

## The Will, The Kingly, Deciding Power, In The Nature of Man

1 What Does the Bible Say About the Will?

2 Philippians 2:13 "For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of  
3 his good pleasure."

4 2 Cor. 3:5 "Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think any thing as of  
5 ourselves; but our sufficiency is of God;"

6 Heb. 13:21 "Make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in  
7 you that which is well-pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be  
8 glory for ever and ever. Amen."

9 Ezekiel 36:25 "Then will I sprinkle clean water upon you, and ye shall be  
10 clean: from all your filthiness, and from all your idols, will I cleanse you. 26 A  
11 new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will  
12 take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of  
13 flesh. 27 And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my  
14 statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them."

15 2 Peter 1:4 "by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious  
16 promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having  
17 escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust."

18

19 What is the Will?

20 The will is not the taste or the inclination, but **it is the choice, the deciding  
21 power; the kingly power which works in the children of men unto  
22 obedience to God or to disobedience.** {Lt 49, 1887, par. 12}<sup>1</sup>

23 **What is the new heart? It is the new mind. What is the mind? It is the will.**  
24 Where is your will? It is either on Satan's side or Christ's side. Now it is [up  
25 to] you. **Will you put your will today on Christ's side of the question? That  
26 is the new heart. It is the new will, a new mind.** "A new heart will I give  
27 thee." [Ezekiel 36:26.] Then let us begin right here. {Ms36-1891.43}

28

29 What is a Sanctified Will?

30 **The will of man is none too strong when it is sanctified and put on the side  
31 of Christ.** The will is a power, ... **it is necessary that the will should be  
32 sanctified.** – {ST October 29, 1894 Par. 6} ... **Those who have a sanctified  
33 will, that is in unison with the will of Christ, will day by day have their  
34 wills bound to the will of Christ,** which will act in blessing others, and react  
35 upon themselves with divine power. {ST October 29, 1894 Par. 7}

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<sup>1</sup> All quotations come from the writings of Mrs. Ellen G. White. Find all of her writings at [egwwritings.org](http://egwwritings.org).

37 What Do We Learn From Christ About A Sanctified Will?

38 Jesus Christ is our example in all things. **He began life, passed through its**  
39 **experiences, and ended its record, with a sanctified human will.** He was  
40 tempted in all points like as we are, and yet **because he kept his will**  
41 **surrendered and sanctified, he never bent in the slightest degree toward**  
42 **the doing of evil, or toward manifesting rebellion against God.”** {ST,  
43 October 29, 1894 par. 7} ... **The one absorbing aim of the life of Christ was**  
44 **to do the will of his heavenly Father. He did not become offended with**  
45 **God; for he lived not to please himself.** {ST October 29, 1894 Par. 9}

46

47 Is There Such a Thing As an Unsanctified Will?

48 As in the days of Christ, **the enemy of God works constantly to lead men to**  
49 **place the will in his control,** that God may be forgotten. **He knows that if this**  
50 **is done, he can control the whole man.** He tempts men in many ways to  
51 forget their Creator. **To some he offers tobacco and alcoholic drinks. Others**  
52 **he tempts by pointing them to their own degradation and helplessness.**  
53 Those who yield to his temptations can have no conception of the love of God.  
54 **The will becomes enslaved, bound to pursue a course which the word of**  
55 **God does not justify.** Reason is enfeebled; the power to distinguish between  
56 right and wrong is lost; sacred and eternal realities are estimated as of less  
57 value than gold, silver, houses, lands, and bank stock. The love of God fades  
58 from the mind; and the captives in the tempter's power live on, "having no  
59 hope, and without God in the world," because they do not behold the Lamb of  
60 God. {ST, November 19, 1896 par. 7}

61 **The will of man is aggressive, and is constantly striving to bend all things**  
62 **to its purposes. If it is enlisted on the side of God and right, the fruits of**  
63 **the Spirit will appear in the life;** and God has appointed glory, honor, and  
64 peace to every man that worketh good. { RH August 25, 1896, par. 1 } **When**  
65 **Satan is permitted to mold the will, he uses it to accomplish his ends.** ... It is  
66 Satan's work to dethrone God from the heart, and to mold human nature into  
67 his own image of moral deformity. **He stirs up the evil propensities,**  
68 **awakening unholy passions and ambitions.** He says, "All this power, these  
69 honors, and riches, and sinful pleasures, will I give thee;" but his conditions are  
70 that integrity shall be yielded, conscience blunted. Thus he degrades the human  
71 faculties, and brings them into captivity to sin. { RH August 25, 1896, par. 3 }

