

# God's Will my dwelling place By Andrew Murray

## Chapter 8 EVEN UNTO (my) DEATH (to self-will)

Luke 22: 42 (Jesus) **Father, if you are willing, remove this cup** (of having to be crucified and die) **from Me; nevertheless, not My will, but Your will be done.**

Luke 9:23 (Jesus) **If anyone wants to be My follower** (as a Christian), **let them deny themselves** (mostly reasoning, how? By) **taking up their cross daily** (re-affirm their belief that they are crucified with Me – Gal 2:20) **and** (so now be able to) **follow Me.**

Why is the Son of God here on His way to the death of the Cross? What is it that costs Him all this agony and suffering? It is sin that needs this sacrifice; it is to take away sin that He is here... The scene reveals to us what is the deepest root of all sin -- the assertion of our self-will. It was this that was the sin and the fall of Adam. It is this that is the source of all evil on earth. It is this that is, in the believer, the hidden cause of all failure and disappointment. God's will is the living power through which His love communicates itself and its blessings to the creature. Man's will was meant to be the power by which he was intelligently to yield himself and cooperate with God in receiving and appropriating all the Divine nature had to impart. Self-will, a will not yielded to God, is, in the whole universe of things, the only thing that hinders God in revealing and communicating His blessedness to the creature. The cross is the proof of man's self-will because it refused to bow to God's Son. Christ's agony in Gethsemane is the proof that it is this same sin of self-will that He came to conquer and cast out.

Jer. 10:23 (God)...**It is not in a person... to direct their own steps**

John 2:17 **...Those who do the will of God live forever** (in eternal salvation).

Here Christ proves that He will do the will of the Father, even though it cost Him His life. Even unto death He says, 'Not My will!' And so through death, in dying to His own will, He teaches us what God claims as His right, and what alone can bring us to our true place of blessing -- the entire losing and giving up of our will and life to God's will as the way into the life and glory of God.

Christ's victory over man's self-will, how does it profit and save us? His victory over sin as self-will, His obedience unto death and His infinite acceptableness in the Father's sight, become ours the moment we believe Him. As those who are united to Him by faith, His righteousness and merit, with all the Father's delight in Him on account of them, are made our very own: "**We are made the righteousness of God in Him**" (2 Cor 5:21). The sin of our self-will is blotted out. We are dealt with by God as if we never had sinned, counted righteous, and allowed to look up to God in His Beloved Son as altogether well-pleasing to Him. If only there was a real understanding of the awfulness of the sin of self-will, especially in God's redeemed children, then the joy of the assurance of its being blotted out will be so gladly welcomed.

1 Peter 4:2 **That they no longer should live the rest of their time in the flesh to the wants of (self and other) people, but to the will of God.**

Christ has freed us from the dominion of self-will. The very nature and essence of the salvation He imparts is, what was the very nature and essence of His own life, a delight and power to do God's will alone. Gethsemane teaches us the way to receive the full experience of the deliverance. Just as Christ, in His holy sinless nature, learned obedience through what He suffered, until it culminated in the surrender of His will unto death, so the believer, who seeks to follow their Lord in full conformity, will learn what it is to know that they are crucified with Christ and dead to self and its will. But there can be no thought of understanding or attaining this, until the desire has come to give up all, including in the least of things, even unto death and to live in the will of God alone.

**II Corinth. 5:15 . . . They which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto Him who died for them, and rose again**

Believer! Is this the Christ you delight in and seek to be conformed to, and long to know more fully in His indwelling power? In Gethsemane He entered into the very deepest and nearest fellowship with you in surrendering His will to the death: Enter into the deepest and nearest fellowship with Him in surrendering your will as He did. Ask the Holy Spirit to show you how self-will is the root of all sin and temptation and darkness; how the will of God can come in and cast it out and live in you; Learn how faith in Christ who died to conquer our self-will, and now waits to dwell in us, can make you partaker of His death and victory. Learn the lesson that death to self-will just means a quiet bowing before God in utter poverty and helplessness. It is simply trusting in the Blessed Lamb of God, who passed through death as the only way to the perfect surrender of His will to God's will, to breathe His own Spirit, and the very will of God, into us.

**Phil 3:10 So that I may know Him...being conformed to His death** (to self-will),

To a soul longing to live only and wholly in the will of God, death to all self-will is the one inevitable demand, but also, in the faith of Christ Jesus, the one sure and most blessed deliverance.

**Ephesians 5:17 ...But understand what the will of the Lord is.**

**Ecclesiastes 8:5 ... A wise man's heart discerns** (hears from God) **both time and judgment** (that is, both God's will and His timing for it).

**6 Because for every matter there is a** (God appointed) **time and will,**

**Prov 3:6 Listen for God's voice in everything you do, everywhere you go;**

**Isaiah 58:11 And the LORD shall guide you continually . . .**

**Eccl 9:11 ...Under the sun** (people living by their own will and not God's) — **The race is not to the swift, Nor the battle to the strong, Nor bread to the wise, Nor riches to people of understanding, Nor favor to people of skill; But time and chance happen to them all** (what the world calls good luck or bad luck, having no knowledge of the evil spirits that rule the world - 1 Jo 5:19, Eph 6:12).

**Jer 7:23 (But under God) ...Obey My voice and I will be your God...so that it will be well with you** (not just in this life but also in the life to come - 1 Tim 4:8).

