

"I WILL" PEOPLE (Psalm 34:1)

By Don Krider

Let's look at **Ps. 34:1** (A Psalm of David, when he changed his behavior before Abimelech; who drove him away, and he departed.) **I will bless the LORD at all times: his praise shall continually be in my mouth.**

David, here in Psalm 34:1, sets a pattern that really should be a pattern for our lives. In this very first verse, he says, "I will." I want you to underline that. Somebody said to me one time, about my little dance, "You like to dance, I see." I like to dance, but do you know what I have to do when I dance? I have to determine in my heart that I will dance, because I can stand up here and say, "This is going to look foolish. People are not going to understand."

It doesn't make any difference whether it looks foolish or not, it doesn't make any difference whether people understand or not, I'm not doing it to entertain people. I'm doing it because I feel like dancing before the Lord. I have taken that portion of my will and said, "I will dance before the Lord. I will bless the Lord".

David is saying, "I am bringing my will to be conformed to the will of God." You know, when you are hiding in a cave and your life is being threatened, when you are being hunted down by a king that wants to kill you and annihilate you, you could think that this is not a good time to bless the Lord or a good time to praise God.

It's easy for us to stand in church and bless the Lord. Sometimes that becomes a habit; it has nothing to do with our will. Our minds are somewhere else. We are thinking about a half dozen other things, and we just aren't truly blessing the Lord. I want to tell you, God wants a people who come into the house of the Lord with a will made up to come before God with a heart condition; with a mind ready to bless the Lord.

So David said here, "I will bless the Lord at ALL TIMES." It means that I have predetermined in my heart not to bless God because things are going good. Not to bless God so I can get something from Him. But I have determined in my heart and I have made my will fast, that no matter how many fiery furnaces come, no matter how many Daniel's lions come, no matter how many floods, no matter how many fires are kindled upon me, it's already set.

It's not something I'm going to have to debate about. It's not going to come up again where I have to debate it. I am going to settle it now, right here where I am, that I will bless the Lord at all times.

David is very serious about when he talks to God and about God. He said, "It's better for a man not to make a vow than to make one and not keep it." **Ps. 65:1** (To the chief Musician, A Psalm and Song of David) **Praise waiteth for thee, O God, in Zion: and unto thee shall the vow be performed.**

We used to have a saying, "Your word is your bond." Your word is your vow now. When you tell God, "I will bless thee at all times," watch out. God tries your word. God wants to use you. God wants to bless you. God wants to move in a mighty way and He is going to; but it's not the people who can't make up their mind that God is going to use. It's not the

people who are affected by what people think or what people don't think about it; how many are with me, how many are against me? It should not have anything to do with that.

I know that it is God's will so it must become my will. God wants me to bless Him continually; therefore I will bless the Lord at all times. We want to be blessed all the time, don't we? We want God to bless us all the time. There is not one of us who wants to be cursed. Not one of us wants a half-hearted blessing from God. How many of you got halfway saved? No, if you got saved, you were saved all the way; your nose, your eyeballs, your ears and everything about you was saved.

When Paul and Silas were in prison, they had to exercise their will. They could have murmured, complained, grumbled or griped but instead they began to praise, and they began to pray. They saw great deliverance. The three Hebrew children had a choice but they said, "We will go through it anyhow. We will take the test, we will take the trial, the fiery furnace, and we are willing to do whatever it is God wants us to do."

So God is saying to the church, "I am going to use the "I Will" people." Not a people who out of their own flesh will decide what they will do, but they found out what pleases God and they said, "That's my will now. That's where my heart is going to be made up."

It isn't what people think about them, it isn't whether it's popular or whether it's unpopular, but what does God think about it. Does God really want me to bless Him all the time? Does God really want me to bless Him when things are going wrong? Does God want me to bless Him when people are speaking evil of me?

David said, "I will bless the Lord at all times." Now say that to yourself: "I will bless the Lord at all times." Why? Because it's something I decided to do? No! It's something I found that was the will of God. That was what Jesus said, wasn't it, "**Not my will but thine be done**" (Matt 26:39).

In other words, "Lord, your will becomes what I want to be. Therefore, I'm going to take your will over anything else I can imagine, or think about, or talk about, or work up. I'm going to make a conscious, totally dedicated effort to do this one thing and I want to make it now. I want to make it forever, for the rest of my life. I will bless the Lord at all times."

