

The Quality Of Our Christian Life Is Determined By Our Will, Not Our Feelings

Within the Word of God, the Christian Bible, there is a strong link between our moral determination and the ability to serve our Creator God.

Genesis 28:20-22 [NIV] *“Then Jacob made a vow, saying, ‘If God will be with me and will watch over me on this journey I am taking and will give me food to eat and clothes to wear so that I return safely to my father’s house, then the LORD will be my God and this stone that I have set up as a pillar will be God’s house, and of all that you give me I will give you a tenth.’”*

As a result of a dramatic encounter with God in a dream [verses 10-19] Jacob pledged his future to God, saying in effect, *“because you have blessed me with this vision I will follow You.”*

Daniel 1:8 [NIV] *“But Daniel resolved not to defile himself with the royal food and wine, and he asked the chief official for permission not to defile himself in this way.”*

Daniel resolved **not** to be influenced by the pagan customs that were around him in his captivity in Babylon.

Daniel served the pagan king for 70 years in a foreign land that was hostile to God, yet in his strong resolve he did **not** compromise his faith in God. Daniel was truthful, persistent in prayer and totally disinterested in power for personal glory.

Luke 9:51 [NIV] *“As the time approached for him to be taken up to heaven, Jesus resolutely set out for Jerusalem.”*

Knowing what was going to eventually happen to Him in Jerusalem, Jesus Christ, our Saviour, resolutely set out for Jerusalem to make the ultimate sacrifice.

This kind of resolve should also characterise our lives as Christians. We as disciples of Jesus Christ must live our Christ-like lives as examples to this world, whatever potential hazards await us. [Philippians 3:10-11]

1 Corinthians 2:1-5 [NIV] *“When I came to you, brothers, I did not come with eloquence or superior wisdom as I proclaimed to you the testimony about God. For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. I came to you in weakness and fear, and with much trembling. My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit’s power, so that your faith might not rest on men’s wisdom, but on God’s power.”*

Paul resolved to allow the power that comes from what Jesus Christ has done for all humanity to supersede any talent that he had personally.

The Gospel Message is the driving force of Christian faith.

As long as we resolve to remain true to this message that Jesus Christ brought to all humanity from God the Father we will fulfil the reason for our calling by God at this time.

Acts 11:22-23 [King James] *“Then tidings of these things came unto the ears of the church which was in Jerusalem: and they sent forth Barnabas, that he should go as far as Antioch. Who, when he*

came, and had seen the grace of God, was glad, and exhorted them all, that with purpose of heart they would cleave unto the Lord.”

Barnabas encouraged the Christians in Antioch to cleave to the teachings of Jesus Christ with “*purpose of heart,*” that is making it first and foremost in their lives.

Luke 9:23-24 [King James] *“And he said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: but whosoever will lose his life for my sake, the same shall save it.”*

Only an act of will can make our decision to follow Jesus Christ as His disciple permanent.

Emotional feelings as the result of the environment at some event we experience will soon fade.

Romans 12:1-2 [NIV] *“Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God, this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is, his good, pleasing and perfect will.”*

Once we choose, as an act of will, to offer our lives to Jesus Christ, through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, God will purge our will to bring it into union with His will.

God will never break our will, this decision, as outlined in the above scripture, is an invitation not a direct command.

What we do must be an act of free choice and will.

God does **not** desire to destroy our will, but to sanctify them.

In the record of all people whom God has used in a powerful way, we find vows and solemn pledges being made in moments of great grace, when the presence of God is very real.

At such times the worshipper knows that any promise made to God is assured to be empowered by Him to enable it to be carried out.

God knows the difference between an impulsive promise and a reverent declaration of will.