

## Human Will Power

Joseph Stalin has said "I believe in one thing only, the power of the human will". We have all been inspired by stories of the human will. These stories often formed around an innate desire for survival capture our hearts and minds. We marvel at the individual who overcomes insurmountable odds in the face of danger seeming to draw from a well deep within. This well normally inaccessible, except it seems, when one finds themselves facing life and death dire circumstances. The last century has revealed many heroes' standing up, surviving despite the evil around disseminated by men like Stalin and Hitler.



Even now we see a war raging unlike anything else since the World War as another tyrant, Vladimir Putin, seeks to take over Ukraine. Individuals Like Volodymyr Zelenskyy, Ukraine's president, have vowed to stay and fight for their country. In fact, when offered exodus from Kyiv with support from the United States he famously said, "the fight is here; I need ammunition, not a ride".

Both these men, Putin and Zelenskyy driven by human will. Putin eager to unleash evil to kill and take over, while Zelenskyy wanting to do good, to

protect and set free the Ukrainian people.

The will is most certainly a formidable force, influencing an individual's actions. Recognizing this has direct application to each of our lives. In the world of recovery step three of Alcoholics Anonymous 12 step program says; "**Made a decision to turn our will and lives over to the care of God...**"

Recognized as "the big step" in recovery, one finds themselves making an internal conscious decision that I am going to trust my life and surrender my will to this God, this greater power. I think for the most part we can understand the importance of this personal choice, **yet there is something deeper** we need to look at biblically when it comes to the human will.

Here is an amazing verse, supported I think throughout scriptures: Ephesians 1:11 "*In Him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of Him who works **all things according to the counsel of His will***".

The irony of this verse is profound. All things. War. Death. Life. Sickness. Health. Rejection of God. Acceptance of God. Rebellion. Submission. All things. All people. It doesn't matter if one is a believer or not, ultimately it is the counsel of God's will that directs our paths, even Putin and Zelenskyy's paths. Our humanity has a hard time understanding this. How can a good and Holy God's will be for the evil we see unfolding around us?



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Throughout scripture we see story after story of God's will trumping human will. Think of Joseph, sold as a slave by his brothers, he ends up saving his family from famine despite the evil perpetrated against him.

*Gen 50:19-20 "But Joseph said to them, "Do not fear, for am I in the place of God? As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today".*

Romans 11: 34 *"Who has known the mind of the Lord? Or who has been His counselor?".* We may never fully understand the why of certain situations in life around us, in our own life, the things we have done, and the things done against us. But we can find rest in the sobering reality that our life is ultimately lived out according to God's will. That means it's not the devil that has the upper hand. My sinful nature doesn't have the last say. My fate is not at the mercy of hap-hazard things such as luck.

I am at the mercy of a loving God. A righteous God. One that does not sin. One who's plan for my life is good. A plan to prosper and not harm me. A plan to draw me closer to Him as a son. A plan that includes an eternal inheritance of greater value than anything I can think or imagine. I know where I want my will to be surrendered. I understand the importance of turning my will and life to the care of God. Thanks be to God, who enables me to say such things. Jesus said it all "nevertheless, not my will, but yours be done".

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