

## *In Self-will or in the Will of God*

*by John Joseph*

We can desire a thing in self or in the will of God. It may be the same thing. It may be the will of God that we have the thing. It may be a thing that has been promised to us by God. But do we will (desire) to have the thing (that we know is the will of God) in self or in God? We can desire the thing, which means desire the thing in the will of God, but if we desire the thing itself – as a separate thing apart from the will of God – even though we know it is the will of God, God will not be pleased. There is the thing, and there is the thing in the will of God. The same thing though different in the eyes of God. We must die to desiring a thing in self i.e. we must die to self-will. We must desire the will of God only. Then the thing IN the will of God will be given to us of God, and the details and timing will be all of God. This is the true dying to self. We have no propriety of things in self, only in the will of God and in God.

[Note: I have known this in spiritual revelation. If we seek revelations to hold in self, this is abhorrent to God. We may, yea we should, seek revelations – IN God. It is self that is our fallenness. We should not desire a thing as a separate thing – only in the will of God i.e. only the will of God. But let us ever remember, the Will of God is the Love of God. God's will for us is infinite Love and infinite Wisdom. But the will of the flesh will not accept this and cannot see this and is by nature not subject to the will of God even to the detriment of the creature. Therefore, there can be a struggle against this malicious will to bring it into death.]

Dear brethren, I have recorded the above (first paragraph) just as I received it, and I know that it may be a bit obscure. But I didn't want to change it from how it was given. So please read it a few times and allow the Spirit of Truth to minister it to you. As well, Austin-Sparks says a similar thing and perhaps the way he says it is more clear. His writing follows:

*One of the most difficult lessons that the Lord's children have to learn is how to let go to God. Even in a matter that is right and in the purpose of God, there has to be the lessons which Abraham had to learn through Isaac. It is not in our personal clinging to a God-given thing, whether it be a promise or a possession, but faith's restful and fear-free holding on to the Lord Himself. If we had a thing from the Lord Himself we can rest assured that what He gives He will not take again without some larger purpose in view; and on the other hand, none can take from us what He has determined for us. But there are many dangers which arise from our own will in relation to a Divine gift or purpose.*

*The first is of making that thing ours instead of holding it in and for the Lord....If we realized how privileged we are to have even a very small part in the things of God, and how it is all of His Grace, surely we should be very grateful that we could just have the remotest connection with Him. Then further, when we hold things received or as promised or believed to be for us as only unto the Lord, in restful trust, we make it possible for the Lord to save us from being mistaken in the matter. It is not an unusual thing for a child of God to come to see that a thing which he or she most strongly believed to be God's will or way for them was not so, and it had to be surrendered. If there was any personal element of will in it the experience has proved terrible, and has left works of bitterness and mistrust. Yet once again, a strong personal mind and will in relation to things of God too often makes us a law unto ourselves. That is, we get into an attitude which implies that we only know the will of God in the matter.*

**May the LORD bless each of us to know His will which comes out of His great heart of Love.**