

## THE IMPORTANCE OF THE HUMAN WILL

Once again, I don't really have a message tonight because I'm still getting adjusted to my new routine and it has taken quite a bit of my time doing so. Also, I have been filling out a lot of paperwork this week—gathering all kinds of information and filing applications and things like that. I'm sure you are all aware of this fact but dealing with government agencies is really a nightmare!

I wanted to do a message this week on our “wills” because it's *critical* that we understand the role they play in Redemption. There is still much confusion in the minds of God's people regarding the issue of the human will, mainly because of all the preachers and Bible teachers who are running around promoting Reformation Theology—or “Calvinism”—as the gospel. I'm still not sure that even the people who *listen to me* understand just how pervasive and deadly Reformation Theology is because we have *all* been raised as “Protestant” Christians—and Protestantism is just as wrong as Roman Catholicism. Protestant errors are different than Roman Catholic errors; but they are just as wrong and they are just as unscriptural—and this also makes the Reformation boast of “*Sola Scriptura*” a hypocritical lie and a joke.

For many centuries, the doctrine of the Reformers focused on “justification”. Justification was *everything*. Because the main issue of the whole Reformation was: “How are we justified?” Are people justified by participating in the Catholic Mass? Are they justified by doing penance? Are they justified by purchasing indulgences? Are they justified by going to confession every week?

The issue of the Reformation was “justification”. Justification was it. Justification was seen as being *all* that was necessary to be saved and eventually enter Paradise and receive the rewards listed in Scripture. In the minds of the Reformers, justification gets us forgiven; justification gets us sanctified; justification readies us for the marriage of the Lamb and the First Resurrection; justification gains us all the rewards and privileges that are associated with Redemption.

After the issue of how we are justified was finally settled and a theology about justification was created, religious leaders began to explore the issue of *sanctification*. Until that point, sanctification was just sort of *thrown in* with justification. But as the question of *how* sanctification relates to justification and *how* it takes place in our lives began to take front stage, all manner of doctrinal positions were formulated. It's not my point to explore all these various positions. Suffice it to say that from that time forward, there has been a division within the ranks of Protestant Christianity regarding *how* we are sanctified.

Basically, people have divided into two opposing camps. One camp says that we are sanctified the same way we are justified—which is “by faith”. When they say “by faith” they mean *by belief*. How were you justified? You were justified by faith. That is, you were justified by *believing* the message of the gospel. Right? Well, according to these people, that's exactly how we are sanctified. Just as we *believe* God has justified us, so we must *believe* that He is sanctifying us, day by day, as we walk with Him.

This is Calvinism, pure and simple. It stems from Calvin's error that God must do everything for us and we can do nothing to help Him in that process. The theological term for this error is “Monoggerism”—“mono” means *one*. For instance, a “mono” audio signal is just the opposite of a “stereo” audio signal. Monoggerism means that God alone does everything for us regarding salvation. From justification, to sanctification, to glorification, “*it's all of God and none of you*”. All we are responsible to do is “believe”.

The opposing camp believes that salvation, from start to finish, is a co-operation between God and the individual. This view is called “synergism”. It basically means that more than one agent is working together to produce a desired result. It would be translated in Calvinistic terms as: “*some of God and some of you*”. God has a part to play and we have a part to play. God does not do it all for us. We are responsible to do certain things *as a response* to His sovereign working in our lives.

This view is scorned by all Reformation and Calvinistic preachers, theologians and Bible teachers. They call it “another gospel”. They say those of us who hold such a view are trying to be “saved by works” rather than “by grace”. And deep in their hearts, they are convinced that those who hold the view of Synergism are unsaved. How could we be otherwise? If it’s not possible to be “saved by works” and believing in Synergism *equals* trying to be “saved by works”, then how could we possibly be saved?

So the first thing we need to realize is that *most* of the people who believe in Monogermism are *liars* because they act towards us Synergist’s like they think we are fellow believers—albeit, deceived fellow believers—when the fact is, they actually think we have accepted a *false* gospel. Therefore, it would be better for them to come right out and declare that we are all going to Hell, and treat us like the infidels they consider us to be, rather than trying to put on an act of Christian charity and brotherly love.

"Whilst a man is persuaded that he **has it in his power to contribute anything, be it ever so little, to his salvation**, he remains in carnal self-confidence; he is not a self-despairer, and therefore is not duly humbled before God, **he believes he may lend a helping hand in his salvation**, but on the contrary, whoever is truly convinced that the **whole work depends singly on the will of God**, such a person renounces his own will and strength; he waits and prays for the operation of God, nor waits and prays in vain . . ."

