

Zion Christian Assembly Berean Hour

Lesson Thirteen

Holiness and our Wills

"It is God who works in you to will and to act according this good purpose."

Philippians 2:13

When God originally created man, the reason, the emotions, and the will all worked in perfect harmony... reason led the way in understanding the will of God, the will consented to God's will, and the emotions delighted in doing it.

Our reason (or understanding) was darkened (Ephesians 4:18); our desires were entangled (Ephesians 2:3); and our wills were perverted (John 5:40). God most often appeals to our wills through our reason; sin and Satan usually appeal to us through our desires.

Our wills were corrupted in the fall. The will became rebellious and stubborn and would not listen to reason and it gave in to emotion. While the will is the ultimate determiner of all choices, it is influenced in its choices by the strongest focus brought to bear upon it. These forces come from a variety of sources. Subtle suggestions from Satan and his world system, an urgent voice of conscience, a Christian friend or the prompting of the Holy Spirit. Whatever source, they reach our wills through our reasons or our emotions.

Therefore we must guard what enters our minds and what influences our emotions. Proverbs 4:23 teaches us to *"Watch over your heart with all diligence, for from it flow the springs of life."*

How does one guard his heart/soul? Psalm 119:9 asks, *"How can a young man keep his ways pure? By living according to your word."* Thus, we must give priority to the Word of The Lord and practice a continual intake not for informational purpose alone but for the daily application in our daily life. *"Thy word oh Lord have I hid my heart that I might not sin against thee."*

We are told to renew our minds (Romans 12:2); to set our affections on things above (Colossians 3:1); and to submit our wills to God (James 4:7). Our will has become stubborn and rebellious and will not consent to which reason nows to be the will of God.

We must also guard our emotions and desires. In the garden Satan attacked Eve's reason by questioning God's integrity, but his primary temptation was to her desire. We read that Eve saw that the tree was good for food, it was a delight to the eyes and desirable for making one wise (Genesis 3:6).

We are to delight ourselves in The Lord. Psalms 1:1-3.

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