

Beginning Soul Winning 7 of 8

Choose

#0216

Study by W.D. Frazee - April 23, 1969

In order to understand the science of soul winning, we need to understand the place of the will, the choice in the human mind and heart. Let us turn to Joshua 24 and note some verses here. As we work with people from time to time, whether we are giving Bible studies or visiting and simply having prayer with them, we want to have ever in our minds this thought very clear that:

“Everything depends on the right action of the will” *Ministry of Healing*, page 176.

That is quite a bit isn't it? *Everything*.

Now in this 24th chapter of Joshua, we find the aged leader of Israel gathering the people together, and seeking to lead them into a covenant relationship with God. Throughout the history of the world, God has offered men His blessings. His promises are exceeding great and precious. But in order for those promises to be fulfilled, human beings must accept them. They must receive them. They must put their wills on the side of faith and action.

So, in the 15th verse, after telling them how God had led, and making an appeal to them, he says:

“...Choose you this day whom ye will serve...” Joshua 24:15.

In other words, you have a choice: will you put it on God's side, or the side of the gods of the heathen?

Now, in the 21st verse, the people said to Joshua:

“...we *will* serve the Lord” Joshua 24:21.

That was putting their wills on the right side. Again:

“And the people said unto Joshua, The Lord our God will we serve, and his voice will we obey” Joshua 24:24.

And the 25th verse says:

“So Joshua made a covenant with the people that day...”

Joshua 24:25.

The agreement was reaffirmed, ratified again. God was their God; they were His people. He had chosen them; they chose Him.

So as we work with souls in this wonderful science, this wonderful art of soul winning, we must have, I repeat, ever clear in our minds this important fact that:

“Everything depends on the right action of the will”
Ministry of Healing, page 176.

Now in Vol. 6, page 65, we are encouraged to teach people how to use the will in two important decisions. Speaking of those who feel their need of help:

“Let those who are spiritual converse with these souls. Pray with and for them. Let much time be spent in prayer and close searching of the word. Let all obtain the real facts of faith in their own souls through belief that the Holy Spirit will be imparted to them because they have a real hungering and thirsting after righteousness. Teach them how to surrender themselves to God, how to believe, how to claim the promises” *Testimonies for the Church*, Vol. 6, pages 65-66.

Notice, we’re to teach people how to surrender, how to believe, how to claim the promises.

This morning, we’re going to study this just a little: helping people to learn how to surrender, and how to believe, and claim the promises. Whichever one of these comes first, the other follows. It speaks here of teaching how to surrender, how to believe. We have to believe God some in order to come to Him and surrender. But as soon as we have surrendered anything, we are to believe that He accepts it, that He accepts us. That, in turn, will lead us to further light, which will call for a new surrender, which will call for a new expression of faith, a new action of faith.

What does it mean to surrender? It means to say yes to God instead of saying no. It means, in the words of Revelation 3:20, to open the door and let the Saviour, who has been knocking, in. It means, in the words of the wise man in Proverbs 23, to give Jesus the heart. For He says:

“My son, give me thine heart...” Proverbs 23:26.

God does not ask the impossible. When He says, “My son, give Me thine heart,” when He says, “Open the door,” this proves that we can do it. But, you know, there are many people who do not understand how to take this simple but all important step. And one of the greatest jobs we have in soul winning is to help people to know how to surrender, how to believe.

You see, this is done with the will. So many people are ruled by impulse, ruled by emotion, ruled by their feelings, and their desires. The devil knows that everything depends on the right action of the will, and he begins in babyhood, with people, to teach the little ones through indulgent parents, that the thing that decides things is how you feel; what you want. And if you've lived all your life deciding things merely by how you feel and what you want, it's a very difficult thing to make the surrender to Christ that needs to be made.

This leads us, of course, into the realm of child training and how important it is for children to be taught to yield the will to their parents in obedience while they are little. But, thank God, even with those who have never learned those lessons in the home, there is hope. Jesus says:

“...him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out” John 6:37.