Martin Luther

The seeds of error which permeate Reformation Theology were sown by none other than Martin Luther himself. I admit that it’s hard for me personally not to do the *very thing* these men did—which is over-react to their error, just as they over-reacted to the error of the Roman Catholic organization because the destruction their error has wrought in the churches is mind-boggling. I *do* believe Martin Luther was a Christian, and I also believe he was raised up by God to bring people out of Romish bondage. But like so many “reformers” past and present, he went to far in the opposite direction.

Even in the work of justification, man must contribute *a little* towards his own salvation. We must yield to the convicting power of the Holy Spirit; we must accept and believe the truth of the gospel; and we must be willing to repent in order to be saved. God does none of this for people. He has never “repented” *for* anyone! He has never “yielded” *for* anyone! And he has certainly never decided to accept the truth *for* anyone! He helps us to do these things; but he does not do them for us. All these things must come from our own being and volition. We must do them. That’s our (little) contribution to the salvation process! God cannot and He will never will do these things for us.

This is why John Calvin developed his theories the way he did. His main concern was to take every bit of responsibility (and glory) away from man and give it *all* to God. But how could this be done when the Scripture so clearly says that “we” must accept the truth; that “we” must believe Jesus is the Savior; that

“we” must repent” and that “we” must come to Christ”? He did it by borrowing from the writings of St. Augustine, who’s teachings were basically the equivalent of modern Calvinism. In fact, the argument could easily be made that Calvinism is nothing more than Augustinianism—minus a few Roman Catholic errors. Calvin took Paul’s words in Ephesians 2:1, regarding the unbeliever being “dead” in trespasses of sins, to an extremes that was never intended by Paul himself. He said the sinner is dead in sin and therefore is like a corpse—totally unable to do anything. That being the case, the only logical conclusion is that the unsaved must be regenerated *before* they can really hear or accept the gospel. Sinners must first be regenerated and given “life”. Only then will he be able to believe the gospel. To this day, millions and millions of deluded Christians accept this lie as the gospel truth. But please notice, the Scripture says very clearly that the unsaved man or women must believe in order to have life!

*And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book: **But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name.***

*John 20:30-3*

The Philippian jailer once asked; “*What must I do to be saved?*” (Acts 16:30). If the apostle Paul had been a Calvinist, teaching good Calvinist doctrine, he certainly would never has said: “...*believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house...*”. Instead, Paul would have said: “*Sorry my friend but you can’t do anything to be saved—absolutely nothing. You are dead in your sin. You are a dead man and a dead man can’t do anything to be saved. Just hope that God sovereignly regenerates you or you are doomed*”.

The Calvinist argument, that it’s impossible for a sinner to believe because he is “dead” and dead men can’t do anything, is wrong. In Eph. 2:1, Paul is speaking of *spiritual* death. Comparing spiritual death with physical death is crazy because although a person who is physically dead cannot speak, cannot breathe, cannot laugh, cannot walk, etc.; a spiritually dead person can do all of these things! It borders on the bizarre to say that a spiritually dead person can do *nothing*. Even the Calvinist would have to admit that a spiritually dead man can reject Jesus, and pray, hand read the Bible. A Spiritually dead man can sin and he can even do good works in a vain effort to try to earn his salvation.

This whole idea that regeneration is as sovereign act of God, which is independent of the person’s will and volition, and which precedes faith, leads to all kinds of errors—just one of which is the error of “infant baptism”—which, although a Roman Catholic doctrine, was still incorporated into the Protestant churches.

*The Reformation Study Bible* (formerly called *The Geneva Study Bible*) claims to be a clear statement of Reformed Theology. On page 1664 there is an article on Regeneration. It is a shocking statement relating to infant salvation because it says: “*Infants can be born again, although the faith that they exercise cannot be as visible as that of adults.*”

A brother who was concerned about such error being propagated in that Bible wrote to R.C. Sproul—who is the General Editor of it—in order to ask for clarification on such a statement. The response the brother got back was not from R.C. Sproul himself, ovf course. These men are too busy to personally answer

letters or emails—especially when their doctrinal positions are being challenged or questioned. The response this brother got was from Sproul’s assistant, V.A. Voorhis (1/6/2000), which said:

When the RSB speaks in the notes of John 3 of "infants being born again," it is speaking of **the work of quickening God does in them which inclines their will to Him**. In Protestantism, **regeneration always precedes faith** and if God quickens them, the person will surely come . . . Often, regeneration and our subsequent faith happen apparently simultaneously but logically, regeneration must precede faith. **An infant's faith may not come until years after God has worked by His Holy Spirit to regenerate him or her** Two Biblical examples of infants who were born again are seen in Psalm 22:9-10 and Luke 1:15."

