

CHOICES

BY: BRAD CULLEN – MAY 26, 2003

CHOICES... “FREE WILL”

I often tell people, if you want perfect, absolute freedom, try praying in this vein: “Father, I want Your will no matter what the cost.”

Since most of these same people know that I believe God allows us myriad choices and that He doesn't interfere with our own free will – they find the above prayer somewhat contradictory.

Let's change direction for a moment. Some people find my level of faith and confidence in the way I pray as “arrogance.” Some refer to it as “presumption.”

Particularly this is so when somebody has heard my response to a question about why I think my way of praying is “better” than theirs? My answer is simple: I don't pray for anything unless and until I am convinced that it is God's will. If it is God's will... then I know He has already decreed it to be thus... and I demand that His will be brought into existence on the physical plane... and I do not stop demanding UNTIL what He has already decreed in the spirit realm is manifested on the physical plane. This is the very essence of the “Lord's Prayer.” Let us get this deep into our consciousness... “Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.” ...Is it registering?

Stay with me for a moment and something may become clear that has never been clear before. More arrogance? Or is it simply confidence borne in pure faith? That is, the gift of faith that anyone can have – if he or she knows where to go to pick it up.

Why most “praying” doesn't get any results (and this is especially true with physical healing) is conflicts. That is, wanting something on one level and not wanting it on another (perhaps subconscious?) level. Let the following quote “soak” in.

“Let him ask in faith, with no doubting. For he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.”

The challenge with the above quote is that the word “doubt” is a mistranslation. In the original language... the word translated as “doubt” means “divided by two thoughts or spirits.” The foregoing quote is from Jesus' half brother James. The translators of the King James Version committed the very same dilution to something Jesus said: “For assuredly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, ‘Be removed and be cast into the sea,’ and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he says will be done, he will have whatever he says.”

The very same word in the original that means “divided by two opposing thoughts or spirits” – again rendered as “doubt.” Can we begin to see it? All of us have doubts... nobody that understands true intercessory prayer – and that works at it – isn't assailed by doubts... and often attacked by spirits causing opposing thoughts. The key is not to be swayed or divided in energy... but to continue on... demanding what we understand to be God's will in the situation... until God's will is manifested -- in spite of the doubts and the attacks!

There are myriad examples of double-mindedness. One that is nagging my memory at the moment... a woman unable to walk for ten years... told me she wanted to be healed. I sensed a conflict. I asked her what it would be like to be able to walk again. She expressed to me how wonderful it would be. I asked her if she wanted God's will no matter what the cost... she hesitated. I asked her... “what is the one thing that you can think of that would happen that you wouldn't like if you were able to walk again?”

It finally came out that if she was healed her twenty year old grand-daughter would probably no longer live with her! She was very attached to her and was frightened at the thought of her leaving. CONFLICT... big time double-mindedness.

In this particular case it was a spirit that was causing her physical problem. I told her that I wouldn't do anything until the conflict was resolved. Without going into the entire story, I can tell you that the grand-daughter was with us applauding while her grandmother was literally running around the living room – shaking her fists in the air whooping, “Praise God, Praise God.” This after we got rid of the demon causing the problem. We must understand that demons have a legal right to remain if we have given them that right... we have learned not to ever attempt to cast out demons or pray for healing for a person that is in the middle of conflict. NOTHING WILL HAPPEN!

Is it God's will that a person be healed. Of course. Always? YES! It is not the business of our one and only perfect Father to allow anyone to die a painful death. Can death be used by God to bring Himself glory? Of course. There are all kinds of examples that people will cite... "had it not been for so and so dying... somebody else might never have come to Christ." Is that a valid position? Well, Jesus said that the enemy has but one purpose, that is, to steal, kill and destroy. Jesus said that he came, on the other hand, to bring abundant life... and he has given the promise that anyone that believes in him will do the very same things that he did... this includes casting out demons and healing the sick.

Sometimes people are afraid to pray for things they want... because they can see some possible problems by getting these things. I well remember a man that some people wanted me to visit who had a "bad back." His conflict was simple. He wanted to be pain free... but if he were healed his disability income would cease and he saw that the only option for him would be to go back to a job he absolutely hated. Why not pray for healing AND a job that he loved?

It is a Scriptural principle that we are meant to live abundantly prosperous and healthy. We allow the enemy to steal our prosperity and destroy our health with conflicts. We can have victory over every conflict... no exceptions. It starts by declaring and meaning, "I want God's will no matter what the cost." Now, let's get it into our consciousness that the cost has already been taken care of. Ready to get results from praying the way Jesus taught to pray? Want some help with specifics?

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