There's another thing about this: when you are blessing God you can't complain. You can't badmouth people. You can't murmur. It will cut your vocabulary way down. When people say, "You're nuts," say "Well, bless the Lord. If you want to say I'm nuts, that's fine, but while you are doing it, just bless the Lord with me, will you."

God is saying to the church that He is going to use a people in this last day, but it's going to be an "I Will" people. Not just their little thought, but it's going to be lining up with God's will; it's going to be lining up with God's desire. I will bless the Lord at all times.

I want to tell you that I have failed a few times in this. Have you ever failed? Have ever said, "Why me? Doesn't anybody understand? Am I the only one who is serving God?" Well, if I am the only one serving God, I ought to bless God for it. If people don't understand it, I ought to bless God for it.

When I am blessing God at all times, I am not going to have time to complain about you. I am not going to have time to judge you; I'm not a judge. Paul said, "**I don't even judge myself**" (1 Cor. 4:3). I am not going to have time to be critical about you, because I have only a heart to bless the Lord.

Then David takes it a little further. Look what he says next. The word that comes in here that your will automatically puts to work, it has to go to work. How many know that the will is an active verb; it's something that happens. When you say, "I will", it means that you're moving.

The prodigal son, when he had come to himself, after squandering all that his father had given him, found himself in the hog pen. He's feeding hogs and he can't even get the husks to eat. When he came to himself he said, "I know what I will do; I will arise."

You are not going anywhere until you desire to go there. God's desire was for that young man to go home. His will had fought against it; his desire had gone against it, until finally he became exhausted. He had no more finances, he had no more friends, he had no more companions. He's in a hog pen. I don't think there was a debate there. I don't believe he said, "Well, let me see if that's the right thing to do. Should I really do this; I mean, after all, I have really messed up bad." When he came to himself, he said, "I know what I am going to do. I will arise, I will go to my father and I will say unto him, three times, "I will, I will, I will." I will say unto him, "I have sinned against heaven and against you."

You see, when you have the will of God working in your heart, heaven comes first, not other people. It is what God thinks, not what somebody else thinks. God will get your will conformed one way or another. If you don't want to do it willingly, He lets a hog pen come along. When you get down there deep enough and the smell is bad enough, you are going to start saying, "Hey, listen, I know what I am going to do. I will arise and I will go to my father."

When you can repent to God, my friends, you have victory! Not trying to just make a right relationship, that wasn't what he was doing. Just getting back into the house, that wasn't what he was doing. He was fulfilling the will of God. His will had now become lined up with God's will. All the time he ran, all the time he squandered his inheritance, everything he was throwing out the window, there finally came a time when he came to himself. He said, "I know what I will do. I will arise and I will go to my father and I will say unto him..."

You are not going to do anything until you decide to do it. But I can't just decide to do it; I have to know that it's what God's will is. There are a lot of Christians running around doing their will. I hear them all the time: "I will do what I want to do. I don't care what you think

about it. I will go where I want to go." Then they call me a year later and say, "Man, it's stinking down here in the hog pen. Could you help me?"

The only way I can help you is to get your will lined up with God's will. God doesn't want you in the hog pen. God doesn't want you murmuring. God doesn't want you complaining. God doesn't want you doubting. God doesn't want you full of fear. God wants you and I to take our will and say, "Lord, show me your will." Isn't that what Jesus did? If Jesus wanted to know the perfect will of the Father to have it accomplished in His life, I surely need to know.

So God is saying, "I am going to use the "I Will" people. I will be used of God. I will be faithful to the house of God. I will be faithful to my brothers and sisters. I will be loyal to the body of Christ. I will pray. I will seek God. I will do whatever God wants me to do. Don't get a committee together to see if that's God's mind; it's right here in the Bible.

Psalm 34:1 "I WILL bless the Lord at all times: His praise shall continually be in my mouth."

If your mouth is filled with praise, it is pretty hard to fill it with anything else, isn't it? "Continually": how often does that mean? Once in the morning? Maybe in the evening? Something else in between? NO!

Continually: Concordance = #8548 = constantly, always.
Dictionary = without interruption, unceasing.

