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Gods Will - The Heart Of The Matter  
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What causes people not to do the will of God, when they really know His will, what is the reason?

Matt 15:8 "This people honors Me with their lips, But their heart is far away from Me." AMP

Jesus was confronting the people regarding what their reasons were for trying to have an appearance of righteousness, but because their hearts were not right, they were lacking. Our hearts must be right in order for us to do the will of God, even though we know and can quote the will of God, it will be of no effect. It may appear to people around us that our walk with God is where He would have us to be, but when we are away and out of sight, we begin to do what we want, our hearts not being in tune with His will. Doing our own thing and disregarding what He wants for us. If we don't have a heart toward God, we will do what we can get away with.

We must realize that God knows our thoughts as well as our hearts, there must be an accountability toward Him with all our actions. Living our lives before God and not men will cause a change in our lives allowing us to go to a higher level.

Num 22:5-6 "So he sent messengers to Balaam [a famous prophet-diviner] the son of Beor at Pethor, which is by the [Euphrates] River, in the land of the descendants of his people, to call for him, saying, "There is a people who have come out of Egypt; behold, they cover the surface of the land, and they are living opposite me. 6 Now please come, curse these people for me, for they are too powerful for me; perhaps I will be able to defeat them and drive them out of the land. For I know [your reputation] that he whom you bless is blessed, and he whom you curse is cursed."AMP

Balaam was asked by King Balak of Moab, to curse the children of Israel, He realized that there were blessings and cursings. Balak knew to have victory or defeat was a spiritual matter and came about through words spoken. God set up words in order for there to be blessings and cursings, this is something that we don't realize even today, the importance of the spoken word.

In the beginning, when God created Adam and Eve, the bible tells us that He blessed them and in the 28th chapter of Deuteronomy the blessings are listed, if the people would obey and the curses if they did not. These blessings and cursings were set in motion, based on what the people chose to do with their lives.

John 10:10 "The thief comes only in order to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have *and* enjoy life, and have it in abundance [to the full, till it overflows]." AMP

It is clear why the devil came, but it also clears on what is being spoken by us, is it a blessing or a curse? There is an importance in what we are saying with our mouths, being either life or death to us.

Joshua 6:26 "Then Joshua made them take an oath at that time, saying, "Cursed before the Lord is the man who

rises up and rebuilds this city, Jericho; with the loss of his firstborn he shall lay its foundation, and with the loss of his youngest son he shall set up its gates." AMP

The walls of Jericho had fallen down and these words were spoken concerning the city in the future. Years have passed and the following scripture tells of the words spoken coming to pass. Joshua had spoken these words years before, but Hiel had never heard these words, yet they came to pass.

1 Kings 16:34 "In his days, Hiel the Bethelite rebuilt Jericho. He laid its foundations with the loss of Abiram his firstborn, and set up its gates with the loss of his youngest son Segub, in accordance with the word of the Lord, which He spoke through Joshua the son of Nun." AMP

There was a book entitled "Snatched From Satan's Claws" in Africa many years ago, a story of a sorcerer who had been chosen to be taught by Satan, the power of the tongue, it says; "Beware of anger and careless idle talk, it is when a person is angry that spirits are easily introduced to someone, if you are a loose talker that is when you are signing out your life to yourself and others in front of the devil, anything that you say is taken and used against you. Even when agents are not near by to get your words, demons are all over and use your words to do your will, Satan waits to record words of failure, defeat, weakness and even gossip, to implant demons about you."

It is so important that we guard our mouths. David says to set a watch over our tongues over the words we speak. The earlier people of the bible realized the importance of words being spoken, either blessings or curses. We choose blessings and curses by how we live and what we say.

Dan 10:11-12 "So he said to me, "O Daniel, you highly regarded *and* greatly beloved man, understand the words that I am about to say to you and stand upright, for I have now been sent to you." And while he was saying this word to me, I stood up trembling. 12 Then he said to me, "Do not be afraid, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your heart on understanding this and on humbling yourself before your God, your words were heard, and I have come in response to your words." AMP

Daniel was having trouble in regards to a vision that he had had, but an angel came to him and spoke words to him, "fear not, God heard your words and I come in response to your words". The angels as well as demons hear your words and are ready to react to them. Get the words of God in your heart because when you speak Gods word you facilitate your own victory by releasing the angels of God to do for you what you are believing God for. That is how christians are to live.

Num 22:12-18 "God said to Balaam, "Do not go with them; you shall not curse the people [of Israel], for they are blessed." 13 Balaam got up in the morning, and said to the leaders of Balak, "Go back to your own land [of Moab], for the Lord has refused to let me go with you." 14 The leaders of Moab arose and went to Balak, and said, "Balaam refused to come with us." 15 Then Balak again sent leaders, more numerous and [men who were] more distinguished than the first ones. 16 They came to Balaam, and said to him, "Thus says Balak the son of Zippor, 'I beg you, let nothing hinder you from coming to me. 17 For I will give you a very great honor and I will do whatever you tell me; so please come, curse these people [of Israel] for me.'" 18 Balaam answered the servants of Balak, "Even if Balak were to give me his house full of silver and gold, I could not do anything, either small or great, contrary to the command of the Lord my God." AMP

We find out what Gods will for the people was, they were blessed and not to be cursed. If Balaam had tried to curse the people, it would not have changed their blessing, but would have

caused him much trouble later. In Psalms 64, it talks about people speaking against other people, talking against the righteous or those blessed and their outcome.

