

Seven “I Wills” of the Believer

Various Passages

Introduction:

1. I like people with determination – someone who says – “I’ll just do it”
2. Linda Down discovered real power and she needed it. She had dealt with the limitations of cerebral palsy all her life. One day, she got this crazy idea of running the New York Marathon. But Linda walked with difficulty, so running seemed out of the question. She used Canadian canes with arm clamps to steady her arms. On top of this she was 25 pounds overweight and jobless. In a state of depression, she began reading in the Scriptures about the power of God at work in people’s lives. She read Phil 4:13, “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.” While training, she listened for God. She thought as she was running in the dark at night: “Faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction about things not seen.” (Heb 11:1) She thought about her limited dreams, her inability to see beyond the obstacles of life. Faith, she said to herself, was running in spite of the insurmountable obstacles. As the NY Marathon began that cold morning, some ten years ago now, she wore gloves on her hands to soften the impact of the crutches. It was windy on the bridge and uphill. She had not expected the beginning to be so difficult. As she finished the mile-long Verrazano Narrows bridge, there were no runners in sight ahead of her. Spectators were gone for the most part. But one little girl ran out into the street and cheered her on, “You can do it!” Others on the curb later applauded and cheered and shouted. They brought tears to Linda’s eyes and helped her keep going. Ten hours later Linda was still running in the dark through dangerous neighborhoods. Some admiring spectators walked with her for safety. Then an ABC-TV camera crew showed up and followed the story of her courage. She continued to run. She wore a hole in one sneaker from dragging it across the ground; her hands ached and throbbed; her arms became black and blue and swollen; she couldn’t speak to anyone

because of fatigue, but she continued to run because she prayed, “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me... I can do all things...” Then two parks and recreation trucks in Central Park came by and stayed with her to light the way. After eleven hours of struggle and over 27 miles, Linda crossed the finish line. People were crying - even the TV crew was crying - and Linda was crying at the response and support that she had received from God and these people. She thanked God for the power to do such a miraculous thing. Later she was invited to the White House and was pictured on the front page of the New York Times. Her story was not just a story of noble effort, it was the story of the power of God at work.

I. “I WILL TRUST IN THEE” – Ps 56:3

- **Ps 56:3** What time I am afraid, I will trust in thee.

A. David was In Trouble

1. This psalm was written when David found himself in Gath, fleeing from King Saul
 - a) *He was up to his neck in very hot water.*
 - b) *The king of Gath had put David under arrest and was under pressure from his advisers to put him to death.*
 - c) *After all, this was the man who had killed Goliath!*
 - d) *David pretended to be mad, hoping thus to dispel the force of these threats on his life.*
2. The only thing David could do was trust in God

B. We Need to Trust in God

1. When all is going well, we don't need to have that much faith
2. But when life gets out of control, that is when we exercise our faith
3. In his book, “A Turtle on the Fencepost” Allen Emery tells of a night he spent on the Texas plains with a shepherd who was keeping two thousand sheep. The shepherd prepared a bonfire for cooking supper and providing warmth. The sheep dogs lay down near the fire as the stars filled the sky.
Suddenly Emery heard the unmistakable wail of a coyote with an

answering call from the other side of the range. The dogs weren't patrolling at the moment, and the coyotes seemed to know it. Rising quickly, the shepherd tossed some logs on the fire, and in this light, Emery looked out at the sheep and saw thousands of little lights. "I realized," he said, "that these were reflections of the fire in the eyes of the sheep. In the midst of danger, the sheep were not looking out into the darkness, but were keeping their eyes set toward the shepherd."

We're to keep our eyes on our Shepherd, to be always looking to Jesus the author and finisher of our faith. If a coyote is wailing within earshot of you, turn your eyes upon Jesus. – copied

II. "I WILL BLESS THE LORD" – Ps 34:1

- I will bless the LORD at all times: his praise shall continually be in my mouth.

A. "I Will Bless the Lord"

1. I will praise him
2. I will be thankful for his mercies
3. I will praise him; I will be thankful for his mercies, and will always express my sense of his goodness.
4. What an effective antidote to the poison of doubt, depression, and despair. How often we fail right here!

B. "At All Times"

1. In every situation, at all times in life
2. In prosperity and in adversity
3. In safety and in danger
4. In joy and in sorrow

C. "His Praise Shall Continually Be in My Mouth"

1. May our praise be unceasing
2. God has said that "all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose." How quickly we forget that. Jacob forgot it. When one thing after another

went wrong in his life he wrung his hands: "Joseph is not, and Simeon is not, and ye will take Benjamin away: all these things are against me" (Genesis 42:36). But at that very moment Joseph was exalted to the right hand of the majesty of Egypt; God was working all things together for the good of Benjamin and Simeon and Jacob and all.

