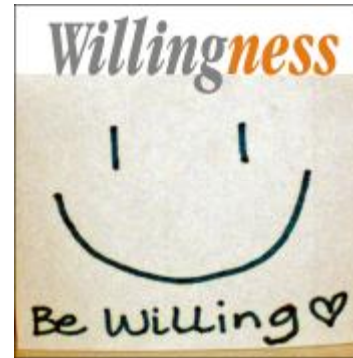


## Willingness

### Willing the Will of God

**Suggested Reading:** Romans 12:2, Philippians 2:12–13, Deuteronomy 30:19

Willingness is all about learning to be available to the Spirit of God, discovering God’s heart for you, and allowing Him to fulfill His purpose in your life.



Earlier when we discussed the soul, we indicated that it was made up of the mind, the will, and the emotions—the thinker, the emoter, and the willer. Here we will focus on the willer.

We also learned in *Nothingness* that everything we do without Him amounts to nothing. The question then comes to mind, “So what *is* my part in the Christian walk?”



The short answer is that **our part is to choose (with our willer) the will of God for our life.**

The willer in your soul is like a small door. When you say yes to the intents of God, you open that little door and give God permission to do His work in you.

The longer answer is a bit more nuanced. Consider Philippians 2:12–13: “...work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, both to *will* and to *work* for His good pleasure.” Note that it says that God does both the willing and the work. God does the willing too? If He does the willing, then let me ask again, what is my part in the Christian walk? If He does the willing too, won’t God just force His will on me and do what He wants?

### Shortening the Hand of God

Father God is a gentleman; he does not force His will on us. He waits for us to be willing for His willing and His doing.

Because there is a *next most needful thing* in our lives, and only He knows what that is, we need to be willing to let Him reveal that next most needful thing in us. Then we choose the will of God for our lives and give Him permission to put that specific purpose for right now into our hearts. As we come into agreement with Him on that purpose, He is then able to begin the “doing” in our lives. That “doing” is changing us into the likeness of Jesus Christ. When we are continually willing for His willing and doing, it is called availability. We are open to Him for His good pleasure, His good purpose.



When you are unwilling, you shorten the hand of God. God waits for your willingness. When you are unwilling, He will not be able to work in your life; He is not able to bless you with all

the blessings he has in store for you. A constant attitude of willingness makes us available to the Spirit of God, to hear His voice and to walk in obedience.

## Two Kingdoms



Did you know that there are only two kingdoms: the Kingdom of God and the Kingdom of Satan? There is no kingdom of self as a third choice. In your life, you are always choosing between the Kingdom of God or the Kingdom of Satan. If you do not choose the Kingdom of God, then by default you *do* choose the kingdom of Satan. It is your choice. You will choose.

When you choose the Kingdom of God, you are giving Father God permission to manifest His Life in your life. The fruit of that choice is found in Galatians 5:22f: “The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.”



When you choose the Kingdom of Satan, you give Satan and his minions permission to manifest their natures in your life. The fruit of that choice is found in Romans 1:29–31: unrighteousness, wickedness, greed, evil, envy, murder, strife, deceit, malice, gossip, slander, hatred of God, insolence, arrogance, boasting, inventing evil, disobedience without understanding, untrustworthiness, unlovingness, and mercilessness. Further fruit of the enemy’s kingdom is found in Mark 7:21–22: “evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, deeds of coveting and wickedness, as well as deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride, and foolishness.”

Ultimately, the Christian life is not something you do. It is not that you get strong enough to walk the Christian way. The Christian life is something God does in you. The Christian life is really God manifesting Himself in your life. When you choose the Kingdom of God—aligning your will with His will—He is the fruit of the Spirit shining out of you into His creation.

Tying it all together, the beginning of working out your own salvation is willingness. Willingness leads to availability, availability leads to obedience, and obedience leads to our being changed into His likeness, which is His good pleasure. Is it really that simple? Yes, it is; it all starts with willingness.

**Prayer:** Let me suggest that you come into the presence of Father God in prayer and make a clear statement (out loud) of your intent. “Father, I want to will Your will in all of my life.” Then give Him permission: “Father, I give you permission to bring this into reality in my life, that I would be willing for all that you have for me in Christ Jesus. You are the only one who can, and I trust you to bring it about.”