72

73 Must Our Will Be Taken Back From Satan?

74 **This will of man that is of so great consequence was at the fall given into**  
75 **the control of Satan, and he has been working in man to will and to do of**  
76 **his own good pleasure, but to the utter ruin and misery of man.** Now God  
77 made an infinite sacrifice in giving Jesus, His beloved Son, to become a  
78 sacrifice for sin, that God may now say, without violating one principle of His  
79 government, **“Yield yourself up to Me, give Me that will, take it from the**  
80 **control of Satan, and I will take possession of it, I will work in you to will**  
81 **and to do My good pleasure.”** {Lt49-1887.15}

82

83 Must We Surrender Our Will?

84 **Many are inquiring, “How am I to make the surrender of myself to God?”**  
85 **You desire to give yourself to Him, but you are weak in moral power, in**  
86 **slavery to doubt, and controlled by the habits of your life of sin. Your**  
87 **promises and resolutions are like ropes of sand. You cannot control your**  
88 **thoughts, your impulses, your affections.** The knowledge of your broken  
89 promises and forfeited pledges weakens your confidence in your own sincerity,  
90 and causes you to feel that God cannot accept you; but **you need not despair.**  
91 **What you need to understand is the true force of the will. This is the**  
92 **governing power in the nature of man, the power of decision, or of choice.**  
93 Everything depends on the right action of the will. **The power of choice God**  
94 **has given to men; it is theirs to exercise. You cannot change your heart,**  
95 **you cannot of yourself give to God its affections; but you can choose to**  
96 **serve Him. You can give Him your will; He will then work in you to will**  
97 **and to do according to His good pleasure. Thus your whole nature will be**  
98 **brought under the control of the Spirit of Christ;** your affections will be  
99 centered upon Him, your thoughts will be in harmony with Him. {SC 47.1}  
100 **Desires for goodness and holiness are right as far as they go; but if you**  
101 **stop here, they will avail nothing.** Many will be lost while hoping and  
102 desiring to be Christians. They do not come to the point of yielding the will to  
103 God. They do not now choose to be Christians. {SC 47.2} **Through the right**  
104 **exercise of the will, an entire change may be made in your life. By yielding**  
105 **up your will to Christ, you ally yourself with the power that is above all**  
106 **principalities and powers. You will have strength from above to hold you**  
107 **steadfast, and thus through constant surrender to God you will be enabled**  
108 **to live the new life, even the life of faith.** {SC 48.1}

109 There are some that come to our meetings; they will sit all through the  
110 meetings; they have borne a few words of testimony now and then. **They have**  
111 **gone home and done just exactly, if not worse, than before. Why? Because**  
112 **they had not the new heart. What is the new heart? It is the new mind.**  
113 **What is the mind? It is the will. Where is your will? It is either on Satan’s**  
114 **side or Christ’s side. Now it is [up to] you. Will you put your will today on**  
115 **Christ’s side of the question? That is the new heart. It is the new will, a**  
116 **new mind. “A new heart will I give thee.”** [Ezekiel 36:26.] Then let us begin  
117 right here. {Ms36-1891.43} **Conversion is simple, very simple.** Let us  
118 commence right here to come into the kingdom of heaven. **How? As a little**  
119 **child. Just as simple as simple can be.** You may get all your mysteries of the  
120 new birth, and you cannot make anybody understand it, or understand it  
121 yourself. **But the best way for you is to give your mind to Jesus Christ, and**  
122 **the mind is the will to put it on, and do just as Matthew did.** {Ms36-  
123 1891.44} The Lord Jesus came to Matthew. He was in a very unpopular  
124 business, and all the Jews looked upon them to be despised, and **Christ said to**  
125 **Matthew, “Matthew, follow Me.”** [Matthew 9:9.] **Did he say, “Oh Lord,**  
126 **when I get good enough I will follow you”?** **Did he say, “Oh Lord, when I**  
127 **have this agony, this awful agony [for] my sin, then I will come”?** Well,  
128 **that is what many of you are saying. [No,] he rose up and followed Him.**  
129 He was walking in the light, because he could not follow Christ unless he was  
130 walking in the light. Well then, what are we to do? **We are just to believe as**  
131 **simply as a little child. We are to take our position on the Lord’s side, and**

132 we are to be Christ's children because He wants us to be, and because He  
133 died that we might be, and will we be? {Ms36-1891.45}

