

WILLINGNESS OF THE HEART

By: Bill Richardson

“The LORD said to Moses, come up to me on the mountain and be there; and I will give you tablets of stone, and the law and commandments which I have written, that you may teach them. So Moses went into the mountain. Then the LORD spoke to Moses saying: Speak to the children of Israel, that they bring me an offering. For everyone who gives it willingly with his heart you shall take MY offering” (Exodus 24:12, 18: 25: 1-2).

Thus with these instructions to Moses by the Lord is the introduction of freewill offering. Freewill can, I think, be best explained by saying; to have your heart right with the LORD and no reservations. Said another way, do it because you have a heart's yearning (a determined mind) to do it. It is a mind that has been trained to know the proper reason for doing, including knowing what to do. (Cf. 1 Peter 2:15-16).

Do we know and can we read the manifestation of our heart when we are blessed as we do God's will? *“Then everyone came whose heart was stirred, and everyone whose spirit was willing, and they brought the Lord's offering for the work...” (Exodus 35:21).* Note; there was no penalty mentioned for abstentions. There is a reason for that...all were involved, men, women and children, everyone! Why was everyone involved? They had willing hearts! Yes they had willing hearts and for good reason. They were motivated.

It is true that each one had something to do with their own hearts, but their leader and trainer had great influence because of proper teaching and training. It is nothing short of glorious the good that can and will be done when God's people have willing hearts. Never leave out the love ingredient. What ever we do we must do for the right reason, and that reason is love. Read 1 Corinthians 13:1-2. I know that you know what it says, but read and ponder it again. Then, read the rest of the chapter. If you read any of 1 Corinthians 13, thou shalt read all of it...so say I. It will do us much good, if thy heart is willing. Truth is; it helps to develop that willing heart.

Gifts brought to the LORD (your life of service) are of value in this life and only as they are used to build faith, hope and love. Love is God's purpose for His people...always.” The only need God has is your love manifested in obedience of Christlikeness in our stewardship of our talents which is given to by God through Christ.

“A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another” (John 13:34-35). Unbelievers cannot

enjoy the blessings and rewards this commandment brings; the reward of eternal life, because they are in sin and sin cannot enter heaven. For other exclusions from heaven ponder these scriptures: (1 Corinthians 6:9-10; Galatians 5:19-21; Ephesians 5:5; Revelation 21:27; 22:14).

Our love for one another must resemble His love for us. And we must be willing to manifest that love in our life as God's willingness to give His Son whose willingness was to die for all mankind. Knowing this is the first step for believers. Then manifest willingness in our life of love by going and telling others...City, County, States and worldwide to all Nations.

Please study and give thought to these words: *"This is eternal life that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent"* (John 17:3). Those are some of the words which Jesus Christ our Savior prayed to His Heavenly Father. The prayer of Jesus is in full text in the 17th chapter of John, twenty-six verses, and please takes note of all that is involved in that prayer.

Willingness on God's part to exercise mercy to man is expressed in many scriptures. It is God's choice and according to His time. This has been proven. God even swore to it. *"When you are in distress, and all these things come upon you in the latter days, when you turn to the LORD and obey His voice (for the LORD your God is a merciful God), He will not forsake you nor destroy you, nor forget the covenant of your fathers which He (God) swore to them"* (Deuteronomy 4:30-31).

It is clear that part of seeking Him is to obey Him. It can be said; there is no way to separate loving God from a holy life-style. As said in the scripture, we are to *"give thanks unto the LORD; for He is good; for His mercy endureth forever"* (1 Chronicles 16:3). And, *"it is of the Lord's mercies that we are NOT consumed, because His compassion fails not"* (Lamentations 3:22).

Willingness on our part to exercise mercy is known because, *"His mercy extends to those who fear Him, from generation to generation"* (Luke 1:50). *"I will have mercy on whomever I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whomever I will have compassion. So then it is not of him who wills, nor of him who runs, but of God who shows mercy"* (Romans 9:15-16).