III. **"I WILL LOVE THEE, O LORD" – Ps 18:1B**

- **I will love thee, O LORD, my strength.**

A. ***David's Situation***

1. The title tells us this is "a psalm of David, the servant or the Lord, who spake unto the Lord the words of this song in the day that the Lord delivered him from the hand of all his enemies, and from the hand of Saul."
2. At long, long last the outlaw years were ended.
3. The civil war between David and Ishbosheth, too, was at an end.
4. A united kingdom had crowned David at last, and David's enemies on every hand, those within the kingdom and those across the frontiers, had all bowed before his footstool.
5. Nathan the prophet had come too with a wonderful word from God—because of David's love and loyalty to Him, the Lord would establish David's throne for ever.
6. No matter what happened to Him, no matter what people said about Him, our Lord's unfailing trust in His Father enabled Him to walk with confidence.

B. ***David's Declaration – "I will love thee"***

1. The word for "love" here is not the usual word for love.
2. It means "to yearn over" and actually carries the thought of hugging.
3. If we can say it reverently, the word suggests that David wanted to hug God.
4. We might paraphrase the verse: "Fervently—with yearning, with a desire to hug You—do I love Thee, O Lord."
5. Have we ever felt like that? felt a surge of spiritual emotion come over the soul to a point where we wish we could just put our arms

around the Lord?

6. Mary tried to do that, on the resurrection morn, just simply hug Him!

IV. **“I WILL KEEP THY STATUTES” – Ps 119:145**

- 145 I cried with my whole heart; hear me, O LORD: I will keep thy statutes.

A. **Attitude – “I cried with my whole heart” - Earnestness**

1. Doing something with the entire heart shows commitment and consecration
2. David was earnest and fervent in his prayer
3. Earnestness is a key to personal revival
4. David uses this expression “whole heart” in Ps 119
 - a) *2 Blessed are they that keep his testimonies, and that seek him with the whole heart.*
 - b) *10 With my whole heart have I sought thee: O let me not wander from thy commandments.*
 - c) *34 Give me understanding, and I shall keep thy law; yea, I shall observe it with my whole heart.*
 - d) *58 I intreated thy favour with my whole heart: be merciful unto me according to thy word.*
 - e) *69 The proud have forged a lie against me: but I will keep thy precepts with my whole heart.*

B. **Ambition – “I will keep thy statutes”**

1. David needed God’s strength in order to keep God’s statutes
2. David knew that happiness comes from keeping the statutes
 - *2 Blessed are they that keep his testimonies, and that seek him with the whole heart.*
3. David knew that God expected him to keep the commandments
 - *4 Thou hast commanded us to keep thy precepts diligently.*
4. David was quick to keep the commandments
 - *60 I made haste, and delayed not to keep thy commandments.*
5. David wanted companions who kept the commandments

- 63 I am a companion of all them that fear thee, and of them that keep thy precepts.

V. "I WILL WALK BEFORE THE LORD" – Ps 116:9

- 9 I will walk before the LORD in the land of the living.
 1. As in the sight of the omniscient God, according to his word and will, and in such manner as to please him.
 2. So Enoch's walking with God is by the apostle explained of pleasing him
 3. Let us remember that we walk before the Lord
 4. Trusting Christ means that we are to walk differently – Jn 8:12
 - **Joh 8:12** Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.
 5. Christian living is a walk in newness of life – Rom 6:4
 - Ro 6:4 Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.
 6. The Christian life is a spiritual walk – Rom 8:1
 - Ro 8:1 There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.
 7. The Christian life is an honest walk – Rom 13:13
 - Ro 13:13 Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying.
 8. The Christian life is a spiritual walk – Gal 5:16
 - Ga 5:16 This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.
 9. The Christian life is a walk in good works – Eph 2:10
 - Eph 2:10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

VI. "I WILL COME INTO THY HOUSE" - Ps 5:7

- 7 But as for me, I will come into thy house in the multitude of thy mercy: and in thy fear will I worship toward thy holy temple.

A. David

1. Psalms 3, 4, 5, stand together stand together in the life of David
2. David, having left Jerusalem under cover of the night, had conveyed his people across the Jordan and had marched hard all day toward the north to put distance between himself and his foes. Then, worn out and exhausted, he had flung himself down and slept for the first time in many hours. He awoke refreshed and wrote Psalm 3.
3. The next day was spent in crossing the Jabbok and continuing northward to Mahanaim, where David hoped to win to his side his mountain clansmen. David knew only too well what a desperate battle lay ahead. That evening he wrote Psalm 4 acknowledging God's goodness and provision.
4. The next morning he wrote Psalm 5. He was going forth to face treacherous and powerful foes and he prepared for such a day with prayer. The psalm should thus speak to our own hearts for, as G. Campbell Morgan reminds us, we face no day which is not filled with danger.
5. "I will come into thy house"
6. David was interested in church attendance
7. He longed for the time when he could once again enter into God's house