134 One has asked, Are we never to have our own will, our own way? Yes, any  
135 amount of will, our own way, but never apart from God's will and God's  
136 way. We are the purchased possession of Christ. We are to give over our  
137 entire being, our intellect, our ambition, our activities, all our capabilities,  
138 into His service. "Ye are not your own. Ye are bought with a price: therefore  
139 glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's." [1 Corinthians  
140 6:19, 20.] If you give your everything to Jesus, He will give back to you  
141 tenfold more than you have yielded. {Ms 61b, 1895, par. 48}

142 All heaven is waiting the sinner's co-operation, and the only barrier that  
143 stands in his way is one which he alone can remove,—his own will. He  
144 must submit to the will of God, and through repentance and faith, come unto  
145 God for salvation. No one will be forced against his will; Christ draws, but  
146 never compels, service from any man. ... Man is required to surrender self,  
147 to submit to be a child of God, to submit to be saved by his grace, and  
148 when this is done, divine agencies co-operate with the human agent, and  
149 the character is transformed. It is in the surrender of the will that the line  
150 of demarcation between a child of God, an heir of heaven, and the  
151 rebellious, who refuse the great salvation, is distinctly drawn. { RH March  
152 24, 1896, par. 10 }

153 Will you, my ministering brethren, grasp the rich promises of God? Will you  
154 put self out of sight and let Jesus appear? Self must die before God can  
155 work through you. I feel alarmed as I see self cropping out in one and  
156 another here and there. I tell you, in the name of Jesus of Nazareth, your  
157 wills must die; they must become as God's will. He wants to melt you over  
158 and to cleanse you from every defilement. There is a great work to be done  
159 for you before you can be filled with the power of God. I beseech you to  
160 draw nigh to Him, that you may realize His rich blessing before this meeting  
161 closes.533 { CCh 288.4}

162

163 Is It Easy To Surrender Our Will To God?

164 The Christian life is a battle and a march. But the victory to be gained is not  
165 won by human power. The field of conflict is the domain of the heart. The  
166 battle which we have to fight—the greatest battle that was ever fought by  
167 man—is the surrender of self to the will of God, the yielding of the heart to  
168 the sovereignty of love. The old nature, born of blood and of the will of the  
169 flesh, cannot inherit the kingdom of God. The hereditary tendencies, the former  
170 habits, must be given up.— {MB 141.2} ... The victory is not won without much  
171 earnest prayer, without the humbling of self at every step. Our will is not to be  
172 forced into co-operation with divine agencies, but it must be voluntarily  
173 submitted. Were it possible to force upon you with a hundredfold greater  
174 intensity the influence of the Spirit of God, it would not make you a  
175 Christian, a fit subject for heaven. The stronghold of Satan would not be  
176 broken. The will must be placed on the side of God's will. You are not able,  
177 of yourself, to bring your purposes and desires and inclinations into submission  
178 to the will of God; but if you are "willing to be made willing," God will  
179 accomplish the work for you, even "casting down imaginations, and every

180 **high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing**  
181 **into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ.”** 2 Corinthians 10:5.  
182 Then you will “work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. {MB  
183 142.1}

184

185 What Level of Conformity To The Will Of God Is Required For  
186 Transformation?

187 We cannot retain self and yet enter the kingdom of God. If we ever attain unto  
188 holiness, it will be through the renunciation of self and the reception of the  
189 mind of Christ. Pride and self-sufficiency must be crucified. **Are we willing to**  
190 **pay the price required of us? Are we willing to have our will brought into**  
191 **perfect conformity to the will of God? Until we are willing, the**  
192 **transforming grace of God cannot be manifest upon us.** {MB 143.2}

193 **Christ cannot share a divided heart; sin and Jesus are never in co-**  
194 **partnership.** 7LtMs, Lt 19b, 1892, par. 26

195 Firmness and sanctified decisions are what you need to turn square about, to  
196 repent of your sins, to be converted and make it the law of your life to be true  
197 to yourself and true to your God. Then, while you work out your salvation with  
198 fear and trembling, it is God that worketh in you to will and to do of His own  
199 good pleasure. **No halfway purpose will do.** For you it must be a thorough  
200 decision. **A conscientious surrender of your entire life to God is essential**  
201 **for you.** {Lt 36, 1887, par. 9}

