

For the Will of God; 1 Peter 4:1-2

I. Will

- A. What one wishes to bring about by the activity of others
- B. God wants us to act in a manner that brings about the things he wants done
- C. This is in direct contrast to “human passions”

II. Arm Yourselves

- A. 1 Peter 4:1–2; 1 Since therefore Christ suffered in the flesh, arm yourselves with the same way of thinking, for whoever has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin, 2 so as to live for the rest of the time in the flesh no longer for human passions but for the will of God.
- B. “The same way of thinking” is that Christ suffered for the will of God
- C. “Arm yourselves” is a military phrase
 - 1. Our christian lives are often compared to military combat
 - 2. 2 Timothy 2:3–4; 3 Share in suffering as a good soldier of Christ Jesus. 4 No soldier gets entangled in civilian pursuits, since his aim is to please the one who enlisted him.
 - 3. The Armor of God in Ephesians 6:10 and following
 - 4. The Armor of Light in Romans 13:12
 - 5. 1 Thessalonians 5:8; But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation.
 - 6. Philippians 2:25; I have thought it necessary to send to you Epaphroditus my brother and fellow worker and fellow soldier, and your messenger and minister to my need,
 - 7. Philemon 1–2; 1 Paul, a prisoner for Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother, To Philemon our beloved fellow worker 2 and Apphia our sister and Archippus our fellow soldier, and the church in your house:
- D. Like soldiers preparing for battle, christians should prepare themselves for suffering
 - 1. How do you view your christianity?
 - 2. Paul uses the “soldier” idea a lot
 - 3. Ephesians 6:12; For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.
- E. God has won the war against good and evil
 - 1. Satan is still battling for each one of us
 - 2. More often than not, it is a life changing event that moves us either closer to God or closer to Satan
 - 3. How we react to those life changing events is key to our survival
- F. If we look at our christianity as just plodding through life, then we are an easy target for the devil
- G. But if we “arm ourselves” with the knowledge that we ought to be suffering because Jesus suffered, then when those life changing events happen, we will grow closer to God

III. Reject Sin

- A. This is a key idea for christians
- B. 1 Peter 4:3–5; 3 For the time that is past suffices for doing what the Gentiles want to do, living in sensuality, passions, drunkenness, orgies, drinking parties, and lawless idolatry. 4 With respect to this they are surprised when you do not join them in the same flood of debauchery, and they malign you; 5 but they will give account to him who is ready to judge the living and the dead.

C. Sin is here to stay

1. Romans 5:12; Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned—
2. The only way to overcome sin and death is to be united in the likeness of Jesus' death so we can be united in the likeness of His resurrection

D. So once we have been cleansed from our sins, we need to do our best to stay away from it

1. Romans 6:1; What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound?
2. Sometimes we give ourselves license to sin because we are human
3. Romans 3:23; for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,
4. I would caution us not to think that way
5. Romans 2:1–5; 1 Therefore you have no excuse, O man, every one of you who judges. For in passing judgment on another you condemn yourself, because you, the judge, practice the very same things. 2 We know that the judgment of God rightly falls on those who practice such things. 3 Do you suppose, O man—you who judge those who practice such things and yet do them yourself—that you will escape the judgment of God? 4 Or do you presume on the riches of his kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that God's kindness is meant to lead you to repentance? 5 But because of your hard and impenitent heart you are storing up wrath for yourself on the day of wrath when God's righteous judgment will be revealed.

E. Do we sin? yes, and Jesus blood continually cleanses us

F. But when we use Jesus blood as a license for our sinful behavior we may have wondered right out of the light

1. 1 John 1:5–10; 5 This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. 6 If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. 7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. 8 If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. 9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 10 If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.
2. We can, and do, sin as Christians; but we can also not sin as well
3. 1 John 2:1–6; 1 My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. 2 He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world. 3 And by this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments. 4 Whoever says "I know him" but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him, 5 but whoever keeps his word, in him truly the love of God is perfected. By this we may know that we are in him: 6 whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked.

G. Walking in the light, walking by the Spirit, is living a sin free life dedicated to being a soldier in the fight against Satan

H. When we do slip and sin we have Jesus our advocate, our propitiation, our savior

IV. Live in the Spirit

- A. 1 Peter 4:6; For this is why the gospel was preached even to those who are dead, that though judged in the flesh the way people are, they might live in the spirit the way God does.

B. Give up your will for that of God

C. Live in the Spirit

1. This is not an admonishment to Live according to God's will, that was earlier
2. This is an encouragement that those who live "for the will of God" will receive their new body and live eternally with God
3. There is an afterlife; where will we spend it?
4. Daniel 12:2; And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt.
5. Matthew 25:46; And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."
6. John 5:28–29; 28 Do not marvel at this, for an hour is coming when all who are in the tombs will hear his voice 29 and come out, those who have done good to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil to the resurrection of judgment.
7. Acts 24:15; having a hope in God, which these men themselves accept, that there will be a resurrection of both the just and the unjust.
8. There is a heaven and there is a hell
9. Our spirit is destined for one of the two

D. If we live for the will of God, then we will live in the spirit with God

V. For the Will of God

A. Arm yourselves

B. Reject sin

C. Get ready to live in the spirit