**Will**

 **Jesus said to them.**

**I came down from heaven,**

**not merely to do my own will,**

**but to do the will of him who sent me.**

***(St. John 6:38)***

The difference between perseverance and obstinacy is that one comes from a strong will, and the other from a strong won't. (Henry Ward Beecher)

Every organ of the body is affected by the action of the will, and when this faculty becomes fixed in a certain attitude, it holds the whole body to its central affirmation. The determination to have one’s own way, regardless of the rights of others, tends to stop the free action of the heart; the stomach is then sympathetically affected. Persons affected in these ways seldom realize that they have a set determination as to how things shall be done in their lives, and they are sometimes slow in accepting the higher understanding that is necessary to the untangling of mistakes made by the ignorant will. Contrariness is another name for perverted will. An exaggerated idea of self and its needs takes possession of the mind, and the will is used to carry out this short-sighted policy. The result is a belittling of the whole man. Persons who are contentious for their personal rights place themselves in bondage to material conditions and stop spiritual growth. (Charles Fillmore, in Christian Healing, p. 111)

**Nature’s mind is always the servant of man’s mind when man lifts his thoughts to Spirit. Nature will even obey a determined will on an inferior plane of consciousness. Concentration of will as practiced by metaphysicians of the Orient, African witch doctors, and a horde of occult adepts bears testimony to the power of the mind to manipulate matter visible and invisible. *(Charles Fillmore, in Jesus Christ Heals, p. 188)***

**I was teaching a high-school course in commercial law, and during a class meeting we went over the subject of probate. One student attempted to complete the sentence "A person who dies without a will is said to have died \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_." Instead of writing "intestate," the young man replied, "unwillingly." *(Mathew T. Perpich, in Reader's Digest)***

**“In His Will is our peace,” said Dante, and the Divine Comedy is really a study in fundamental states of consciousness, the Inferno representing the state of the soul that is endeavoring to live without God, the Paradiso representing the state of the soul that has achieved its conscious unity with the Divine Will, and the Purgatorio the condition of the soul that is struggling to pass from the one state to the other. It was this sublime conflict of the soul which wrung from the heart of the great Augustine the cry “Thou hast made us for Thyself, and our hearts are restless until they repose in Thee.” (*Emmet Fox, in The Sermon on the Mount, p. 174)***

**If the ego or will that is man has adhered to the guiding light of Spirit faithfully and has carried out in its work the plans that are ideated in wisdom, it has created a harmonious consciousness. The original Adam and Eve is symbolical of such a consciousness. *(Charles Fillmore, in Mysteries of Genesis, p. 42)***

**Exercising your willpower: Willpower isn't just something you're born with -- you can train to make it stronger, a new study suggests. Dr. Suzanne Segerstrom of the University of Kentucky devised a test that in effect measured willpower. Volunteers were presented with a plate of carrots and a plate of chocolate chip cookies and candy. Some were instructed to eat just the carrots, others just the sweets. Afterward, participants tried to solve a series of anagrams. Subjects who ate only carrots had slightly elevated heart rates, indicating they were giving their bodies a workout by resisting the cookies and candy. The carrot eaters also didn't do as well on the mental tests, which could mean they used up some of their strength resisting the sweets. The results, Segerstrom tells Scientific American, suggest that people could strengthen their willpower through physical exercise. Not only would regular exercise increase their fitness and ability to withstand temptation, it would train them to persist in doing something they would prefer to stop. "In a way it is kind of like a muscle," she says. "The more you work at it, the stronger it gets." *(The Week magazine, April 27, 2007)***

**The fourth step in creation is the development of the “two great lights,” the will and the understanding, or the sun (the spiritual I AM) and the moon (the intellect). These are but reflectors of the true light; for God had said, “Let there be light: and there was light” -- before the sun and the moon were created. *(Charles Fillmore, in Mysteries of Genesis, p. 19)***

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**We must believe in free will. We have no choice. *(Isaac Bashevis Singer)***

