

## By the Will of God

### Scripture

*Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, To the saints who are in Ephesus, and faithful in Christ Jesus: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. (Eph 1:1-2 NKJV)*

### Devotion

Paul begins his letter to the Ephesians by acknowledging that his apostleship is by the will of God. He then goes on to wish them grace and peace from God. This was a common theme for Paul and he began most of his letters with the same.

We owe all to the will of God. Whatever your view of predestination, it is clear that God must choose a soul for that soul to be saved. As it is written, “You did not choose Me, but I chose you . . .” (Joh 15:16 NKJV) Also, “But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.” (John 1:12-13 NKJV)

This in no way does harm to human responsibility for clearly the passage that declares salvation is not by the will of man also begins with “as many as received Him.” Believers are not robots without any choice. However, Scripture teaches that believers respond to God’s Spirit and without that calling all would perish. Jesus describes the Spirit like a wind.

“Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’ The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit.” (John 3:7-8 NKJV) The force of change is the wind. It blows where it wishes, and no one knows where it comes from or where it is going. We see what the wind does as we see what the Spirit does in the life of a believer, but what we see is the result of the wind blowing not the other way around. The wind doesn’t blow where man commands.

Therefore, dear child of God, will you bow your heart to our sovereign Lord and give thanks for His grace which resulted in your peace? Magnify the Lord today by humbling yourself and acknowledging, as Paul does, that your calling is by the will of God! Paul was called as an apostle, and if you are a believer you were called into the kingdom. No, beyond that you were chosen! “For many are called, but few [are] chosen.” (Mt 22:14 NKJV)

“Then Jesus said to His disciples, ‘Assuredly, I say to you that it is hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven. And again I say to you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God.’” (Mt 19:23-24 NKJV) Many things may be counted as riches.