Psa 64:2-4 "Hide me from the secret counsel *and* conspiracy of the ungodly,  
From the scheming of those who do wrong, 3 Who have sharpened their tongues like a sword.  
They aim venomous words as arrows, 4 To shoot from ambush at the blameless [one];  
Suddenly they shoot at him, without fear." AMP

Psa 64:7-8 "But God will shoot them with an [unexpected] arrow;  
Suddenly they will be wounded. 8 So they will be caused to stumble; Their own tongue is against them;  
All who gaze at them will shake the head [in scorn]." AMP

Balaam was receiving pressure to go with Balak, he was expecting much honor and favor, desiring the benefits that would come to him, but God was looking at his heart, knowing that it was not right, Balaams only concern in the entire matter was what he could or would receive if he did what King Balak was offering. God was not concerned about what would happen to the children of Israel, knowing that they had His blessing, as long as they continued to serve Him. His main concern was about Balaam and what he would do. God cares for every individual even Balaam, he was Gods mouthpiece but he didn't realize how serious it was for him.

1 Sam 16:7 "But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not look at his appearance or at the height of his stature, because I have rejected him. For the Lord sees not as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart."AMP

The following scriptures tell the rest of what happened in Balaams life, the prophecies that he gave concerning future events, even the coming of Messiah, how he responded to everything that happened to him, his conversation with the donkey and how he was killed in the final battle. God had told him to go and then not to go, wanting to see what was in Balaams heart. God went to great extreme to get the point across to Balaam, but Balaam was following after his own desires and never fixed his heart.

Num 22:20-22 "God came to Balaam at night and said to him, "If the men have come to call you, get up and go with them, but you shall *still* do only what I tell you." 21 So Balaam got up in the morning and saddled his donkey and went with the leaders of Moab. 22 But God's anger was kindled because he was going, and the Angel of the Lord took His stand in the way as an adversary against him. Now he was riding on his donkey, and his two servants were with him." AMP

Num 22:32 "The Angel of the Lord said to him, "Why have you struck your donkey these three times? Behold, I have come out to stand against you, because your behavior was obstinate *and* contrary to Me." AMP

Num 31:7-16 "They made war against Midian, just as the Lord had commanded Moses, and they killed every male. 8 They killed the kings of Midian along with *the rest of* their slain: Evi and Rekem and Zur [the father of Cozbi] and Hur and Reba, the five kings of Midian; also Balaam the son of Beor they killed with the sword. 9 The sons of Israel captured the women of Midian and their children; and all their cattle, all their livestock, and all their property they took as spoil [of war]. 10 They burned all the cities where they lived, and all their encampments with fire. 11 They took all the plunder and all the spoils of war, both people and livestock. 12 Then they brought the captives, the spoils, and the plunder to Moses and to Eleazar the priest and to the congregation of the Israelites at the camp on the plains of Moab by the Jordan [River] across from Jericho. 13 Moses and Eleazar the priest and all the leaders of the congregation went out to meet them outside the camp. 14 But Moses was angry with the officers of the army, the commanders of thousands and of hundreds, who served in the war. 15 And Moses said to them, "Have you let all the women live? 16 Look, these [are the women who]

caused the Israelites, by the counsel of Balaam, to trespass against the Lord in the matter of Peor, and so a plague came among the congregation of the Lord." AMP

1 Sam 16:7 "But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not look at his appearance or at the height of his stature, because I have rejected him. For the Lord sees not as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart."AMP

Some people live their lives during the week as though everything is right, the way they want to live, trying to show a different side on Sunday thinking they are fooling people, but God knowing everything knows the hearts and the thoughts. It is a heart problem and Balaam had a heart problem. If your heart is not set on God, you will be tempted to go with anything that tempts the flesh. If your being pulled in a different direction there is a heart problem. We are not perfect but we should be pressing toward perfection, if we fall we should repent, get up and go again.

This is a life of victory, we don't get there overnight, it is not the do's and don'ts that counts but what we do before God that counts. There should be accountability, but what do we do when no one is around?

Luke 6 tells that there is a difference between having Jesus as lord of your life or having Him as your savior. If Jesus is your lord, you are going to do what He says to do. The storms may come and if He is lord you will be able to stand and cannot be shaken, however, if He is not lord, only savior, then you may not be able to stand.

Lord means supreme ruler and He has the right to tell you what to do. Jesus has our best interest at heart; it is for our good, for our growth if He is lord of our lives. We should be monitoring our hearts and what is really in our hearts?

Matt 12:34-37 "You brood of vipers, how can you speak good things when you are evil? For the mouth speaks out of that which fills the heart. 35 The good man, from his [inner] good treasure, brings out good things; and the evil man, from his [inner] evil treasure, brings out evil things. 36 But I tell you, on the day of judgment people will have to give an accounting for every careless *or* useless word they speak. 37 For by your words [reflecting your spiritual condition] you will be justified *and* acquitted of the guilt of sin; and by your words [rejecting Me] you will be condemned *and* sentenced."AMP

Who or what is first place in our hearts? Is God first place in our hearts? The words we speak, our thoughts and actions are all a heart matter.