**We have seen that man too often chooses to use his free will in a negative way. He allows himself to think wrongly, selfishly, and this wrong thinking brings upon him all his troubles. Instead of understanding that it is his essential nature to express God, to be ever about his Father’s business, he tries to set up upon his own account. All our troubles arise from just this folly. We abuse our free will, trying to work apart from God; and the very natural result is all the sickness, poverty, sin, trouble, and death that we find on the physical plane. We must never for a moment try to live for ourselves, or make plans or arrangements without reference to God, or suppose that we can be either happy or successful if we are seeking any other end than to do His Will. Whenever our desire may be, whether it be something concerning our daily work, or our duty at home, our relations with our fellow man, or private plans for the employment of our own time, if we seek to serve self instead of God, we are ordering trouble, disappointment, and unhappiness, notwithstanding what the evidence to the contrary may seem to be. Whereas, if we choose what, through prayer, we know to be His Will, then we are insuring for ourselves ultimate success, freedom, and joy, however much self-sacrifice and self-discipline it may involve at the moment, (*Emmet Fox, in The Sermon on the Mount, p. 173)***

**It’s true that God gave us free will. But, God can take the results from those choices, good or evil, and use them for his purpose and glory. *(R. M. Lumsden, in Rocky Mountain News)***

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**Those who give their will to God give God all they have. *(St. Alphonsus Liguori, Italian founder of the Redemptorists, 18th century)***

**People do not lack strength; they lack will. *(Victor Hugo)***

**Little boy: “I haven’t had to blow my nose for a whole year.” Little girl: “Why don’t babies come unscented?” Little boy: “Sometimes tying up somebody with a jump rope and locking her in a closet can be an accident.” Little girl: “I am not whining. This is my ‘I’m not happy about this’ voice.” Little boy laying in bed and looking up says: “I said my prayers on Tuesday, and told Him everything He needs to know for awhile.” *(Rick Detorie, in One Big Happy comic strip)***

**The will to succeed is important, but what's more important is the will to prepare. *(Bobby Knight, basketball coach)***

***\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\**The “greater light,” in mind, is understanding and the “lesser light” is the will. The greater light rules “the day,” that realm of consciousness which has been illumined by Spirit. The lesser light rules “the night,” that is, the will; which has no illumination (“light” or “day”) but whose office is to execute the demands of understanding. The will does not reason, but in its harmonious relation acts easily and naturally upon the inspiration of Spirit. Divine will expresses itself as the I AM in man. *(Charles Fillmore, in Mysteries of Genesis, p. 20)***

**The two great lights represent the faculties of understanding and will, which should function together. Understanding itself is of little value unless it is expressed by the activity of the will, and man’s will is a power for good only when it is grounded in understanding. *(Elizabeth Sand Turner, Let There Be Light, p. 17)***

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**No one ever died until he let go his will to live, and thousands live on and on through the force of a determined will. *(Charles Fillmore, in Christian Healing, p. 115)***

**Man is the will of God externalized or projected into visibility, and this will must respond to the slightest impulse of the divine power within the depths of his own being. The sense mind has long been the realm of man’s labors, and it has truly made him earn him bread by the sweat of his brow. In this realm he has formed a center of consciousness, which is termed the will. This seeming will must be given up, and the pure will must find the rightful place in the realm of God-Mind. Jesus was passing through this dissolution of the false will when he cried out, “Not my will, but thine, be done.” So each of us must become so obedient to the Spirit of God within himself that the image and likeness which he is will shine forth in its pristine glory and the sons of God take their place in the Father’s house. *(Charles Fillmore, in Keep a True Lent, p. 61)***

**The word will means purpose choice, determination. Whatever you choose, you are willing. All things can be done by choice. Make deliberate choice the great conscious action of your mind. If you choose life and health, then you are willing yourself back to life and health. Your will for health is a powerful factor in bringing it forth. The will is the master builder of the body. *(Catherine Ponder, in The Healing Secrets of the Ages, p. 190)***

**Two ministers got into a discussion about what they considered to be an important congregational matter. As it turned into a debate, the senior pastor told the younger: "Look, what are we arguing over? We're both trying to do the Lord's work. You do it your way, and I'll do it His way!" *(The Lutheran Witness)***

**Father Anthony de Mello recounted the story of a wise person from the East observing how we pray in our culture and offering the following descriptions: “In your culture, it is considered a miracle when God does man’s will. In our culture, it is considered a miracle when man does God’s will!” *(Father Joseph Breighner, in Catholic Register)***