And of course, we have to begin with people where they are. But whether they've had training in their youth or whether they haven't, in learning how to obey, Jesus is ready and willing to help them now, if they will surrender the *will* to Him, if they will open the door.

And again, I say, how is this done? This is done by saying, “I will.” Now, in some cases those particular words may not be used, but that is exactly what is meant. And many times those are the very words that are used. I will.

I remember a number of years ago when I was a young man working with an older minister. He and I went out one evening to visit a man who had been attending our meetings. This man had a number of problems. He was a chain smoker. He was a drinker. He would get drunk every now and then. He was a swearing, cursing man. He made life miserable for his family. He was also, as he listened to this message, coming face to face with the fact that to obey God he would need to keep the Sabbath of the fourth commandment. And that, as far as he could see, meant losing his job, because he was employed in a large newspaper there in San Francisco.

Well, that was enough for any man to face, wasn't it? Cigarettes, liquor, cursing and swearing, an angry temper, and what about his job? As we studied and prayed together there that evening, finally we were on our knees together, and we were praying with him and for him, as this says:

“Pray with and for them” *Testimonies for the Church*, Vol. 6, page 65.

And finally, Elder Tyndall, with whom I was working, made the appeal to the man. He asked him, pled with him, urged him, put the words in his mouth, “I will, I will.” Finally, that man seemed literally to clench his fists, and he said, “I will.” As he gave his heart to God, the power of the enemy was broken. Jesus came into his heart and worked a miracle. I don't mean that he never had any struggles after that, but his will was on God's side. And the Lord worked out his problems. He gave him

the victory over tobacco. He gave him the victory over liquor. He gave him the victory over his angry temper and cursing and swearing. He helped him work out his problem about his job. Several years later when I went back to that city, I found that man was a deacon in the church there. God had given him the victory. But it all hung on that moment of decision. Everything was in the balance, you see. And what did he need to say? "I will, I will."

These are the very words that are put in our lips. Notice this wonderful statement. This was written to a young man:

"Will you not without delay place yourself in right relation to God? Will you not say, 'I will give my will to Jesus, and I will do it now'?" *Messages to Young People*, page 153.

Notice, the very words are suggested:

"Will you not say, 'I will give my will to Jesus and I will do it now' and from this moment be wholly on the Lord's side? ...Give Satan no chance to say, 'You are a wretched hypocrite.' Close the door, so that Satan will not thus accuse and dishearten you. Say, 'I will believe, I do believe that God is my helper,' and you will find that you are triumphant in God" *Ibid.*

So both to surrender and to believe, the will is necessary. The will is the governing power that makes the decision.

Notice how it is put here in *Ministry of Healing*:

"The tempted one needs to understand the true force of the will. This is the governing power in the nature of man, – the power of decision, of choice. Everything depends on the right action of the will. Desires for goodness and purity are right, so far as they go; but if we stop here, they avail nothing. Many will go down to ruin while hoping and desiring to overcome their evil propensities. They do not yield the will to God. They do not choose to serve Him.

"God has given us the power of choice; it is ours to exercise" *Ministry of Healing*, page 176.

Just as with our muscles. We are all born with some muscles. How do they become stronger? By using them. And our will can be strengthened in the right direction by using it. Sometimes it takes all the willpower a person has. This is stated here in *Messages to Young People*:

"It will take, at times, every particle of will-power that you possess..." *Messages to Young People*, page 153.

Think of it! – “every particle of will-power that you possess.” So, we must help people to see how they can use that will-power for God. It isn't a question of how they feel. It isn't a question of their impulses, their emotions. Those change. They change just like the winds. But the will can be put on God's side.

Now back to *Ministry of Healing*:

“God has given us the power of choice; it is ours to exercise.
We cannot change our hearts” *Ministry of Healing*, page 176.

Who can change our hearts? God can change the heart, but when will He do it? When we open the door:

“My son, give me thine heart...” Proverbs 23:26.