B. Us

1. Many are faithful in coming to God's house
2. Imagine not being able to come to God's house
3. Gary Mabe sure misses God's house
4. A few weeks ago several loads of bricks were delivered for our new building. They were unloaded in different places in the church yard. When I enquired as to how many bricks would be used, the foreman replied, "95,000." Last week they started taking those bricks from the stacks and building the walls of the new building. For several weeks

the bricks did nothing but occupy space. Now some skilled workers are putting them together to build a church building. Sometimes God must think that we are like those bricks, just sitting and occupying space - not doing much harm, but not doing much good. Like the bricks we were created for a purpose, and God's greatest desire for us is that we place our lives into His skilled hands so that He might put us in our proper place. I wonder what the building would be like if some of the bricks refused to be used, or decided to "drop out." It would mar the beauty of the building, and the "spaces" would make heating and cooling awfully difficult. Any of us church members who are not fulfilling our proper place mar the ministry of this church in much the same manner. What if some bricks didn't carry their share of the load? The walls would be weak and the building would not be safe. I challenge us to evaluate and see if we are "carrying our share" in our church through our prayers, presence, gifts and service. Are we a part of the strength or weakness of our church? As the walls go up you stop noticing the individual bricks, and begin seeing the unit as a whole. I hope that the same is true here. Each brick is important ... and so are you. Let's build! - John Ed Mathison

5. Church is the pillar and ground of the truth

- **1Ti 3:15** But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.

6. Glory in the church – Eph 3:21

- **21** Unto him *be* glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.

VII. "I WILL BEHAVE MYSELF WISELY" – Ps 101:2

A. David's Decision – "behave myself wisely"

- **2** I will behave myself wisely in a perfect way...

1. So David did before he came to the throne, which made Saul fear him, and the people love him

○ **1Sa 18:14** And David behaved himself wisely in all his ways; and the LORD *was* with him.

2. We behave wisely, when we walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, redeeming the time
3. When we make the perfect law of liberty, the word of God, the rule of our faith
4. Take Christ for our pattern and example, and the Spirit for our guide
5. We should walk as becomes the Gospel of Christ; seek the glory of God, and the good of others
6. We need to remember that we are pilgrims and strangers here

B. David's Desire – vs 2b

● **2b ... O when wilt thou come unto me?...**

1. David longed to have the ark of the covenant in Jerusalem
 - **2Sa 6:9b** How shall the ark of the LORD come to me?
2. There was nothing he wanted more than to know that the Lord, the covenant-keeping God of Israel, would bless and sanctify his capital with His own majestic presence.
3. We have something David never dreamed of having. We have God as a permanent guest, not just in our neighborhood, but in our hearts.

C. David's Dwelling – vs 2c

● **2c ...I will walk within my house with a perfect heart.**

1. What goes on in many homes will not bear inspection.
2. In palaces passion, lust, and excess were given full reign.
3. There a monarch could indulge his every whim.
4. Caprice and carnality often led to unbridled indulgence.
5. David invites the Lord to come and inspect his home
6. He promises that his would be a model home, one into which the Lord could come at any time.
7. There would be no pictures which would have to be hastily hidden.
8. There would be no unseemly quarrels for which he would have to apologize or hope had not been overheard.

9. "I will walk within my house with a perfect heart." The word perfect means "without blemish." As the high priest examined with meticulous care an animal brought to the altar for sacrifice to ensure that it was without blemish, so David assures the Lord that if He would come and be his near neighbor then He could come freely into his home at any time.
10. David would see to it that his heart was as unblemished as a sacrificial lamb.
11. Home is the Hardest Place to Walk Perfectly
12. What a resolve!
13. What homes would we have if we would all make this our daily resolve.
14. "I will walk within my house with an unblemished heart."
15. This was the character of the king. He begins with himself.
16. It seems easier to walk perfectly among strangers than in one's own house.
17. But you may rest assured that a man is really no better than he is to his own.

Conclusion:

1. In my introduction, I said that I admired those with determination. One example of this is the guy who read the Bible with his tongue - A man in Kansas City was injured in a severe explosion. His face was badly disfigured and he lost his eyesight as well as both hands. He was a Christian before the explosion and one of the greatest disappointments was that he could no longer see to read his Bible. Some suggested that he learn Braille until they realized that he had no fingers. The man heard of a lady in England who read Braille with her lips and the man tried it. His lips had been burned and were too badly damaged to distinguish the raised characters. When he had the page to his lips, his tongue unintentionally touched the page and the man realized that his tongue could distinguish the raised characters. Like a flash, the thought came to him, "I can read Braille with my tongue." He learned Braille

and read the Bible through four times with his tongue. If he can do that, can't we discipline ourselves to read God's Word daily?"

2. Will you determine today.....
 - a. I will trust in Thee
 - b. I will bless the Lord
 - c. I will love Thee oh Lord
 - d. I will keep Thy statutes
 - e. I will walk before the Lord
 - f. I will come into Thy house
 - g. I will behave myself wisely

HBC# 175 – Feb 2012