**I am not much given to visions and personal revelations, but recently I had a real experience of the working of God in my life. As you know, I’ve been on a diet. I’ve been pretty good, but what a struggle. The other day I had to go downtown. As I started out I remembered the Daylight Donut Shop. They make some real world-class doughnuts. Driving along I thought, “A cup of coffee and a doughnut would really hit the spot.” But then I remembered my diet. So I said a silent prayer, “God, if you want me to stop for a doughnut, let there be a parking place right in front.” Sure enough, seventh time around the block. *(Illustration Digest)***

**In the past you may have been saying to yourself, “God, Your will and my will.” When you admit your helplessness and then surrender to God, you are saying, “God, Your will is my will.” *(Richard & Mary-Alice Jafolla, in The Quest)***

**The will to win is important, but the will to prepare is vital. *(Joe Paterno)***

**What is your path? What are you staring at? Where are your feet taking you? If it is not being true to the Christ in you, be prepared for a fall. *(Richard & Mary-Alice Jafolla, in The Quest, p. 382)***

**Your will is the great permission-giver of your consciousness. It moves to action all the other spiritual gifts. No matter how much you understand your God-given gifts, if you are not willing to use them, they remain potential only. A birthday gift isn’t very exciting to you if you don’t unwrap it. God gave you twelve spiritual gifts at birth, and, unless you unwrap them, you will not develop in consciousness. You must be willing to untie the ribbon and peel back the wrapping to discover these gifts. Then, as you use these gifts, you realize that they are all part of the one gift, your Christ-self. *(William Warch, in How To Use Your Twelve Gifts From God, p. 65)***

**During the Persian Gulf conflict, this sign was observed in a Tel Aviv back yard next to a Scud crater: “Actually, we wanted the pool a little to the right.” *(Marty Adelstein, in New York Times)***

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**When you're out of willpower, you can call on stubbornness. *(Henri Matisse)***

**Hunger Games: A poor man walked up to a well-dressed woman, walking down the street. He put his hands out and said, “Ma’am, I haven’t had anything to eat for over three days now.” The woman clapped her hands to her face and with a shocked voice answered, “My gosh, I wish I had your willpower.” *(Tom Kovach, in The Saturday Evening Post)***

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**If everything were to turn out just like I would want it to, then I would never experience anything new; my life would be an endless repetition of stale successes. *(Hugh Prather, in Notes From Myself)***

**An interviewer wanted to know how Robert Redford would most like to be remembered. Robert Redford, "In somebody's will." *(Reader's Digest)***

**So many of our dreams at first seem impossible, then they seem improbable, and then, when we summon the will, they soon become inevitable. (Christopher Reeve)**

**Grace can do nothing without the will, and the will can do nothing without grace. *(St. John Chrysostom)***

**A very practical application of the truth about the will can be made in the matter of self-control. Those who try to get control through suppressing the personal will fall short. We should be free to express all that we are. If you are afraid of any force within you, your fear leads to suppression. In the true self-control, the will and the understanding both play a part. The feelings and appetites and passions must be disciplined. They are not merely to be held in check by the will, but they are to be lifted up and developed through the Christ Mind. *(Charles Fillmore, in Christian Healing, p. 114)***

**Nothing but self-will can separate us from God. Neither all the men upon earth, nor all the devils in hell, can deprive us of his grace. (St. Alphonsus Ligouri)**

**Our bodies are our gardens, to which our wills are gardeners. (William Shakespeare)**

**After watching the squabbles that often develop in the splitting up of estates, one can sympathize with the old fellow whose will contained only the following words: "Being of sound mind, I spent every cent I had." (Print Shop newsletter)**

**The will plays the leading part in all systems of thought concentration. The simple statement, “I will to be well,” gathers the forces of mind and body about the central idea of wholeness, and the will holds the center just so long as the I AM continues its affirmation. *(Charles Fillmore, in Christian Healing, p. 115)***

**Understanding itself is of little value unless it is expressed by the activity of the will, and man’s will is a power for good only when it is grounded in understanding. *(Elizabeth Sand Turner, in Let There Be Light, p. 17)***

**Great things are not something accidental, but must certainly be willed. *(Vincent van Gogh)***

**A preacher put it this way: People, however honorable in their faith, tend to have one common weakness – the inability to see the difference between self-interest and divine will. *(L. M. Boyd)***

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**Where there is a will, there is a wall. But where there is a willingness, there is a way. *(Rev. Michael Bernard Beckwith)***

**Where there's a will, there's a won't. *(Lucille S. Harper, in The Saturday Evening Post)***

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