

Willpower (*Letter to Jennifer Newsong*)

Dear Jennifer,

Being a Christian, I know what you must be going through to perform or use your will to force your behavior to conform to the Bible. But the more you try the worse you get and the more doubt comes that maybe after all it was only an illusion. When the veil was rent (torn) in the temple, Judaism was exposed as not real but existing only in pretense. Because He was not there, all was mere ritualistic performance. They were using their wills to believe something that they knew all along was not true; a false faith.

This is how many Christians use their wills today. They are living by their own wills and not by the life of God. They are Christians because they have decided to be one. They have made a decision of the will. They want to live a good moral life and they set out to do it. They have resolved to experience victory over their own flesh. As good as this seems, or as it may appear to others, they are living only by their wills. Their life is all within the sphere of their own wills. They know that they should have victory, that they ought to be filled with the Spirit, but the limit they reach is to only desire it. But the desire of the will cannot give the power to do it, for the flesh is more powerful. Thus, they have knowledge of what to do, but they do not have the Spirit to enable them to obey the Word (Jn 8:31-32). Since they are unable to obey, it proves that they are *still slaves to the flesh*.

The one who relies on his will is going to be defeated — the will is too weak. It can only function insofar as something moves or pushes it. But this is not the life of Yahshua, the Master; it is the life of the power of one's own will. So you are destined for defeat after defeat until you come to the cross and receive the life of Messiah. The life of Yahshua is beyond the power of the will. It goes beyond volition. It is based on something greater than human ability and capability. His life in us carries us through the veil of separation and into the presence of God where we receive supernatural grace. It is His life in us, the hope of glory, and this hope transcends all other hopes and circumstances.

But this life is only for the *thirsty* or desperate (Jn 7:38-39). The Spirit is not given to those who are living by the power of their own wills, but only to those who trust Him to do for them what they cannot do for themselves. We do *nothing* — He does it all. All we do is come to Him and He gives us the water of life — but we must come to Him, not a mirage or fantasy that the spirits in Christianity try to deceive with — but the One Who is True (1 Jn 5:20) — the True One — and not the many false ones who by ministers of a so-called gospel manipulate their hearers to live by their wills in principles only and not by His life (2 Cor 11:14-15; Rev 18:2). You can see that there are many deceiving spirits in her. "Her" is the one who fell, and she *became* a dwelling for these deceiving spirits and ministers of Satan. So these ministers get Christians to live by their wills instead of the Spirit and life of Yahshua. Since they have no authority to communicate the life of God, they manipulate others to use their wills to be Christians, then by the use of certain scriptures again manipulate their hearers to use their will to obey the Bible principles. They thereby ignore all the verses that conclusively demonstrate that only by the Spirit of God (or the life of God) can one obey. It is not a matter of the will that one can obey (Jn 13:34). Christianity is exposed as false in verse 35 (1 Jn 3:14,16,17; Mk 10:29-30; Lk 14:33; Acts 4:32-35). Only by the life of God in a disciple can one obey the Word (Jn 8:31,32,51).

So in living by our will *alone* we cannot force ourselves to overcome our weaknesses, but the life of Messiah, His Spirit, carries us through and over those things that it is impossible to do without Him. He in us does it.

The purpose for our will is not to pull ourselves together and push on, but to use our will to let Him do it in us, giving us the will and power--the grace (Philippians 2:13). For it is God's life within His people who have totally surrendered their own righteousness to Him that His grace works in to do His will. He creates in His people (not Christians who are deceived into believing that He dwells in them) the desire to do His will and also brings about the accomplishment of that desire. This is what He does for those who use their will for the surrender of their own efforts to do what only God can do for them. Paul trusted in God's power. Paul used his own will to trust in God's power. That is the only way our will can be effectively used — only to choose to do His will. And, if we choose, He does it in us and for us. This is grace.