"For God has bound all men over to disobedience so that He may have mercy on them all" (Romans 11:32). *"But because of His great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy loved us even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ..."* (Ephesians 2:4).

Paul in his dissertation to Timothy said, in making prayer a priority, *"Therefore I exhort (which is to encourage) first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions and giving of thanks be made for all men..."* (1 Timothy 2:1). Paul then continues by saying, *"For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our savior, who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth"* (1 Timothy 1:3-4).

God is willing and desirous that His people live in proper relationship with Him by doing His will and doing for other, which is His, will also. We, (His people) are Ambassadors for the cause of Christ (2 Corinthians 5:20). Here this, *“The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance”* (2 Peter 3:9).

Chapter three of Second Peter addresses the purpose for which we should know and be thankful for. The first verse tells us, *“Beloved, I now write to you this second epistle (in both of which I stir up your pure mind by ways of reminder)...”* Peter continues, and you need to read and study the entire chapter for yourself, and I guarantee it will “stir up your mind.” But for this study v. 9 (seven lines above in full text) is being to connect to the theme of “willingness” that we are dwelling on.

To stir us up is, in my opinion, needed regularly. That is a technique (and should be our practice) in motivation and learning. To become proficient we have to practice, practice, practice. In this way it gets into our heart and soul and develops strong love and we become willing. Willingness to do His will, because of love and heart’s desire...there is nothing quite like it. It works when you get up in the morning, when you sit down to eat, when you walk by the way and when you go to bed at night.

Let’s read together a number of thoughts given us in Proverbs. They will fit in well with the philosophy (of mine) in the paragraph above, but you can be the judge.

“...do not forget my law, but let your heart keep my commands; for length of days and long life and peace they will add to you.

“Let not mercy and truth forsake you; Bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart, and so find favor and high esteem in the sight of God and man.

“Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths. “Do not be wise in your own eyes; Fear the LORD and depart from evil. “It will be health to your flesh and strength to your bones” (Proverbs 3:1-8).

Isn’t it a blessing to get “stirred up in mind”, it is a wonderful impact on the Biblical heart? Run this through your heart again, *“The Lord is not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance”* (2 Peter 3:9). Christ will return! The Bible teaches us that. Judgment is an appointment and every knee will bow.

Christ is willing to return at the time known only to God. If it were considered by anyone that God has delayed, it would be prudent to think it over, because untaught and unstable people are reckless with their twisted thinking and we, as are

they, warned to be ready to give account. Make sure you read all of 2 Peter 3, and note what is said as it ends by saying, *“To Him be the glory both now and forever. Amen!”* (See also Romans 11:36; 2 Timothy 4:18; Revelation 1:6).

Willingness on Christ’s part to do God’s will is spoken by Christ in His own words: *“My food is to do the will of Him who sent me, and to finish His work”* (John 4:34). To do the will and finish the work of the Father is a pattern for every believer alike. *“Jesus said, ‘I can of myself do nothing. As I hear I judge; and my judgment is righteous, because I do not seek My own will but the will of the Father who sent me’ ”* (John 5:30).

Jesus’ dependence on the Father is an example to show our dependence on Him. Christlikeness is our pattern. In talking, explaining and teaching the Pharisees Jesus said to them, *“When you lift up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am He, and that I do nothing of myself; but as My Father taught Me, I speak these things. The Father has not left me alone, for I always do those things that PLEASE Him”* (John 8:28-29). Jesus was willing to submit to the Father...always. *“...the Father sent the Son to be the Savior of the world”* (1 John 4:14).

Willingness on Christ’s part to reveal the Father, the God of Heaven, was the essence of Christ’s purpose here on earth. Because of the state of man Jesus said, *“...it will be more tolerance for the land of Sodom in the day of judgment than for you”* (Matthew 11:24) (Read also vv. 20-30). Should the people of God have any problem teaching “Jesus?” It must be our continuous, dedicated, loving stewardship responsibility.