202 **Truth must be received into the soul; it claims the homage of the will.** If  
203 truth could be submitted to the reason alone, pride would be no hindrance in  
204 the way of its reception. But **it is to be received through the work of grace in**  
205 **the heart; and its reception depends upon the renunciation of every sin**  
206 **that the Spirit of God reveals.** Man's advantages for obtaining a knowledge of  
207 the truth, however great these may be, **will prove of no benefit to him unless**  
208 **the heart is open to receive the truth, and there is a conscientious**  
209 **surrender of every habit and practice that is opposed to its principles.** To  
210 those who thus yield themselves to God, having an honest desire to know and  
211 to do His will, the truth is revealed as the power of God for their salvation.  
212 {DA 455.3}

213 The truth ... will be no real help to you personally **unless the mind and heart**  
214 **are open so that truth shall find entrance and you make a conscientious**  
215 **surrender of every habit and practice, and every sin that has closed the**  
216 **door against Jesus.** Let the light from Christ search every dark corner of the  
217 soul; with earnest determination adopt a right course of action. 7LtMs, Lt 19b,  
218 1892, par. 24}

219

220 Does Our Will Become Blended With God's Will?

221 The will of every **human being should be under the discipline and control**  
222 **of God ... [The] will of man is safe only when united with the will of God.**  
223 **When merged into the will of God it is a will joined to conscience, rightly**  
224 **exercised in advancing the honour and glory of God.** {BEcho, July 20,  
225 1896 par. 5} God's word sets forth **the will that is to be carried into the**  
226 **recesses of the soul. If the human agent consents, God can and will so**

227 **identify His will with all our thoughts and aims, so blend our hearts and**  
228 **minds into conformity to His word, that when obeying His will we are only**  
229 **carrying out the impulses of our minds.** {BEcho, July 20, 1896 par. 6}

230

231 What Does It Mean To Work Out Our Salvation With Fear and Trembling?

232 In harmony with this experience is the command, “Work out your own  
233 salvation with fear and trembling. For it is God which worketh in you both to  
234 will and to do of His good pleasure.” Philippians 2:12, 13. God does not bid  
235 you fear that He will fail to fulfill His promises, that His patience will weary,  
236 or His compassion be found wanting. **Fear lest your will shall not be held in**  
237 **subjection to Christ’s will, lest your hereditary and cultivated traits of**  
238 **character shall control your life.** “It is God which worketh in you both to will  
239 and to do of His good pleasure.” **Fear lest self shall interpose between your**  
240 **soul and the great Master Worker. Fear lest self-will shall mar the high**  
241 **purpose that through you God desires to accomplish. Fear to trust to your**  
242 **own strength, fear to withdraw your hand from the hand of Christ and**  
243 **attempt to walk life’s pathway without His abiding presence.** {COL 161.1}

244 In this great day of atonement **our work is that of heart-searching, of self-**  
245 **abasement, and confession of sin, each humbling his own soul before God,**  
246 **and seeking pardon for himself individually. Anciently every one that did**  
247 **not on the day of atonement afflict his soul, was cut off from the people.**  
248 God would have us work out our own salvation with fear and trembling. **If**  
249 **each will search and see what sins are lurking in his own heart to shut out**  
250 **Jesus, he will find such a work to do that he will be ready to esteem others**  
251 **better than himself.** He will no longer seek to pluck the mote out of his  
252 brother’s eye while a beam is in his own eye. {HS 213.3}

253 **Grace and sufficiency have been abundantly provided for every soul. But**  
254 **in order to receive this, man must unite with his divine Helper. Unless of**  
255 **his own accord man consents to renounce his sinful practises, Christ can**  
256 **not take away his sin.** Man must heartily co-operate with God, **willingly**  
257 **obeying His laws, showing that he appreciates the great gift of grace.**  
258 **Feeling his dependence upon God, having faith in Christ as his personal**  
259 **Saviour, expecting efficiency and success only as he keeps the Lord ever**  
260 **before him,—it is thus that man complies with the injunction, “Work out**  
261 **your own salvation with fear and trembling.”** {ST September 25, 1901, par.  
262 2}

263

264 Are There Limitations of the Will?

265 **In the Saviour’s parable, leaven is used to represent the kingdom of**  
266 **heaven. It illustrates the quickening, assimilating power of the grace of**  
267 **God.** {COL 95.3} None are so vile, none have fallen so low, as to be beyond  
268 the working of this power. **In all who will submit themselves to the Holy**  
269 **Spirit a new principle of life is to be implanted; the lost image of God is to**  
270 **be restored in humanity.** {COL 96.1} **But man cannot transform himself**  
271 **by the exercise of his will. He possesses no power by which this change can**  
272 **be effected. The leaven—something wholly from without—must be put**  
273 **into the meal before the desired change can be wrought in it. So the grace**  
274 **of God must be received by the sinner before he can be fitted for the**