If my mind is stayed upon the Lord, if it is really the will of God in my heart, and if I have given over to that will, I am going to bless the Lord at all times, and something is going to accompany that. His praise shall continually be in my mouth.

Now if you say, "I will bless the Lord", and anything else starts coming out of there, guess what; you're on a part-time basis. If I'm going to bless Him at all times, if His praise is going to be continually in my mouth, how much time does that leave over for anything else.

Phil. 4:8 Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.

And if we do these things, the next scriptures will be in our lives.

Phil 4:9 Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and the God of peace shall be with you.

Isaiah 26:3 "Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on thee; because he trusteth in thee."

It's a good thing to praise the Lord. It's a good thing to bless the Lord. There is virtue in praise. Let me tell you something else - if you sow praise unto God, guess what you get back. If you sow blessing unto God, guess what you get back. You get the crop that you sow. I love to bless the Lord because I know He's going to bless me. It takes all the frustration out of being a Christian. I don't have to wonder what God wants me to do in a situation.

Paul and Silas didn't have to wonder what God wanted them to do in prison. I have never been in that kind of prison, but I've had a few tight places in my life and I failed. I came up a little short on the praise offering. It's something you have to learn. When you fail, you say, "Listen, Lord, that's not my will to fail. My will is not to come up short; my will is to fulfill your will. My will is to allow the Holy Spirit of God to live in me. My will is to bless the Lord at all times and His praise to be continually in my mouth."

Let's look at the next verse: **Ps. 34:2 My soul shall make her boast in the LORD: the humble shall hear thereof, and be glad.**

"My soul", and underline this, "shall." I am dictating to my soul. We are told to speak to ourselves in spiritual songs and hymns, making melody in our heart unto the Lord (Eph 5:19).

So what God is saying through David here, is a perfect example of a man who is after God's own heart. "I will bless the Lord at all times, His praise shall continually be in my mouth. My soul shall...."

Do you ever talk to yourself spiritually? I've talked to myself several times, but it wasn't spiritual. That was before God quickened the scripture to me several years ago.

I'm going to tell you something: it takes all of that stuff out of your life, because the Holy Spirit said, "Didn't you make a vow? Aren't you going to pay your vow? Didn't you tell me that you were going to bless me at all times? Didn't you tell me that my praise was going to be continually in your mouth?"

"My soul shall make her boast in the Lord." Not in what I have; not in my physical health; not in my strength; not in my finances; not in my position in life; not in my ministry; none of these things are where I am going to boast. My soul is going to make her boast in the Lord. Why? Because He doesn't change, the Lord doesn't change. He's the same yesterday, today, and forever. (Heb 13:8). **Malachi 3:6 "I am the Lord thy God and I change not."**

So God is desirous of a people that will do what God says, willing and obedient; a people that will line up with David and say, "I will bless the Lord at all times, His praise shall continually be in my mouth; my soul shall make her boast in thee, Lord."

Now look at what is going to happen here. "The humble shall hear thereof and be glad." Are there a lot of people glad to see you around? I'm serious; think about it for a minute. I get

tired of people boasting in what they can do; boasting in their great ministries; boasting in their great works; boasting in their finances; boasting in their health; or boasting in their strength. But what excites me is when somebody boasts in the Lord - when someone totally boasts in Christ. I am where I am because of God. He's made me what I am, bless His holy name.

The vocabulary of the church is going to start being cut down because God is going to send a pure revival, a pure move of God. It's going to be the "I will" people. Not people who are boasting in themselves saying, "No matter what happens, bless God, I'm serving the Lord." No! He is not talking about that kind. He's talking about humbleness.

He's talking about what Jesus did in the garden. Jesus was one that could call angels down from heaven, talk to the Father, and just destroy the whole earth. But no, instead of that he humbled Himself and became obedient to the cross and to the death, even the death of the cross.

So we have an example. Jesus' boast was in the Lord! Look at **John 19:10-11**: *"Then saith Pilate unto him, Speakest thou not unto me? Knowest thou not that I have power to crucify thee, and have power to release thee? Jesus answered, Thou couldst have no power at all against me, except it were given thee from above: therefore he that delivered me unto thee hath the greater sin."*

Where is He boasting? Not in Himself, He's boasting in the Father. You see, it keeps us out of a lot of trouble. When we start boasting on ourselves, our abilities, our ministries, anything that we have, we have to start performing. But when we boast in the Lord, He performs. Then the humble start hearing about it, they get caught up in it, they want some of that.