“We cannot change our hearts, we cannot control our thoughts, our impulses, our affections. We cannot make ourselves pure, fit for God's service. But we can choose to serve God, we can give Him our will; then He will work in us to will and to do according to His good pleasure. Thus our whole nature will be brought under the control of Christ”
Ministry of Healing, page 176.

So you see, our endeavor all the way through, is to get the one for whom we are working, the one for whom we are praying, to yield the will to Christ; to open the door to the Saviour.

Now, I want to ask you a question, class. If this is the hardest thing for a person to do, shouldn't we make it as easy as possible? This is so important. Don't misunderstand me. I don't mean that we should make any compromises. No. We don't say to the cigarette slave, “Now, you have been smoking two packs a day, have you?”

“Yes.”

“Well, suppose that you cut that down a bit. Why don't you try to get along with a pack and a half today. And perhaps in a week from now you can cut it down to a pack a day. And finally you can get it down to two or three a day. And finally, we hope you can cut it out entirely.”

Is that the way we advise people? I hope not. No. Because that plan very seldom succeeds even with tobacco. And it is not the way to deal with God at all, because, my dear friends, the power is in Jesus, it isn't in the human being. The power is not in the human will.

Let's turn to John 1:12. This is one of the great texts to use in helping people to know how to surrender, how to believe, how to claim the promises of God. What

does it say?

“But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name” John 1:12.

Many a time in working with somebody in their home, I have used this illustration of the light. We go to the switch. If it is evening, of course, the light is on, I turn it off. The room is in darkness. I say now, “Is there anyway we can get light here? Suppose we get a broom and try to sweep the darkness out of the room. Would that work?” Oh, no. “Suppose we would all get together and try to push it out. Would that help?” Not a bit.

Now suppose, that you didn’t know anything about electricity and suppose I should say to you, “Over here on the wall, I know it is dark, but come and I’ll guide your hand so you can find the switch. If you’ll just touch that little switch and move it, the room will be filled with light.” You might say, “Oh, nonsense. How could making a little motion like that fill the room with light and get rid of all this darkness?” But, will it do it? Why? Watch the point. It is not the motion of your hand that makes the light. The motion of the hand moves the switch, which in turn puts those light globes in contact with the power that is in those wires, which has come from the great powerhouse. That simple act connects the lights in this room, those globes with the great source of power.

And so it is with this choice of the will.

“...as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name” John 1:12.

So we say to the soul, “Do you want power to overcome that tobacco? *Do you?* Do you believe Jesus has the power? He made the world. He keeps it going. He sustains all things. Can He give you the power to do that? Do you believe that?”

“Oh, yes, I believe He could.”

“Do you believe He wants to? Would Jesus like to deliver you from that tobacco? Oh, yes. He died to help you with that sin and every other sin. Now, when are you going to get the power?”

And you question the soul right on the text. Oh, my dear friends, there is power in reading the word of God with somebody, sometimes right down on your knees together with the open Bible. Hang to that text.

“...as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God” John 1:12.

And then as we work with them we say, “Now, would you like to have Jesus

give you that power? Do you wish you had the power?"

"Yes"

"When are you going to get it?"

Well, they may say, "I don't know."

"When does this text say you will get it?"

"...as many as received him, to them gave he power..."
John 1:12.

"If you ever get the power, it'll be because God gives it to you. Does He want you to have it?"

"Yes."

When will you get it? When you receive Him. My point is, there is no way to receive the power apart from Him.

You know how it is with electricity. You don't get a little light when you turn the switch part way, do you? No. You either get all the light or you don't get any. The switch is either off or it is on.

So with your choice, dear friend. Your choice is either on God's side, or it isn't. You're either in gear with God or you're not.

"...as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God" John 1:12.

Does this mean that no matter how a person feels, if he says I will give himself to God, Jesus will come in? That's exactly what it means, dear friends. There is no other way. This is where the power is. And we're to teach people how to surrender and how to believe:

"...as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name" John 1:12.