1 Pet 4:11 — You cannot do this by your own strength, but your will must choose His will to do what is only possible with God. This is what our Master said the Rich Young Ruler should have done (Mk 10:17,27). Saving grace comes only one way, by surrendering your will to His will, not by deciding to be a Christian and trying to live a Christian life--this falls short of His glory. *Sanctification* comes before *glorification* (1 Ths 5:23-24). This does not teach that we can do it by our own will, but the contrary. We must come to the realization of our own utter hopelessness and desperate condition, with every hope gone, in order to be able to trust in Him and His grace.

So, Jennifer, we cannot pretend to live by our wills and please God, for it is contrary to *faith* or *trusting Him*. He desires us to have a trusting relationship with Him — so we will never think we can live by our own will, or our own wisdom, or our own justice system (1 Cor 1:30). Our own will and our own wisdom is all we have if we do not actually have Messiah's life in us — if the governing principle of your life is your own wisdom, you are merely acting on "policy." This is the broad road. The broad road consists of those who live by policy — your own plans or course of action expected of a Christian.

Lk 11:33-36 — *Beware that the light in you is not darkness*. Living by policy is a form of gambling, your own form of justice. You are gambling with your eternal destiny by living by your own light within you. When the veil is rent, you will see that you have lived an illusion all your life and there is no way to go back and re-live the days of your short life. You can't walk the narrow road by "policy" (Mt 7:13; Rom 8:14). You can't be led by brilliance or your own wisdom. Those disciples who are not so brilliant have only God to rely upon. Where there is "policy", there will be deceit and pretense — weighing the word spoken to them, weighing the questions, looking at the various sides to the question, figuring out what may happen if you say or do this or that. All this is "pragmatic policy" or being so practical — dealing with facts — figuring out in your own wisdom or of your own opinion. Self-policing — The Holy Spirit is our only Helper, Counselor and power we rely upon. All else fosters a person's own pride as the Pharisees (Jn 8:34).

But if you know the True One, He will not let you act and follow what you think, but what His will is. Rom 12:2 is far removed from your own experience, so how will you ever know His will?

So, Jennifer, it's not how hard we try with our own will, but how we use our will. Our will is only for the purpose of choosing His will so we can live by His life. Your life is controlled and your conduct is controlled by yourself. Though it may be *good*, or look good, your *conduct* is bad before God. Conduct — To direct the course of, manage, control, administration of your own life. (Pretending it is the Holy Spirit who is in control, leading, directing you; but too proud to admit it is you — your own self-policing — pragmatic policy and self-effort.)

You may comfort yourself by saying, "I want God — my desire is for Him and I hate sin. I don't want to sin or do anything wrong. I want His will and want to glorify Him in everything I do." Yet this is as far as your own goodness can possibly go. This is still in the realm of your own will. You have never gone beyond your own power of your will. For this reason Rom 6:14 does not make sense to you. Living in the power of your own will — or flesh (human nature) — is sin. It is still in the realm of death. You are still in Adam's casket. You can't claw your way out by using your will, or by any set of policies.

The power of your will is the only source of power for your life, so you are not able to rise from the grip of death. Someone has convinced you that you are not in Adam's casket, but have risen to a new life in Messiah. But when did Rom 6:2-6 transpire? If so, then why are you not able to walk in newness of life but are still under the bondage of self life, altogether selfish, living only for self? I knew many Christians who had themselves well in hand. They maintained a strong grip on themselves. They determined within themselves not to sin or to offend. They powerfully push and pull and control themselves in order to make themselves a certain kind of person who acts in a certain way with a certain kind of voice which they like or desire to have. They force themselves to do what they do not want to do and suppress themselves under the power of their own will and they are most miserable, although they put on a plastic smile and deceive themselves into believing that they are suffering for Jesus' sake. But Romans 8:2 says that they are still condemned in the first death and are going to the second death because they claim to see (Jn 9:41; 15:22). They would not have guilt if they were struggling

without claiming that they knew Jesus and He was their Savior. But since they claim to know Him then their guilt remains upon them. The law of the Spirit of Life in Messiah Yahshua is not operating in their life. If it were it would set them free. They would leave *everything* to have that life — to have that law in them. They would do this because their will is surrendered to that Spirit of Life in Messiah and because they are under the law of liberty and freedom. They would trust that life in them with a childlike faith, free from effort, struggle, or working up the will.