275 **kingdom of glory.** All the culture and education which the world can give will  
276 fail of making a degraded child of sin a child of heaven. **The renewing energy**  
277 **must come from God. The change can be made only by the Holy Spirit. All**  
278 **who would be saved, high or low, rich or poor, must submit to the working**  
279 **of this power.** {COL 96.2} As the leaven, when mingled with the meal, works  
280 from within outward, so it is by the renewing of the heart that the grace of God  
281 works to transform the life. **No mere external change is sufficient to bring us**  
282 **into harmony with God. There are many who try to reform by correcting**  
283 **this or that bad habit, and they hope in this way to become Christians, but**  
284 **they are beginning in the wrong place. Our first work is with the heart.**  
285 {COL 97.1}

286

287 What Results From Exercising the Will?

288 **Pure religion has to do with the will. The will is the governing power in the**  
289 **nature of man. If the will is set right, all the rest of the man will come**  
290 **under its sway. The will is not the taste or the inclination, but it is the**  
291 **choice, the deciding power; the kingly power which works in the children**  
292 **of men unto obedience to God or to disobedience.** Now you are a young man  
293 of intelligence; you are seeking to make your life such as will give you heaven  
294 at last. **You are often discouraged at finding yourself weak in moral power,**  
295 **controlled by habits and customs of your old life in sin, to find yourself in**  
296 **slavery to doubt, and inefficient. You find your emotional nature untrue to**  
297 **your best resolutions, untrue to your most solemn pledges. Nothing seems**  
298 **real. Your own inefficiencies lead you to doubt the sincerity of those who**  
299 **would do you good. The more you struggle in doubt, the more unreal**  
300 **everything looks to you, until it seems that there is no solid ground for you**  
301 **anywhere. Your promises are nothing, they are like ropes of sand, and you**  
302 **regard the words and works of those whom you should trust in the same**  
303 **unreal light. You will be in constant peril until you understand the true**  
304 **force of the will. You may believe and promise all things, but I would not**  
305 **give a straw for your promises or your faith until you put your will over on**  
306 **the believing and doing side. If you will fight the fight of faith with your**  
307 **will power, in the work, I have not the least doubt that you will conquer.**  
308 **Your feelings, your impressions, your emotions are not at all to be trusted,**  
309 **for they are not reliable, especially with your perverted ideas and the**  
310 **knowledge of your broken promises and forfeited pledges.** {Lt49-1887}

311 **But I tell you that you need not despair. You must choose to believe,**  
312 **although nothing seems true and real to you.** I need not tell you it is yourself  
313 that has brought you into this unenviable position; but **you must win back**  
314 **your confidence in God and in your brethren. Your part is to put your will**  
315 **over on the side of Christ in the matter of faith. Just as you yield up your**  
316 **will to the will of Jesus Christ, God immediately takes possession of that**  
317 **will, and works in you to will and to do of His good pleasure; and all of**  
318 **your nature is brought under the control of the spirit of Christ, even your**  
319 **thoughts are subject to Him. You cannot control your impulses, your**  
320 **emotions, as you may desire, but you can control the will, and you can**  
321 **make an entire change in your life. Your life, by yielding up your will to**  
322 **Christ, is hid with Christ in God and allied to the power which is above all**  
323 **principalities and powers. You have a strength from God that holds you**

324 **fast to His strength, and a new life, even the life of living faith, is possible**  
325 **to you. But your will must co-operate with God's will, not with the will of**  
326 **associates through whom Satan is constantly working to ensnare and**  
327 **destroy you.** I do not give you up, Henri. I remember my own oldest son  
328 Henry who died in the triumphs of faith a little past sixteen years old. I write to  
329 you as I have often written to my own sons and adopted daughters. {Lt49-  
330 1887}

