

Lesson 8: Overview



Apostle: *Matthew*

Location In The Body: *Center Front Brain*

Color: *Silver*

Ability: *To choose to follow Divine Understanding; To be willing*

To be willing is to choose to let the Spirit of Divine understanding direct our lives. It is being willing to link our minds with God mind and to have access to the unlimited power of Spirit.

Definition

Revealing Word

The will is the executive faculty of the mind, the determining factor in man. What man wills or decrees comes to pass in his experience. The will is the center in mind and body around which revolve all the activities that constitute consciousness. It is the avenue through which the I AM expresses its potentiality. The will may be said to be the man, because it is the directive power that determines character formation. When man wills to do the will of God, he exercises his individual will in wisdom, love, and spiritual understanding; he builds spiritual character.

Power Points

- True understanding of will is being willing to let our Christ presence direct our life.
- We must be willing rather than willful. To be willing means we act from our understanding of Divine Principle. To be willful means to act according to information gained from the material world.
- Our will allows us to choose and there are consequences for every choice we make.
- Be willing also means to not give up when things get hard. It means we are willing to choose to go to Spirit for more guidance.
- We must be willing to let go of how we think things should be so that our greatest good can show up.

Bible Quotes

John 5:36

"I seek not my own Will but the will of the Father which has sent me."

Hebrews 10:7

"I have come to do they will, O God."

I John 2:17

"He who does the will of God abides forever."

Job 22:27-28

"You will pray to him, and he will hear you, and you will pay your vows. You will decide on a matter, and it will be established for you, and light will shine on your ways."

Lesson At-A-Glance

The Story

"The Story of Jonah," Jonah 1-4

This is the story of Jonah. God directed Jonah to go to Nineveh to preach to the people but Jonah did not like the people of Nineveh so he ran in the other direction. He boarded a boat but a storm soon rose up so he was tossed overboard. He ended up in the belly of a big fish and was soon repentant. The fish spit him out and he was on his way to Nineveh where he told the people to change their evil ways. God had pity on the people there and Jonah did not like this so he pouted for awhile.

The Deeper Meaning of the Story

Jonah was pretty set in his decisions. He felt no love for the people of Nineveh so when God asked him to go there to tell the people to repent, Jonah was willful and did as he pleased. He ran in the other direction. Jonah possessed Spiritual understanding but he was functioning from a lower plane of consciousness so was not willing to look for the good in the people of Nineveh. He judged them harshly and was not willing to apply Spiritual Truths to the situation. Jonah was a man of gloom and doom, and when he brought that gloom and doom aboard the ship, they cast him overboard. They could feel his mental attitudes and wanted that energy gone. As soon as he was cast overboard, the skies cleared.

Jonah was then swallowed by a big fish which gave him the opportunity to let go of his harsh judgment and to seek a new way of being. He was then thrown up on dry land and found that God had not deserted him, nor had God changed his request. Jonah was now willing to follow his inner guidance. He preached in Nineveh and the people heard his Spiritual Truth and changed their ways. They were forgiven but this angered Jonah. He still wanted them to be punished. As Jonah pouted, he again had to be reminded that good is within all and all are children of God.

This story reminds us that it is not enough to have the Spiritual understanding that God is within all things but we must be willing to apply that true in all situations, even those we judge unworthy. As I we act from a willful nature, we will be in misery, never attaining what we really want - really knowing that we are one with God and all things.

Exploration

Positive Intent

Choosing to apply a positive intention to all people and situations.

I am Willing

Affirming our willingness to serve God and grow in Spiritual understanding.

Supply List

- Meditative CD
- CD player
- Air drying sculpting clay
- Tealights, 1/person
- Matches
- Journal
- Pens