness, cursing, sensuality, arrogance and so on, are the **FRUIT** of the tree of self will. We need **to repent** of these sins, turn away from them for sure, but the problem lies deeper in the **ROOT** of self-will. John said the axe (of repentance) is laid at the **ROOT** of the tree. *Mat 3:10*. The **FRUIT** of the tree is what we call **sins**, but the **ROOT** of the tree is self will, self-pleasing.

There has to come a time, when we come to the place, of rejecting self will, and determining to choose God's will, as Jesus did: *Lk 2:49, Jn 4:34, Jn 5:30, Jn 6:38, Jn 7:16, Jn 8:29, Mk 14:34-36, Josh 24:15* "Choose this day whom you will serve, as for me...." Job made this choice too: *Job 42:5,6*. Isaiah also: *Is 6:1-8*. Saul (Paul) also: *Ac 26:9-20*. It is a choice we all have to make to be able to enter the Kingdom of God's rule and salvation.

Repentance is not just an initial thing in the Christian life. Jesus said it is a daily walk of denying self, *Lk 9:23*.

Unfortunately in the past, we have invited people to accept Jesus as Saviour, rather than leading them to repent first and make Jesus Lord of all. This has led to the situation where people try to be Christians, living in God's mercy and salvation without first surrendering their whole lives to God.

Obedience is the result of the surrender of our will to God. Jesus said, you cannot serve two masters. We cannot serve God and self will. **OBEDIENCE** to God and to His will requires the surrender of our own will to God. *Lk 6:46, Mat 7:21, Lk 17:10, Lk 8:21, Mat 7:24*.

What hope have we got if we do our own thing, go our own way, and please our own will? We need to cry out to God daily to set us free and deliver us from the root of self-will, so that we can do His will, *Rom 12:1,2*. He will hear our cry and set us free.

Disobedience for the Christian is rebellion against God, and although He loves us, it opens up the door to the enemy. *1Sam 15:22,23*. Disobedience to God is obedience to self-will, or worse, it gives the enemy (Satan) access.

### **How can we repent, make Jesus Lord, and refuse the power of self-will?**

Know that God commands repentance, *Ac 17:30, Mat 4:17*.

1. Know that God **enables** us to repent by the power of His Spirit and grace. *Rom 12:1,2, Rom 2:4, Rev 3:19, Jer 31:18, 2Tim 2:25, 2Pet 3:9, Phil 2:13, (Good News Bible is clear), Heb 13:20,21, Ezk 36:25-27, Deut 30:6, Ps 138:8, Gal 2:20, Rom 6:6,11,14,22, Phil 1:6, 2Cor 5:17, 2Cor 6:16, 1Thes 5:23,24, 2Pet 1:3,4, Col 1:27, Job 23:14*.
2. Exercise **power of choice**, to deny self will and choose God's will. *Deut 30:19,20, Josh 24:15, Lk 9:23*.
3. Ask for it. *Ps 51:10*, and keep on asking, *Lk 11:9,10*.
4. Exercise faith, **believe the promises** mentioned above under 2. Claim these, speak them aloud, press through. God has said it. He will do it. He is faithful, *1Thes 5:24*.
5. Encourage others and yourself, to seek God daily in His Word and prayer, to grow steadily in faith, *2Thes 1:3*, and in the power of the Holy Spirit, *Lk 11:13*.
6. Rejoice in God with thanksgiving and praise, and His life will keep flowing into you and through you. *Ps 61:8, Neh 8:10, Ps 5:11*