331 **Will you now without delay place yourself in right relations with God?**  
332 **Will you say, "I will give my will to Jesus, and I do it now"?** From that  
333 **moment, be wholly on the Lord's side. Disregard the pitiful clamoring of**  
334 **appetite, of custom, of passion. Give Satan no chance to say, You are a**  
335 **wretched hypocrite. Close the door so that Satan shall not thus accuse you**  
336 **and dishearten you. Say, "I will believe, I do believe that God is my**  
337 **helper," and you will find that you will be triumphant in God. Every**  
338 **emotion will, by steadfastly keeping the will on the Lord's side, be brought**  
339 **into captivity to the will of Jesus. You will then find your feet on solid**  
340 **rock. It will take, you will find, at times, every particle of will power which**  
341 **you possess, but it is God that is working for you, and you will come forth**  
342 **from the molding process a vessel unto honor. Talk faith. "I will believe, I**  
343 **will believe that God can and will give me, Henri Frey, the victory." Keep**  
344 **on God's side of the line. Set not your foot once on the enemy's side, and**  
345 **the Lord will be your helper, He will do for you that which it is not**  
346 **possible for you to do for yourself. The result will be that you will become**  
347 **a grand cedar of Lebanon. Your life will be noble, your works will be**  
348 **wrought in God, there will be in you a directness, a power, an earnestness**  
349 **and simplicity that will make you a polished instrument in the hands of**  
350 **God. I am not speaking to you idle tales, but words of truth and verity.**  
351 **Try it and see.** {Lt49-1887} You need to drink daily at the fountain of truth,  
352 that you may understand the secret of pleasure and joy in the Lord. But you  
353 **need to understand that your will is the spring of all your actions. This will**  
354 **of man that is of so great consequence was at the fall given into the control**  
355 **of Satan, and he has been working in man to will and to do of his own good**  
356 **pleasure, but to the utter ruin and misery of man.** Now God made an  
357 infinite sacrifice in giving Jesus, His beloved Son, to become a sacrifice for sin,  
358 that **God may now say, without violating one principle of His government,**  
359 **"Yield yourself up to Me, give Me that will, take it from the control of**  
360 **Satan, and I will take possession of it, I will work in you to will and to do**  
361 **My good pleasure." Then He gives you the mind of Christ, the will**  
362 **becomes transformed and the character formed after Christ's character.**  
363 Does your will choose to do God's will? Does your will choose to obey the  
364 Scriptures? "He that will come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his  
365 cross and follow Me; so shall he be My disciple." {Lt49-1887}]

366

367 What Is The Outcome Of Exercising Our Will?

368 **When the power of Satan over souls is broken, we see men binding their**  
369 **will to the cross, and crucifying the flesh with the affections and lusts. It is**  
370 **indeed a crucifixion of self; for the will is surrendered to Christ.** The will of  
371 man is none too strong when it is sanctified and put on the side of Christ. **The**  
372 **will is a power,** and as many triumphs are to be won in spiritual warfare, and



373 many points of progress to be made in the spiritual journey, and many lessons  
374 to be learned from Christ, the great Teacher, it is necessary that the will should  
375 be sanctified. **In surrendering the will, the root of the matter is reached.**  
376 **When the will is surrendered, the streams that flow from the fountain will**  
377 **not be bitter, but will be as pure as crystal.** {ST, October 29, 1894 par. 6}  
378

379 What About Exercising The Will In The Area Of Appetite?

380 The only safe course is to touch not, taste not, and handle not, tea, coffee,  
381 wines, tobacco, opium, and alcoholic drinks. **There is double necessity for the**  
382 **men of this generation to call to their aid the power of the will,**  
383 **strengthened by the grace of God, in order to withstand the temptations of**  
384 **Satan, and resist the least indulgence of perverted appetite.** The present  
385 generation have less power of self-control than those who have lived several  
386 generations back. Those who have indulged the appetite for these stimulants  
387 have transmitted their depraved appetites and passions to their children, and  
388 greater moral power is required to resist the indulgence of intemperance in all  
389 its forms. **The only perfectly safe course to pursue is to stand firmly on the**  
390 **side of temperance and not venture in the path of danger.** – {HR August 1,  
391 1875 Par. 9}

392 Let me say to him who is struggling to overcome, God presents before you a  
393 strong hope, that you may lay hold on eternal life. Lose no opportunity of  
394 becoming a man. **When you look at yourself, and realize the strength of**  
395 **temptation, you feel so weak in moral power that you say, “I cannot**  
396 **resist.” I tell you, you can resist, you must resist temptation.** Although you  
397 may have been overcome, although moral debasement may have marked your  
398 course, it need not always be thus. Jesus is your helper. **In his strength you**  
399 **can overcome the beguiling power of appetite. Summon will-power to your**  
400 **aid.** { CTBH 147.2 } **The will is the governing power in the nature of man.**  
401 **If the will is set right, all the rest of the being will come under its sway.** The  
402 will is not the taste or the inclination, but it is the choice, the deciding power,  
403 the kingly power, which works in the children of men unto obedience to God or  
404 to disobedience. { CTBH 147.3 } **If you will fight the fight of faith with**  
405 **your will-power, there is no doubt that you will conquer.** { CTBH 148.1 }  
406 **Your part is to put your will on the side of Christ. When you yield your**  
407 **will to his, he immediately takes possession of you, and works in you to will**  
408 **and to do of his good pleasure.** Your nature is brought under the control of his  
409 Spirit. Even your thoughts are subject to him. **If you cannot control your**  
410 **impulses, your emotions, as you may desire, you can control the will, and**  
411 **thus an entire change will be wrought in your life.** { CTBH 148.2 }