According to this teaching, a child can be born again or regenerated as an infant and not come actually to faith in Christ until years later! You see, it’s not problem believing that a child whose brain has not even been fully developed yet, could be regenerated through baptism because the will and the volition of the person is a non-issue. God can regenerate a baby, and then, at some later point in his or her life, they will come to faith because they have already been made “alive” through water baptism.

But this is not my point. My point is to highlight the *real* purpose of Calvin’s “*a-dead-man-can’t-do-anything*” analogy. It’s fundamental purpose was to remove all responsibility from man in the salvation process. For you see, if a dead man can’t choose to accept the gospel; if God has to regenerate him first and make him alive before he can possibly believe; then God gets ALL the glory. The person can’t claim to have added anything whatsoever to the redemption process. It was “*all of God and none of him*”.

Charles Spurgeon, who was a staunch Calvinist and who said “Calvinism is the gospel”, was still able to recognize the folly of saying an unregenerate person must be regenerated first, before he can believe the gospel. Thus, he made the following statement:

"If I am to preach the faith in Christ to **a man who is regenerated**, then the man, being regenerated, is saved already, **and it is an unnecessary and ridiculous thing for me to preach Christ to him**, and bid him to believe in order to be saved when he is saved already, being regenerate. Am I only to preach faith to those who have it? Absurd, indeed! **Is not this waiting till the man is cured and then bringing him the medicine?** This is preaching Christ to the righteous and not to sinners."

*Sermon: The Warrant of Faith*

Now you can begin to understand *why* Protestant Christianity is such a mess! Charles Spurgeon—who is considered by 98% of today’s Christians to be the epitome of spiritual wisdom and knowledge, and who is called “the prince of preachers”—was just as confused as any of today’s believers are! In one breath he declared that “Calvinism is the gospel”. Yet he denied the *very foundation* upon which the whole T.U.L.I.P. theory was built—the “**T**” = Total Inability (or depravity) man. Spurgeon also vehemently denied John Calvin’s *double predestination* error. That is, the idea that in eternity past, God (for no particular reason) predestined some people to eternal life and the rest He predestined (again, for no particular reason) to everlasting torment. Yet Spurgeon said Calvinism was the gospel!

About a month ago, I received an email from a sister who has been sitting under the very *Calvinistic* teaching of Steve Lumbley (Apostasy Watch). This sister has been attending his Bible studies for over *two* years, yet when she wrote me, she was as confused as any individual as I had ever seen regarding some very fundamental issues of the faith. She asked me a bunch of questions, which I tried to answer. I'll just mention 3 of them because it shows the confusion that results from sitting under these *Calvinistic* preachers and Bible teachers who speak out of *both sides* of their mouths. And by the way, there's just as many Calvinist preachers and teachers outside the Religious System as there are inside that System.

The third or fourth question she asked was: "*How do I overcome my sin nature*". After two years of listening to Mr. Apostasy Watcher, this poor sister still had no idea how to overcome the sin nature! My response was the following:

"We overcome our sin nature by resisting its desires and temptations, and by learning to abide in the new nature we were given when we were born again. Walking in the Spirit, living in the Spirit, being led by the Spirit, are things that must be *learned* by personal experience. No one can teach you how to do it. That's the job of the Holy Spirit.

We do not lose our fallen sin nature once we are saved. That nature remains with us till we die, or until the Lord returns. Therefore, you can be living in victory over the desires of that nature one day, and the very next day, come down out of the Spirit and be entangled in those old desires again.

This is what people do not understand. The old nature remains with us and it *never* changes...never. What God is calling us to do is walk in our *new* nature. As long as we walk in that new nature, we will not fulfill the lusts and sins of the old nature. Easier said than done--I know. But that's the answer. This is why it's so important that we exercise our own will as much as possible in the battle against that sin nature--which leads me to your next question."

Her next question was: "*Is it me struggling to overcome my sin nature by myself, or is it the Holy Spirit working in me that helps me overcome?*" Again, after sitting under the ministry of Apostasy Watch for two years, this sister still didn't understand the simple truth of Scripture regarding how we overcome our sin nature and how we are to resist it. My response was:

"No. It is not you struggling **by yourself**. We will never be able to overcome that nature in **our own** strength. We need the power and the wisdom and the direction of the Holy Spirit. But at the same time, the Holy Spirit will *not* do it all by Himself. He expects us to co-operate with Him. That co-operation involves us using our own wills and determination to resist the desires and sins we know are coming from the old man.