Willingness on man’s part to do Satan’s will is accounted to men by our Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus accounted to men the reasons for man doing this; the lack of love for Him (John 8:42); refusal to listen to His word (John 8:43); because of evil desires as of a murderer and liar (John 8:44); hearing and listening without acceptance of believing. That will get one condemned every time! (Yes-say). Jesus said of them, they were not sons of God, that their father was the devil (John 8:44). Sad and sinful!

Willingness on man’s part to refuse salvation is accounted to men who are not willing to come to Jesus (John 5:39-40). *“Jesus said to him [Thomas], I am the way, the truth, and the life. NO one comes to the Father except through me”* (John 14:6).

Willingness on man’s part to pervert the truth began with the sin of Adam in Genesis 3, when the devil deceived the woman and *“she also gave to her husband with her, and he ate”* (Genesis 3:6). They fell for the perversion of the truth of the Lord, hook, line and sinker, as the expression goes. How tragic for man and woman. This is tragic and is likely to continue until Christ comes.

Dear one(s) it is all over us. Listen to the words of the Lord in the long ago as He said, *“You shall not pervert justice; you shall not show partiality, nor take a bribe,*

for a bribe blinds the eyes of the wise and twist the words of the righteous..." (Deuteronomy 16:18-19. The truth shall not be transgressed (overstep limits), or pervert (what is right, good, or true). Do not misdirect, lead astray, corrupt, change, misinterpret, and distort etc. the truth. (See Job 8:3; 34:12; Acts 13:10).

"But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed" (Galatians 1:8). Thou shall not pervert the gospel of Christ, (see Acts 13:10). It is known...we see it in the wordiness of society, it is told and revealed, oftentimes "live", on the news [24/7], and yes there are books and writings on the subject.

Willingness on man's part to follow evil is spoken of in God's word from Genesis 2:9 to Revelation 22:19, which is the final warning not to add or take away from the book, the Bible—God's Holy Word. It still happens and it is still a terrible tragedy. Willingness on man's part to do and follow evil (wicked) ways is a cancer of humankind. To analyze study and warn against evil is, to me, the greatest of responsibility for believers. This responsibility comes to life, as it is sometimes said, "it hits home", when we realize the applicability of Hebrews 3:12-15. The writer of Hebrews says, *"Beware (take heed) brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God; but exhort one another daily, while it is called 'today', lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin. For we have become partakers of Christ if we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast to the end, while it is said: 'Today, if you will hear His voice, do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion.'"*

Dear one(s), unbelief brings disaster and I seriously believe that it could be the beginning of what has been called the unforgivable or "unpardonable" sin, (see Mark 3:28-29). God's word and our responsibility to the commandments contained therein are to be known and taken seriously. They are the most serious knowledge and course of action there is to man.

Evil is referenced in Bible scriptures at least 640 times and sin is referenced at least 1215 times. There are many (devices) in worldliness sins, and they are tools of the devil and we must guard against them. And yes, Christians have to guard against and "war" against the devil. He is evil and the father of sin. Let's make war against him!

It will be to our benefit to look at some Bible words and scripture expressions of some of the obstacles, which are warnings to us. And if we study and know we can better avoid the devices the devil uses to ensnare us. Note this warning and the terribly sinful activities identified by one word, which if indulged in the act(s) and do not repented of and turn from them, will condemn our souls to hell's fire for an eternity.

"What comes out of a man that defiles a man? For from within, out of the heart (mind; ones action - 'behavior') of man, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, thefts, covetousness', wickedness, deceit, lewdness, an evil

eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness: All these evil things come from within and defile the man" (Mark 7:20-23; cf. Matthew 20:15-16). If you haven't made a word study of each of these terrible sins, I suggest that you do or at least look u the synonym to them and note all the akin descriptive words/action that is involved.