Is there a spontaneous law working in you? Is there a river of life flowing out of you (Jn 7:38-39)? If not, it is because the Spirit is not there. There is no use going on living under an *illusion*. The veil is rent and He is not in there. There is no *evidence* (Gal 5:22,23,24,26).

There is a new law working in *us* who have *believed* and it is greater than the old law of sin and death, and if we believe it is working in us, it will work. We must simply follow that law. But if you, on the other hand, must hold on to yourself, and control and suppress and order your life by your own will, then you are not saved from the law of sin and death.

If we are saved, we can let go of ourselves and give up trying and struggling with our wills and utterly trust the Spirit of Life in us, the new law working within us. Then grace can take over in our place. His life can be seen in us and He will gain the glory. We are now under the law of liberty — grace (Rom 6:14). Jn 17:21-23; 13:34,35; 1 Jn 3:14,16,17 is operating for its manifestation to the world (2 Cor 3:17-18).

Jennifer, you are going to have to admit that the blood of Messiah can never cleanse you no matter how much you confess your sins. It is surely the blood that cleanses us from sins, but it is found only *at the cross*. The blood alone will not cleanse us — there is no forgiveness in the blood of Messiah unassociated and disconnected with the cross. The cross is where He shed His blood. We must first go to the cross and die. It's only the blood of our Master Yahshua which was shed on the cross that cleanses our sins away. The blood alone cannot reach your innermost conscience. The cross puts an end to your own life (Gal 5:24; Rom 8:9). If you do not have the Spirit of Messiah, then you do not belong to Him. You are not Abraham's seed (Gal 3:29). Rom 6:2-6 is where we begin to belong to Him, because this is when you terminate your old life of self-effort and where God applies the blood to your life and forgives your sins and you can receive His life. You can't belong to Him without this. You can't get out of Adam's casket any other way. It's not your fault that you were born into his casket, but it's your fault if you stay there when the way out (the good news) is properly presented to you.

You are trying to get forgiven by the blood of Messiah without going to the cross. When He died on the cross, we died in Him and with Him. This is realized in baptism, where we confess He is Sovereign (Rom 10:9,13). Who was the *sent one* (Jn 13:20; Lk 10:16; Jn 7:18) who was sent to you which when you *heard* you received faith to believe? Faith comes by hearing from a sent one — a sent one from God (Jn 7:17; Acts 2:38). It's only when you repent, and God knows your heart, that you may receive forgiveness for your sins and receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. It is when you use your will to choose His will. This is why you must confess that Yahshua is Sovereign and Lord with your mouth, and believe in your heart that God raised Him up, or you will not be raised up with Him (Rom 6:2-7).

When you are baptized you clothe yourself with Messiah (Gal 3:27) and are baptized into the Reality (the Name) of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit (Mt 28:18-20; 1 Pet 3:21), in the name of Yahshua the Messiah, for the forgiveness of your sins, that you may receive the gift of the Holy Spirit, sealing you with the Spirit until the New Heaven and the New Earth (Eph 1:13-14). Then you belong to Him *forever and ever*.

I love you,

Yoneq

P.S. 1 Jn 1:6,7,9; 2:1-5 — So, after you are saved, to confess your sins you must also go to the cross. You don't need to be re-baptized, but you must repent of the sin in order to be cleansed. The blood is only valid if one goes to the cross, and the cross is death. Life comes out of death. That is real life, as Rom 8:6 says (Pr 28:13).