It's the sword of the Lord *and* of Gideon.

In time of testing and temptation, we must engage all our own effort, will power, and determination to not give in to those things, while at the same time, calling on Jesus to give us *His* power (strengthen our wills) to resist them.

Her next question was: “*I know that I have prayed for removal of certain behaviors in my life that were literal addictions, and I kid you not- poof! Those things and the desire for those things were gone from my life just like that. But I have one issue now that keeps plaguing me, and try as I might I keep falling flat on my face.*”

Your experience is not unusual. You just don't know how to interpret it or relate to it properly because of all the wrong doctrine you are trying to get free from. Many people experience *instant* deliverance from things when they are first saved. That's God showing us His love, His power and His faithfulness. But you see, if God did that for every wrong desire in your life, He would be thwarting the very purpose of redemption. The whole program of salvation is to produce people who have the stamina and the will to resist and overcome sin. In order to build that resistance to sin and the power to overcome it, we have to face certain things and battle them *until* we get the victory over them.

It's like weight lifting. The only way to build stronger muscles is to apply resistance to them. The resistance are the weights or barbells. The more resistance you apply to them, the stronger the muscles become. This is what God wants to do regarding your WILL.

When we first come to Jesus, our wills are very *weak* in resisting sin. But they are very strong in rebellion and seeking after self. God has to turn that situation completely upside down so that our wills become strong (like iron) in resisting evil and doing righteousness. The only way this can be accomplished is if He leaves things in our life for us to fight against. It's that *struggle* that makes you an overcomer! It's the *struggle* that produces spiritual iron in you. And it's the *struggle* that will eventually lead us into a life of total obedience to God--if we don't give up.

Of course, it's always possible that there are spiritual powers involved with your problem. If, after a time of applying your will and determination against that thing, and also asking God to help and strengthen you in the struggle, if you still can't get free, then maybe you need some deliverance. But God wants to *strengthen your will* against sin. That's His main goal.

You see, there are a lot of preachers and Bible teachers talking about “being conformed” to the “image” of Christ. There are a lot of ministers talking about the need to be “sanctified” after we have been “justified”. But it's *extremely important* how we view that sanctification process. There is a *false faith* propagated in this hour, that says *God* (the Holy Spirit) is the *only one* who can overcome our flesh, or our sins, and the various addictions people are caught up in.

This is Calvin's error and it is only partially true. The real question is: “How does god overcome these things in our lives”? Calvinists say the Holy Spirit will overcome all these things in us *without* us having to engage our own wills and determination. They say that if we try to engage our own wills or our own determination to overcome these things, we are walking in “the flesh”. That is, we are trying to overcome them in our own human strength. These Calvinist ministers say that “faith” will result in God “taking away” our problems from us. They say that if we are walking in true faith, then at some point—according to His own sovereign will and timing—He will *remove the desires* for these sins and addictions supernaturally. They say that anything other than this is “will worship” and it equals an attempt to overcome our problems and sins in our own “flesh”.

I say: LIARS! DECEIVERS! AGENTS OF SATAN!

The way the Holy Spirit releases us from various bondage's, sins, and the flesh too, is by empowering our wills to resist these things and eventually overcome them! There is a big difference between these two messages. Zone comes from the root of Calvinism, and says that God must *do it all for you*. The other comes from the Scripture and says that God *enables you* to do it.

In the sanctification process, God must *empower* our wills and *empower* our determination to resist these things until we have gained complete victory over them. It is God who empower us so we can get the victory. But it is we who must actually enter into the battle and fight those enemies of our soul! When we are up against a besetting sin or some addiction, if you listen to the preachers of this false faith, you will NEVER get the victory. We must go to God in all earnestness and beg Him to empower our wills and our resolve to get the victory. Then we must willingly embrace the struggle. We must accept the fact that we are going to have to face temptation and win over it. We must understand that we will have to deny that temptation and overcome it. God still gets the glory because it's HE who must strengthen our wills and our resolve to overcome these things. It's HE who must give us the strength to resist the temptations and deny our wrong desires. But that can never take away the fact that we have to do our part.

We have to get in the battle and *actually* resist these things and overcome them. If you have been told by deluded, Calvinist preachers that if you will just walk in "faith" and "believe", then one of these days God will "zap" you and magically *take away* that desire to sin, know that you have been lied to. Understand that Satan was speaking out of the mouth of that preacher or bible teacher. you. Your deliverance will never come if you listen to these deluded Calvinist!