If the heart is willing, man can do better than the indulgences of the terrible sins noted in Mark 7:20-23). Our Lord Jesus Christ spoke of these sins to us because His life is that of doing the will of His Father who sent him to this earth to save mankind.

We must avoid such as worldliness; evil companions and associations. Such are identified as evildoers (workers of evil). (See also 1 Corinthians 4:9; Hebrews 10:33; 1 Peter 2:14; 3:16). Evil speaking, another act (sin) which comes within the heart of man severely condemns (James 4:11) and has terrible punishment (1 Corinthians 6:9-11).

Willingness on the part of man in transgressing God's law and become unrighteous has reached the degree of blasphemy and thus jeopardize the blessing of life eternal. It hurt one's heart to study the terribleness of man as recorded in the Bible. Yet it continues constantly on this beautiful earth that God created for man. God created the earth and all therein then gave man dominion over it until our Savior Jesus Christ comes again. At that time (you, me and all human-kind) will bow (on bended knees) and acknowledge Christ, give an account of our life, good or bad and then be judged.

Life here on earth is given to us individually and for a purpose. *"Therefore, to him (that's us) who knoweth to do good and doeth it not, to him it is sin"* (James 4:17). (See also 2 Peter 2:21; John 9:41; 15:22, 24). Man's sins are identified in two categories—sin of commission or omission. Thus, failure to do, that which is the will of God, is the sin of omission. Terrible, though it is, it is sin and if not repented it condemns man and he is eternally lost. The other side of the coin, so to speak, sin of commission, is acts of men doing wrong or contrary to God will.

Willingness to do/sin on man's part was the window of observation used in this study. It is not that there are no other windows we need to look through, however, the willingness of the believer's part to do, that which is good and right in the sight of God, has and will be given place in this study also.

What is right for man and what is man supposed to do? The willingness of the believer is the key, and will come to one who, through faith, love and dedicated diligence carries out their stewardship responsibilities. With this resolve willingness on the believer's part to be saved is the greatest of blessings.

"And behold, I am coming quickly, and my reward is with Me, to give to every one according to his work...Blessed are those who do His commandments that they may enter through the gates into the city. And the Spirit and the bride say, 'Come!'"

And let him who thirst come, whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely” (Revelation 22:12,14,17; 20:12; 2:7; 21:27; 21:2,6,9). (All are blessings – please read). Keep the main thing the main thing.

Willingness on the believer’s part to follow Christ is “the main thing” in doing the will of the Father. *“Then Jesus said to His disciples, ‘If anyone desires to come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross and follow Me’ ”* (Matthew 16:24). (Cf. Acts 14:22; 2 Corinthians 4:10-11; 1 Peter 2:21) Please read all scriptures.

Willingness on the believer’s part to live godly is admonished in these words which say, *“Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution”* (2 Timothy 3:12). And yes, the willingness and desire to live godly in Christ Jesus must be the believer’s highest ambition in life. *“But you must continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned them”*...(2 Timothy 3:14).

The Apostle Paul admonished Timothy on the need for endurance, holding fast, when he said, *“Hold fast the pattern of sound words which you have heard from me, in faith and love which are in Christ Jesus”* (2 Timothy 1:13). We, as was Timothy, are charged to build on the good foundation. It is important to build on the pattern of sound words and maintain pure doctrine in faith and love, which comes from Christ. (Cf. Titus 1:9). Yes, we are responsible to exhort and convict those who contradict sound doctrine. A clear understanding of Biblical truth is essential.

Willingness on the believer’s part is to give. According to the admonishment of Paul to the Corinthians we are to first give ourselves to the Lord and commit ourselves completely to the work of God. We are blessed in our abundance of joy and riches of liberality to which we praise God. Paul admonished the churches of Macedonia of the principle of liberality, and it is applicable to us also even to excelling in giving.

We are encouraged to abound in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in all diligence, and in love—that we abound in grace, yes the grace of generosity, (2 Corinthians 8:7-8).