412

413 How Often Should We Surrender Our Will to God?

414 **My will must be given to God every day.** I must have a growing faith. I find  
415 it a constant warfare to fight the good fight of faith. Unseen foes are constantly  
416 on my track, to weaken and discourage me. **There must be a constant**  
417 **decision of my will to believe that God means just what He says; and if I**  
418 **continue to put my trust in Jesus, the source of all power,** He has assured  
419 me that He will keep that which I have committed to His trust, against that day.  
420 I want to know that I am triumphant in God every day, that every emotion,

421 every thought, is brought into captivity to the mind and will of God. **I want the**  
422 **assurance that He has taken possession of that will which I have placed in**  
423 **His hands.** {Lt42-1890.4}

424

425 Should The Surrender Of The Will Be Ongoing!

426 **This is the secret of their power. Much prayer, and a humbling of the**  
427 **heart, a constant surrender of the will to God, will bring the help pledged**  
428 **to every worker by the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.** Angels of God  
429 will work for those who yield themselves to the leading of the Spirit. {7MR  
430 354.1}

431 **Through the right exercise of the will, an entire change may be made in**  
432 **your life.** {SC 48.1}

433 God does nothing without the co-operation of man. He compels no man's will.  
434 That must be given to the Lord completely.... The potter cannot mold and  
435 fashion unto honor that which has never been placed in his hands. **The**  
436 **Christian life is one of daily surrender, submission and continual**  
437 **overcoming, gaining fresh victories every day** {1888 667.

438

439 What If We Feel Nothing Has Changed?

440 **You must choose to believe, although nothing seems true and real to you.**  
441 ... Your part is to put your will over on the side of Christ in the matter of faith.  
442 **Just as you yield up your will to the will of Jesus Christ, God immediately**  
443 **takes possession of that will, and works in you to will and to do of His good**  
444 **pleasure; and all of your nature is brought under the control of the spirit**  
445 **of Christ, even your thoughts are subject to Him. You cannot control your**  
446 **impulses, your emotions, as you may desire, but you can control the will,**  
447 **and you can make an entire change in your life.** Your life, by yielding up  
448 your will to Christ, is hid with Christ in God and allied to the power which is  
449 above all principalities and powers. **You have a strength from God that**  
450 **holds you fast to His strength, and a new life, even the life of living faith, is**  
451 **possible to you. But your will must co-operate with God's will....** {Lt49  
452 1887}

453

454 What If We Are Still Struggling?

455 **Why is it so hard for many to walk uprightly before God? It is because**  
456 **they are trying to serve two masters, a thing which the Saviour declares no**  
457 **man can do. If they would give themselves to Jesus, he would take**  
458 **possession of the soul, and every wrong desire, every false ambition, every**  
459 **evil purpose, would be brought into subjection to the will of God.** This is  
460 the sanctification that Christ meant when he said, "I sanctify myself." This is  
461 the sanctification that he desired for his disciples when he prayed, "Sanctify  
462 them through thy truth." We profess to be sons and daughters of the Lord; the  
463 chosen ones of Christ, of whom he says, "I have given them thy word; and the  
464 world hath hated them, because they are not of the world, ever as I am not of  
465 the world." What right have we to let the things of the world take possession of  
466 the heart and engross our energies? What right have we to make the heart a  
467 highway for the world's travel, or to imitate its customs and practices? We

468 cannot serve God and mammon. We must come out from the world, and be  
469 separate. Its fashions are not to control us; its principles are not to be our  
470 principles. {ST August 6, 1885 Par. 6}

471

472 Should We Complain That We Are Too Weak?

473 **Let us no longer gratify the enemy by complaining of the strength of our**  
474 **evil will; for in so doing we are feeding and encouraging our wills against**  
475 **God**, and pleasing the evil one. {ST October 29, 1894 Par. 8}

476

477 What Happens If Our Will Is Not Surrendered To God?

478 **Satan will always rule the will that is not under the control of the Spirit of**  
479 **God**. {ST December 20, 1899 Par. 2}

