

Study Questions

1. What must be yielded to God, before we can be restored to His likeness? (Paragraph 2).
2. What is the greatest battle that was ever fought? (3).
3. What must take place before we are renewed in holiness? (3).
4. What choice will God not force us to make? (4).
5. In giving ourselves to God, what must be given up? (5).
6. List some things that can separate us from God. (5).
7. What is the value of performing the duties of the Christian life as that which God requires in order to gain heaven? (6).
8. What will be your motive or spring of action? (6).
9. What question should you ask yourself when deciding to yield all to Christ? (7).
10. What does God not require us to give up? (10).
11. What does God require us to perform? (11).

12. Describe how those who desire to give themselves to God really are. (12).
13. What is the will? (12).
14. How much depends upon the right action of the will? (12).
15. What should we do with our wills? (12).
16. When will God work in us to will and do of His good pleasure? (12).
17. What happens to our nature when we give God our will? (12).
18. Why will many be lost while hoping and desiring to be Christians? (13).
19. What will result through the right exercise of the will? (14).
20. How will a person be enabled to live a life of faith? (14).

Thought Questions

1. What do I do when I discover the old motives are still there?
2. What is my part in changing my motives, and what is God's?
3. Can my will ever become strong enough to stop sinning?
4. Will I feel different after I make the right choice?
5. After I begin making the right choices, how long will it take before I don't feel the pull of this sin?
6. How can I tell if I have the right motives?
7. What do I do when I make the wrong choice over and over?
8. Does the person who has a strong will have an advantage over the person whose will is not strong?
9. Do I have to give away everything to be consecrated?
10. How can I give 100% of my effort to the Lord when I have opposition at home?
11. What do I need to make me willing to give my will to God?
12. Why is doing God's will always such a struggle?
13. Does understanding myself give me power to do the right?
14. How does guilt affect my ability to make choices?
15. How does trust affect the surrender of my will?
16. Should I make myself do something I know I should do, even though I know I am not motivated by the right reason?
17. Why am I able to choose to do some things and not others?
18. What role does the hope of heaven have in motivating us?
19. If I surrender my will to God, won't I be like a puppet or robot?
20. [Add your questions].

Problem Solving

This young person has repeatedly failed to overcome a powerful addictive behavior, and has finally quit trying. He is backsliding, but still attends church. He has a desire for victory, but lacks hope that it can be achieved, at least for him. Each time he starts to change, the Devil brings so many other problems into his life that he gets overwhelmed and discouraged, and goes back to the addiction. How can the Gospel help him to change not only his desire, but the actual sin itself?

Notes: You might work with the following information: causes, options, solutions, decisions, scriptures that apply.

Ellen G. White Quotations

“Every act of our lives, whether excellent and praiseworthy or deserving of censure, is judged by the Searcher of hearts according to the motives which prompted it.” (*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 2, p. 512).

“Not by their wealth, their education, or their position does God estimate men. He estimates them by their purity of motive and beauty of character.” (*The Ministry of Healing*, p. 477).

“No value is attached to a mere profession of faith in Christ; only the love which is shown by works is counted genuine. Yet it is love alone which in the sight of Heaven makes any act of value. Whatever is done from love, however small it may appear in the estimation of men, is accepted and rewarded of God.” (*The Great Controversy*, p. 487).

“It is for you to yield up your will to the will of Jesus Christ; and as you do this, God will immediately take possession and work in you to will and to do of His good pleasure.” (*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 5, p. 514).

“Our will is not to be forced into co-operation with divine agencies, but it must be voluntarily submitted. Were it possible to force upon you with a hundredfold greater intensity the influence of the Spirit of God, it would not make you a Christian, a fit subject for heaven. The stronghold of Satan would not be broken. The will must be placed on the side of God’s will. You are not able, of yourself, to bring your purposes and desires and inclinations into submission to the will of God; but if you are ‘willing to be made willing,’ God will accomplish the work for you, even ‘casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ.’” (*Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing*, p. 142).

“God does not design that our will should be destroyed, for it is only through its exercise that we can accomplish what He would have us do. Our will is to be yielded to Him, that we may receive it again, purified and refined, and so linked in sympathy with the Divine that He can pour through us the tides of His love and power.” (*Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing*, p. 62).

“Let no one say, I cannot remedy my defects of character. If you come to this decision, you will certainly fail of obtaining everlasting life. The impossibility lies in your own will. If you will not, then you cannot overcome. The real difficulty arises from the corruption of an unsanctified heart, and an unwillingness to submit to the control of God.” (*Christ’s Object Lessons*, p. 331).