Willingness on the part of the believer to die. It is I suppose, difficult for some believers to discuss or talk about death and dying. That is what I have concluded by having talked to believers and also nonbelievers. Me, I am blessed to think about and yes, talk about it with joyful reward. You tell me, why should a believer be afraid? Aren’t we supposed to make preparations? How can it be done without talking about it?

Paul said in 2 Corinthians 5:9, that our aim should, as Christians, to be well pleasing to Christ on Judgment Day. That is the Christian’s reward day. This world is not our home; we’re just passing through. We’re God’s creation, His children, and living and serving Him all the days He blesses us with. Then, when our days here on earth are o’r we’ll go home to live in heaven for eternity.

Now, please open your Bible and read aloud 2 Corinthians 4:7-18; 5:1-11; and Philippians 1:23-26. Are you ready for judgment day?

The scriptures and commentary that has been set forth in this study has been of great benefit to me. These wonderful scriptures and principles, which we studied, have been motivating to my conscience, and it is my prayer that you who read and study, will accept all truth herein and that it will be a conscience server to you also.

The well-trained conscience is equal to the knowledge, abiding faith, and love that we expose or submit our mind to. With confidence, I say that you are studying this lesson with faith and love, and that it will be of great benefit to you.

With confidence I also say, that you desire to be blessed, to gain more knowledge, (true abiding Biblical knowledge), which is associated with responsibilities, which creates a desire to seek, to search diligently, to accept when found, to associate with, and be an active part of, and that you will abide faithfully in the Lord's Church until death.

The church that I am speaking of cost the blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. It is His Body, His Kingdom, which is His Church. Please be an obedient dedicated part of the church of the Bible. Christ's Church. The church we read about in the Bible. You cannot pass through Heaven's gate if you are not in His Body, (His Church), and it is the church that we read about in the New Testament. That is the truth. That is what the Bible teaches.

I invite you to view my Website, www.geocities.com/dubbyt please note other consecrated writings. There is a writing posted that I am sure you will want to view and copy. The writing title is, "The Church of The Bible, Christ's Church." It has a two-page enclosure, which has the title, "What Must I Do To Be Saved." Please study both "biblical-truth" writings with an honest and receptive heart for truth and obedience. You will be blessed! God bless you for studying with me on this great subject. God loves you...and I do too! Your servant in the Lord...

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Note the next page 9, an enclosure: Thanks goes to Paul D. Kearby for the thoughts about the "Preciousness" of Time as we all fail to know how to spend it. Do you know...when time passes' it is gone and is gone forever and cannot be recalled. It is expected of us to used God given time wisely! We are stewards of what God created for us.

“TIME: A PRECIOUSCOMMODITY”

By Paul D. Kearby

“TIME: A Precious Commodity” is the title of a thought provoking article by, Paul D. Kearby, and here is what he said, “Time is precious! It was created by God for man’s wise use. Consider five minutes. It does not seem like much, but look what can happen in that time.

- In five minutes the earth revolves 6,000 miles in its orbit.
- In five minutes a ray of light travels 55.9 million miles.
- In five minutes an electric current travels around the earth 3,000 times.

Now consider what five minutes can do in the realm of spirituality.

- Five minutes of prayer each day will greatly influence your life.
- Five minutes spent on the phone to a shut-in can be rewarding to both them and you.
- Five minutes spent making personal visits can sow the seed of kindness and friendship.
- Five minutes encouraging a new Christian can influence them for eternity.
- Five minutes spent visiting the sick will spread some love where it is needed most.
- Five minutes spent reading the Bible will allow you to read through each of the following books: Joel, Obadiah, Jonah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Haggai, Malachi, Titus, Philemon, II Peter, II and III John and Jude.

So much can be accomplished in five short minutes. Let us wisely use the time God gives and try to make every moment count toward giving Him the glory and serving His people.