God is forming a people in this earth who are "overcomers". He is creating a people who have fought and fought to get free, and who will fight and fight to stay free. In order to become an overcomer, we must face issues and temptations that are extremely hard for us. We don't become overcomers by having God overcome everything *for* us! We don't become overcomers by having Him *remove* all temptations and wrong desires from us. We only become overcomers as we are *forced* into situations where we face overwhelming odds. That's when we have to apply all of our own strength and resolve, while calling upon the Lord to help us by supernaturally by *empowering our struggle*. If God zapped us and took away all our problems and wrong desires, He would be frustrating and defeating His own purposes in creating an army of overcomers in these days!

The fact is, only the overcomer is going to rule and reign with the Lord Jesus Christ during the next age. Only the overcomer is going to sit in the Father's throne, just as Jesus overcame and has taken His seat in the Father's throne. Now maybe you can see the *seriousness* of all this Calvinistic garbage that's being spread all over the planet like a plague. It's much more than just bad doctrine. It is designed to thwart god's purposes regarding His overcomers. It is designed to make us *spiritual wimps* who sit around waiting for God to do everything for us. Those who listen to these deluded preachers and Bible teachers will *never* be an overcomer. They will never have any "spiritual iron" worked into their personalities. They will continue to be lazy Christians who refuse to get in the battle and fight god's enemies to the death. They will be shut out of the next age because they are not worthy to be at the side of Jesus, who is THE overcomer. If we don't avail ourselves of God's *power* now—not the power that does all things for us, but the power that enables us to do all things—then we will be very sorry when we stand before the Lord.

A few weeks back, a brother wrote me an email and said: “*In Deuteronomy chapter eleven, and all thru the first ten chapters of that book, the Lord tells the children of Israel that He will drive the enemies out of the Land. I think this is were some people get the idea of ‘all-of-God-and-none-of-us’. Can you comment on this, please?*” My answer was the following:

“The fact is, even though God said **He** would defeat all the enemies of Israel for them, **they still had to invade the towns of Canaan and fight the inhabitants of the Land.** God gave them the victory **by showing them how to fight.** He gave them the victory **by empowering them to win.** However, they still had to enter the battle. They still had to draw their own swords and exercise all their own strength to defeat those enemies.

There were a few occasions when God sent His angels into battle for Israel, and the angels actually slew the opposing armies. But that didn't happen very often. The vast majority of the time (over 95%), the Hebrews had to leave the comfort of their tents; they had to put on their armor and grab their swords; they had to get into battle formation and march into battle; and they had to personally slay the enemy with their own hands and weapons.”

This is the way it is with us too. God gives us the victory, not by taking our enemies away from us, but by showing us how to defeat them and by empowering us to defeat them, once we engage them in battle. It is *God's power* that enables us to win, even though we are engaging our own wills and our own effort and determination. As I've said a hundred times in this room: “*it's the sword of the Lord, and of Gideon*”.

*But thou, Israel, art my servant, Jacob whom I have chosen, the seed of Abraham my friend. Thou whom I have taken from the ends of the earth, and called thee from the chief men thereof, and said unto thee, Thou art my servant; I have chosen thee, and not cast thee away. Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: **I will strengthen thee;** yea, **I will help thee;** yea, **I will uphold thee** with the right hand of my righteousness.*

*Isaiah 41:8-10*

*For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, **to be strengthened with might** by his Spirit in the inner man.*

*Ephesians 3:14-16*

*That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God; **Strengthened with all might,** according to his glorious power, unto all patience and longsuffering with joyfulness;*

*Colossians 1:10-11*

*I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: every where and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. **I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.***

*Philippians 4:12-13*

*Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee. So that we may boldly say, **The Lord is my helper**, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me.*

*Hebrews 13:5-6*

Every one of these passages puts the lie to John Calvin's false doctrines. And to all those who say that when we engage our own wills and determinations against God's enemies in us, that's the same as relying on the "flesh"—I say: repent of this wickedness! Repent of this folly! Ask God to open you eyes so you will not have to answer on the day of Judgment for the blood of hundreds, or maybe thousands of believers on your hands. Your false doctrine is helping Satan to overcome the saints and you are a *tool* of Satan. The reason you call striving against sin 'flesh' is because you are caught up in a false gospel; an "idle" gospel. Which says we have to "do nothing" to be saved and glorified.

Well, next week I'm going to get into this a little deeper and go through the Scripture with you.

Before we close tonight, I felt to share something with you that we received from brother David Wilkerson this week. It helped me stay above some of the things I've been struggling with these past few weeks. So I thought I would read it. Maybe there is someone in the room who haven't seen it yet.