They want some of whatever God's doing in your life. They want some of that because it's pure, it's lovely, has virtue, has praise, and has a good report in it. The boast is in the Lord. A lot of times we do boast in what we can do, or what we are going to do. God told me years ago, "You don't boast in anybody or anything. If you are going to boast, make your boast in the Lord." David said, "I will bless the Lord at all times." All times means "all times", doesn't it. How often is His praise going to be in my mouth? Continually. What's my soul going to do then? My soul shall make her boast in the Lord.

When people get down to the point of saying, "I really want to be used of God," God says, "Whose will is involved? Are you willing to be like my son, Jesus? Are you willing to be like Him and say, "Not my will but yours be done"

Are you willing to let God's will continually rule your life? It means when I feel justified to complain, I don't. It means when I feel justified to judge someone, I don't. My boast is in the Lord. You had better boast in the Lord because when you lean on the flesh it fails you; finances go down the drain.

1 Tim 6:17 Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not high-minded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy;

The young man cannot trust in his youth. We cannot trust in our strength. We must trust in the Lord. I believe David had a great key: I will bless the Lord at all times. His praise shall continually be in my mouth. My soul shall make her boast in thee, Lord. The automatic thing that is going to happen next is: "The humble shall hear thereof and be glad."

Some years ago, a friend of mine had a lovely wife who was being treated for a bad neck. The doctors thought that she had whiplash or something, and she had this collar around her neck. She came home from San Francisco with her husband, and she started hurting so bad he called the doctor and he said, "Rush her over to the hospital." The Doctor ran tests and the diagnosis was not a bad neck but acute leukemia.

I went up to her room and said, "How are you doing, Sis?" She said, "I'm doing fine!" The doctors told her that what she had was quick - she was not going to be here long. Do you know what she got busy doing? She started boasting in the Lord. There was a nurse in that room that heard her, and gave her life to Christ. The next day she had gone to be with the Lord. She had made her boast in the Lord.

What happened to the body had nothing to do with her boast in the Lord, her will to serve God. She wasn't in that hospital room blaming the doctor for a misdiagnosis. She wasn't in that hospital room saying to her husband, "We need to get a law suit going here for malpractice." She said, "I'm doing well." She had made her boast in the Lord. "Whether I live or whether I die, it's the Lord."

We have to quit all this other stuff. We have to say, "Lord, I will bless you. Help me, God, to line up this will with Your will. Help me to be one of those who in these great days is going to be used of God because I will be used of God, maybe not the way I want to be used, or not the way somebody else wants me to be used, but I will be used of God because I have put my boast in the Lord. I have trusted in You, God. I have rejoiced in You and Your praise is continually in my mouth." Seriously, would you really like to do that?

Father, in the wonderful name of Jesus, it isn't by power nor might, it isn't whether we are healthy or whether we are sickly. It isn't whether we are good looking or ugly, rich or poor, it is simply that, just as salvation came, it's the will of God to save men.

Lord, the day we lined up our will; that day, God, that our will lined up with Your will, You called us, and God we said, "Yes, I will believe. I will receive Christ as my Lord and my Savior." From then on, God, it should have always been, "Not my will but Yours, oh Lord.

Show me, dear God, how to be willing. Show me how to be one of those "I will" people. Help me to read Your word, hide it in my heart that I sin not against thee. Help me to take

Your word, God, and bring it into my spirit, Lord, and rejoice in it. Then, God, any time that I begin to criticize or anytime I become judgmental, recall to my heart again, Lord.

And God, I make a vow to you: "I will bless the Lord at all times; your praise will continually be in my mouth. My soul shall make her boast in thee. The humble shall hear thereof and be glad."

I thank you for that, God, because a great move of your Holy Spirit is just on the horizon. A mighty move of the Holy Spirit for the church, Lord, is just heading our way.

God you are going to have a pure hearted people, a people who will say, "Your will, Lord. I want my will to become, God, what Your will is; to bless thee, to praise thee, to boast in thee, Lord." God help us to realize by doing this, we do not have to perform. You will perform. You will move. Everything will take place and You will be totally glorified in our lives. In Jesus' precious name, Amen!