Oh, it's a wonderful thing, friends, to see the soul surrender to Christ, and to see the change that God makes in the life. Again and again, hundreds of times, I have seen the dear Lord take over when people make the surrender. But He can't until they do. Until they surrender, where is Jesus? Revelation 3:20. He is at the door. What is He doing? Knocking. What does He want? He wants to come in. When will He come? When they open the door:

"Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my

voice, and open the door, I will come in..." Revelation 3:20.

These two texts, I think I have used in soul winning on the point of decision, more than any other two: John 1:12, Revelation 3:20. It pictures things so vividly, that here's Jesus on the outside. If we will receive Him, He comes in and gives power.

Now I want to go to *Steps to Christ* and read it as it is put here:

"Many are inquiring, 'How am I to make the surrender of myself to God?' You desire to give yourself to Him, but you are weak in moral power, in slavery to doubt, and controlled by the habits of your life of sin. Your promises and resolutions are like ropes of sand. You cannot control your thoughts, your impulses, your affections. The knowledge of your broken promises and forfeited pledges weakens your confidence in your own sincerity, and causes you to feel that God cannot accept you; but you need not despair. What you need to understand is the true force of the will. This is the governing power in the nature of man, the power of decision, or of choice. Everything depends on the right action of the will" *Steps to Christ*, page 47.

There is that sentence again. 'Everything depends on the right action of the will.'

"The power of choice God has given to men; it is theirs to exercise. You cannot change your heart, you cannot of yourself give to God its affections; but you can choose to serve Him. You can give Him your will; He will then work in you to will and to do according to His good pleasure. Thus your whole nature will be brought under the control of the Spirit of Christ" *Ibid*.

Oh, my friends, we have no idea how much power is available. All the power of heaven, all the power of the universe is harnessed to the task of helping the soul to get rid of sin, to overcome sin, to meet temptation, to change the mind and heart. But we must plug into the power. We must turn the switch. And that depends upon the action of the will.

So, our lesson this morning, I trust, is clear. Our work is to help people to know how to surrender.

Now, with this in mind, watch this point: all the way through our contact with people, we should study and pray over this point, how to get them to make some response. In a public meeting, in a series we often ask people to raise their hands if something is clear; or to get them to commit themselves in one way or another; get them in the habit of saying yes to what they find in the Bible.

The same way in studying with people in their homes all alone. Whatever the

nature of the study, we should inquire, "Now is this point clear?" If they say yes, they have put their will to that extent on the side of truth. If it isn't clear, then you need to study it with them. Keep studying. Get the person's commitment.

Now, in our very early studies with people, we need to study how, in a courteous, gentle, winning way, to get them to make some response. For instance, suppose we have had a study on the coming of Jesus in the early part of a series. How natural it should be to say, "Well, now is it clear from the Bible that Jesus has promised to come?"

"Yes."

"And He says He is coming for us, doesn't He?"

"Yes."

"Would you like to go with Him?" And of course, we hope the soul will say what? Yes. "Would you like to have Him get you ready so you can?"

"Yes."

Again there is the response. "Shall we pray then?" we say. "Would you like to have me pray that Jesus will help you and your loved ones to be ready and to be together in that beautiful home?" Why, if the heart has been reached at all, what are they going to say? Yes. Now, we may not ask them to pray at that particular time. We might. It depends on the circumstances. But we can kneel down and in a short prayer with them, we can voice for them the desire to be ready. And we can say, "Now, dear Lord come into our hearts and help us to be ready."

And so, study after study, we need to be thinking of leading to the climax of getting the soul to put the will on the side of faith and action.

Shall we pray together now?

Precious Lord, we choose, this morning, to be Thy channels. Teach us how to help others to choose to let Thee work for and with and through them. Keep us looking at Calvary where we find the great incentive, the great motive power of love. For Jesus' sake. Amen.

Copyright 2011. All rights reserved.

Pioneers Memorial
PO Box 102, Wildwood, GA 30757
1-800-WDF-1840 / 706-820-9755
www.WDFsermons.org
support@WDFsermons.org