“Satan does not want anyone to see the necessity of an entire surrender to God. When the soul fails to make this surrender, sin is not forsaken; the appetites and passions are striving for the mastery; temptations confuse the conscience, so that true conversion does not take place.” (*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 6, p. 92).

“Everyone may place his will on the side of the will of God, may choose to obey Him, and by thus linking himself with divine agencies, he may stand were nothing can force him to do evil.” (*Education*, p. 289).

“To subdue self, and bring the passions under the control of the will, is the greatest conquest that men and women can achieve.” (*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 3, p. 183).

“It is through the will that sin retains its hold upon us.” (*Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing*, p. 61).

“When the soul surrenders itself to Christ, a new power takes possession of the new heart. A change is wrought which man can never accomplish for himself. It is a supernatural work, bringing a supernatural element into human nature. The soul that is yielded to Christ becomes His own fortress, which He holds in a revolted world, and He intends that no authority shall be known in it but His own. A soul thus kept in possession by the heavenly agencies is impregnable to the assaults of Satan. But unless we do yield ourselves to the control of Christ, we shall be dominated by the wicked one. We must inevitably be under the control of one or the other of the two great powers who are contending for the supremacy of the world. It is not necessary for us deliberately to choose the service of the kingdom of darkness in order to come under its dominion. We have only to neglect to ally ourselves with the kingdom of light. If we do not co-operate with the heavenly agencies, Satan will take possession of the heart, and will make it his abiding place. The only defense against evil is the indwelling of Christ in the heart through faith in His righteousness. Unless we become vitally connected with God, we can never resist the unhallowed effects of self-love, self-indulgence, and temptation to sin. We may leave off many bad habits, for the time we may part company with Satan; but without a vital connection with God, through the surrender of ourselves to Him moment by moment, we shall be overcome. Without a personal acquaintance with Christ, and a continual communion, we are at the mercy of the enemy, and shall do his bidding in the end.” (*The Desire of Ages*, p. 324).

“Christ will give strength to all who seek it. No man without his own consent can be overcome by Satan. The tempter has no power to control the will or to force the soul to sin. He may distress, but he cannot contaminate. He can cause agony, but not defilement. The fact that Christ has conquered should inspire His followers with courage to fight manfully the battle against sin and Satan.” (*The Great Controversy*, p. 510).

“When we submit ourselves to Christ, the heart is united with His heart, the will is merged in His will, the mind becomes one with His mind, the thoughts are brought into captivity to Him; we live His life.” (*Christ’s Object Lessons*, p. 312).

QUIZ - 5

Circle T for True or F for False according to the reference:

1. T F Constant surrender to God enables us to live the new life of faith. (SC 5.14).
2. T F It is God that works in us both to will and to do of His good pleasure. (Philippians 2:13).
3. T F God requires us to perform only those duties that give test and trial. (SC 5.11).
4. T F Those who profess to serve God, while relying upon their own efforts to obey His law, to form a right character, and secure salvation, have a religion worth nothing. (SC 5.6).
5. T F The battle with Satan is the greatest battle that we ever fight. (SC 5.3).

Use one or more words to answer the following:

6. How much depends upon the right action of the will? (SC 5.12).

7. List one thing that can separate us from God. (SC 5.5).

8. What should be our motive of action? (SC 5.6).

9. What is the will? (SC 5.12).

10. What did Joshua urge the people to do? (Joshua 24:15).

Circle the letter of the best answer according to the reference:

11. How should we feel about the gospel of Christ? (Romans 1:16).
A. Indifferent
B. Not ashamed
C. Stressed
D. Encouraged
12. What question should you ask yourself when deciding to yield all to Christ? (SC 5.7).
A. Can I make it?
B. Is the reward worth it?
C. What has Christ given for me?
D. What will others think?
13. What is the proper exercise of the will? (SC 5.12).
A. Repeating the the words "I choose."
B. Choosing only the right.
C. Attempting goals that can be achieved.
D. Giving your will to God.
14. When does God work in us to will and to do according to His good pleasure? (SC 5.12).
A. After we give Him our will.
B. After we begin to overcome.
C. After we love Him enough.
D. After suffering the results of our sin.
15. Complete the following quotation:
"Through the right exercise of the _____, an _____
_____ may be made in your life." (SC 5.14).