

WILL POWER

Request: I am confused about the role of will power in the Christian Way of Life (CWL). If a believer has strong will power, is it by itself in opposition to walking in the power of The Holy Spirit? How can we be sure that we are walking by means of the Holy Spirit and not by will power?

This is a great question from a believer spiritually growing in the word of God.

Our lesson text has a parable of two sons with different dispositions of wills. We will examine our lesson text by the following four homiletical points.

- Problem with authority (Matt.21:23-27) Power of God's will
- Parable of two sons (Matt.21:28-31a) Power of human will
- Point of discussion (Matt.21:31b-32) Power of Positive Volition (PV)

This lesson will study four aspects of Will Power in the CWL.
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1. You hear parents talk about the different dispositions of wills in their children even though they raised them the same way.

This is a universal truth. Because it is a universal truth, Jesus used it in a parable of the 1st century AD, and it's still relevant today, in the 21st century.

The parable introduced a father with two sons, each with different dispositions of wills. One son had a passive (negative volition) (NV) disposition (Matt.21:29) [I will, but I didn't]. The other son had an aggressive NV or was 'strong willed' (Matt.21:30) [I won't, but did it anyway].

NOTE: A biblical parable is an earthly story with one heavenly meaning or one doctrinal point. What was the heavenly meaning of the parable of the two sons? "Which of the two **did** the will of his father?" (Matt.21:31a)

What was the doctrinal point?

- Write the three wills in this parable on the blank line _____, _____, and _____.
- Now write on the blank lines the persons presented by the three wills in the context of our lesson text
The _____ (), the _____ () and the _____ ()
- Now write on the line next to the three wills whether they represented PV or NV or S (Sovereignty).

Who and why did Jesus chide in our lesson text?
(Matt.21:32b) (Metamelomai) [Remorse, regret, conscience sake]

2. You can see the importance of understanding the five apertures of the soul.

- **Self-consciousness** – awareness of self, God, and world around you.

- **Conscience** – standard of right and wrong. Learning the different between relative and absolute truth (black and white and gray) Question: When is it lying? What is “is”?
- **Mentality** The mind or the left lobe of perception (alphabet) and the heart or the right lobe of comprehension (abstract thinking in sentences, paragraphs, even books).
- **Volition** The negative or positive poles of human will, the freedom to choose NV (not to do) or PV (to do).
- **Emotion** The high and low feelings, excitement and appreciation. Emotions can reveal what one is thinking in the heart or hiding in the conscience by facial expressions or body language. This could be expressed by the Greek word, *metamelomai* (remorse or regret) (Matt.27:3-5).

The apertures of the soul do not work independent of each other apart from demon possession, psychosis or the advanced stages of dementia or certain drugs.

3. **God honors PV (positive volition) and He will direct it to the right place at the right time in order to do the right thing (directive will of God)**

(Rom.8:28) – “Doing the will of God from the heart.” (Eph.6:6b) “Knowing that whatever good thing each one does, this he will receive back from the Lord.” (6:8)

You can see this doctrinal principle in the lives of believers like Zachariah and Elizabeth, Simeon and Anna, Mary and Joseph and the Bethlehem temple shepherds in the historical birth story of Jesus Christ in Luke 1-2.

Mary and Joseph knew they were chosen to be the prophetic parents of the Messiah before His birth (Luke 1:26-38; Matt.1:18-25). As spiritually mature believers, they knew that the Messiah must be born in Bethlehem of Judea (Micah 5:2; Matt.2:4-6). Yet it took a Roman census and the law, rather than the word of God to get them to Bethlehem for the prophetic birth of Jesus Christ.

The **Gentile Magi** arrived in Bethlehem for the birth of Christ by obeying an age old Jewish prophesy of Jacob’s star of the birth of the King of World (Num.24:17; Matt.2:1-12)

“What shall we say then? That Gentiles, who did not pursue righteousness, attained righteousness, even **the righteousness which is by faith**; but Israel, pursuing a law of righteousness, did not arrive at that law. Why? Because they did not pursue it by faith, but as though it were by works. They stumbled over the stumbling stone.” (Rom.10:30-32)

4. **NV (Negative Volition) is the initial stage of failure in the CWL.**

The believer must understand the difference between primary and secondary NV so that he addressed both of these areas in his CWL (Matt.16:21-23).

- **Primary NV** is directed towards the hearing of the faith cycle (Rom.10:17). It involves either NV to assembling for bible study (Heb.10:25) or to hearing once in attendance (2 Cor.4:4; Matt.13:13-19).
- **Secondary NV** is directed towards the believing (Heb.4:2), applying (2 Cor.5:7) and completing (James 2:22) the faith cycle – “But prove yourselves doers of the word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves.” (James 1:22) (Heb.5:11-14; 2 Tim.2:26; Luke 22:31) (**Mary and Joseph**)