

How to be Happy Though Human

A BIBLICAL PERSPECTIVE OF PEOPLE AND PROBLEMS

PART 3 – Our Choices as VOLITIONAL Beings

As VOLITIONAL beings, it is vital that we each assume **personal responsibility** for the **choices** we make and the **actions** we take.

- Humans, unlike rocks, rats, and robots, are uniquely created with **volition**.
 - We are **capable of making choices**.
 - We are **responsible for our choices**.
 - We **are free** to choose, but **not free** to choose the **consequences**.

But in accordance with your hardness and your impenitent heart you are treasuring up for yourself wrath in the day of wrath and revelation of **the righteous judgment of God**, who “will render to each one according to his deeds”

Romans 2:5-6 NKJV

So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him.

For **we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ**,

so that each one may receive what is due

for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil.

2 Corinthians 5:9-10 ESV

Now if any man builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, each man’s work will become evident; for the day will show it because it is to be revealed with fire, and the fire itself will test the quality of each man’s work. If any man’s work which he has built on it remains, he will **receive a reward**. If any man’s work is burned up, he will **suffer loss**; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.

1 Corinthians 3:12-15 NASB

For we have spent enough of our past lifetime in doing the will of the Gentiles—when we walked in lewdness, lusts, drunkenness, revelries, drinking parties, and abominable idolatries. In regard to these, they think it strange that you do not run with them in the same flood of dissipation, speaking evil of you. **They will give an account** to Him who is ready to judge the living and the dead.

1 Peter 4:3-5 NKJV

- By God's grace and provision, **we can change** our sinful and irresponsible **behavior**.



RECOGNIZE what is **WRONG**.



REJECT it **DECISIVELY**.



RESET the **WILL**.



RELY on the **LORD**.



RESPOND rightly, regardless of **Feelings**.

Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for **without Me you can do nothing**.

John 15:4-5 NKJV

But I say, walk **by the Spirit**, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh.

Galatians 5:16 NASB

I can do all things **through Christ** who strengthens me.

Philippians 4:13 NKJV

So then, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your 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.

Philippians 2:12-13 NASB

No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. **God is faithful**, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation **he will also provide the way of escape**, that you may be able to endure it.

1 Corinthians 10:13 ESV

Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death? Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might **walk in newness of life**.

Romans 6:3-4 NASB

Implications and Applications:

- Growing Volitional **strength** is a mark of spiritual **maturity**.
- Volitional “muscle” increases with **activity**, and atrophies with **passivity**.
- Since chosen **behaviors** are in line with chosen **goals** and **desires**, it's best to **distinguish between** the two, and **deal with** them appropriately.

GOAL

An objective that I pursue that is under my control, dependent on my willingness to do certain things.

DESIRE

An objective that I may legitimately and fervently want, but cannot reach through my efforts alone. It requires the uncertain cooperation of another.

I NEED TO
ASSUME RESPONSIBILITY
FOR MY GOALS

I NEED TO
PRAY ABOUT
MY DESIRES

I call heaven and earth as witnesses today against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore **choose life**, that both you and your descendants may live.

Deuteronomy 30:19 NKJV

Elijah went before the people and said, "**How long will you waver** between two opinions? If the LORD is God, follow him; but if Baal is God, follow him."
But the people said nothing.

1 Kings 18:21 NIV

As your parent...

I can share your life, but I cannot live it for you.

I can teach you things, but I cannot make you learn.

I can allow you freedom, but I cannot account for it.

I can take you to church, but I cannot make you believe.

I can teach you right from wrong, but I cannot decide for you.

I can buy you beautiful clothes, but I cannot make you lovely inside.

I can offer you advice, but I cannot accept it for you.

I can give you love, but I cannot force it upon you.

I can teach you to share, but I cannot make you unselfish.

I can teach you to respect, but I cannot force you to honor.

I can advise you about friends, but I cannot choose them for you.

I can tell you the facts of life, but I cannot build your reputation.

I can tell you about drinking and drugs, but I cannot say no for you.

I can tell you about lofty goals, but I cannot achieve them for you.

I can teach you kindness, but I cannot force you to be gracious.

I can pray for you, but I cannot make you walk with God.

I can teach you about Jesus, but I cannot make Him your Savior.

I can show you faith, but I cannot make you trust in Christ.

I can teach you about prayer, but I cannot make you pray.

I can tell you how to live, but I cannot give you eternal life.

I can and will love you forever!