480 The will of every human being should be under the discipline and control of  
481 God; for, uncontrolled, it is a dangerous element. **Untold harm may be done**  
482 **if the enemy is allowed to take control of the human will**. {PUR February  
483 16, 1905 Par. 1}

484

485 What Happens When Our Will Is Surrendered to God?

486 When we place our will in unison with the will of God, **the obedience that**  
487 **was exemplified in the life of Christ will be seen in our lives**. {ST December  
488 20, 1899 Par.2}

489 If the human agent consents, **God can and will so identify His will with all**  
490 **our thoughts and aims, so blend our hearts and minds into conformity to**  
491 **His Word, that when obeying His will, we are only carrying out the**  
492 **impulses of our minds**. {OFC 268.5}

493 **As the will of man co-operates with the will of God, it becomes omnipotent**.  
494 Whatever is to be done at His command, may be accomplished in His strength.  
495 All His biddings are enablings. {COL 333.1}

496

497 What Is Our Part Versus God's Part In Exercising The Will?

498 **As soon as we incline our will to harmonize with God's will, the grace of**  
499 **Christ stands to co-operate with the human agent; but it will not be the**  
500 **substitute to do our work independent of our resolving and decidedly**  
501 **acting**. {Lt135-1898.9}

502 **It is man's work to co-operate with the divine**. And it is the very hardest,  
503 sternest conflict which comes with the purpose and hour of great resolve and  
504 decision of the human to incline the will and way to God's will and God's way,  
505 relying upon the gracious influences which accompanied him all his life long.  
506 The man must do the work of inclining, "For it is God which worketh in you  
507 (us) both to will and to do." [Philippians 2:13.]" ... {Lt135-1898.13}

508 **If man places his will on God's side, fully surrendering self to God's will,**  
509 **the high and holy endeavor of the human agent takes down the obstruction**  
510 **he himself has erected, the rubbish is cleared away from the door of the**  
511 **heart, the defiance and barricading of the soul is broken down. The door**  
512 **of the heart is opened and Jesus enters, to abide as a welcome guest**.  
513 {Lt135-1898.14}

514

515 Can The Will—The Governing, Kingly Power—Be Damaged?

516 **The effort to “break the will” of a child is a terrible mistake. ... Those who**  
517 **weaken or destroy individuality assume a responsibility that can result**  
518 **only in evil.** While under authority, the children may appear like well-drilled  
519 soldiers; but when the control ceases, the character will be found to lack  
520 strength and steadfastness. Having never learned to govern himself, the youth  
521 recognizes no restraint except the requirement of parents or teacher. This  
522 removed, he knows not how to use his liberty, and often gives himself up to  
523 indulgence that proves his ruin. {Ed 288.1}

524 **A child may be so trained as to have, like the beast, no will of his own.**

525 Even his individuality may be merged in the one who superintends his training;  
526 his will, to all intents and purposes, is subject to the will of the teacher.

527 **Children who are thus educated will ever be deficient in moral energy and**  
528 **individual responsibility.** They have not been taught to move from reason and  
529 principle; **their wills have been controlled by another, and the mind has not**  
530 **been called out that it might expand and strengthen by exercise.** They have  
531 not been directed and disciplined with respect to their peculiar constitutions  
532 and capabilities of mind to put forth their strongest powers when required. {RH  
533 July 14, 1885, par. 4}

534 Save All the Strength of the Will—The work of “breaking the will” is contrary  
535 to the principles of Christ. **The will of the child must be directed and guided.**  
536 **Save all the strength of the will, for the human being needs it all; but give**  
537 **it proper direction. Treat it wisely and tenderly, as a sacred treasure.** Do  
538 not hammer it in pieces; but by precept and true example fashion and mold it  
539 until the child comes to years of responsibility.—Counsels to Parents,  
540 Teachers, and Students, 116 (1913). – {2MCP 688.2}

541

542 A Final Thought

543 The work of the heavenly intelligences, in all their operations, is constantly  
544 working to induce the human agent to will and to do. ... Will the human agent  
545 co-operate with the divine? “To will and to do?” [Verse 13.] **If man places his**  
546 **will on God’s side, fully surrendering self to God’s will, the high and holy**  
547 **endeavor of the human agent takes down the obstruction he himself has**  
548 **erected, the rubbish is cleared away from the door of the heart, the**  
549 defiance and barricading of the soul is broken down. The door of the heart is  
550 opened and Jesus enters, to abide as a welcome guest. {Lt135-1898.14} 2024b  
551

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