

Self-willed Saints

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February 2, 2016

**Definitions (Taken from Websters 1828) :**

**SELF-WILL'**, *noun* [*self* and *will*.] One's own will; obstinacy.

**SELF-WILL'ED**, *adjective*, Governed by one's own will; not yielding to the will or wishes of others; not accomodating or compliant; obstinate.

**SELF-SEEKING**, *adjective*, Seeking one's own interest or happiness; selfish.

**OB'STINATE**, *adjective* [Latin *obstinatus*.] **1.** Stubborn; pertinaciously adhering to an opinion or purpose; fixed firmly in resolution; not yielding to reason, arguments or other means. **2.** Not yielding or not easily subdued or removed; as an *obstinate* fever; *obstinate* obstructions; an *obstinate* cough.

**SA'INTLY**, *adjective* Like a saint; becoming a holy person; as wrongs with *saintly* patience borne.

For the purpose of this lesson we will look at those regarded as righteous by either God or one of his messengers, or as a Child(ren) of God, God's people, known to be saved, member of one of the early churches.

**Self-will Characteristics**

Include but is not limited to: Impenitent Heart, Arrogant, Conceited, Despise Correction, Hard Hearted, Insensible, Stubborn, Rebellious, Selfish, Unwilling to Submit themselves to God

**Christ, our example and our goal. (John 8:29)**

In this single verse of scripture, although we could have drawn from a multitude of other verses, Jesus states his motivation, "for I do always those things that please him." That verse shows that all who have been Saved by the Grace of God should strive to do those things that please him, reflecting outwardly what has been done inwardly as stated in 1 Peter 2:9, "that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvelous light." Let us remind ourselves what Jesus stated in John 12:32, "And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me."

It would appear to be a simple formula that after we are saved that we seek not to do our own selfish will but the will of the one who reconciled us to Himself through the death of his Son (Romans 5:10). That, we seek to increase our state of Christlikeness daily (Luke 9:23) by bearing our crosses with the integrity, dignity, humility lifting up the name of Jesus with zeal so as we can have ourselves in a continuous state of revival.

Having said that, we know that all too often this is not the case, we fall back into the old way of serving ourselves rather than the one who made it possible to be delivered from the chains of darkness breaking

our bonds into the freeness of liberty by grace through faith. Like so many before we lose our way, sometimes not even realizing it, we become self-willed.

## **2 Peter 2:1-22**

- Peter warns of false prophets and teachers in the first three verses and shows the harmful effect they have on the people leading them to their destruction (v. 1-3). The Church should take this as a warning to prove what doctrines are preached and taught so as not to err from the truth. Also, they need to be prepared to stand up against this false doctrine and call it out by name. Peter delivers one of the most visible, harmful effects that these false prophets can have on a body causing them to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them (v. 21) stating, “the dog is turned to his own vomit again; and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire.”
- Emulation of the Church at Berea is a proven way we can prove false doctrines and teachings as they, “received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things be so.” (Acts 17:11)
- **Examples in 2 Peter**
  - o Satan and his angels that rebelled against God (v.4)
  - o The Antediluvian world (v.5)
  - o Sodom and Gomorrah (v.6)
  - o **Lot** v.7-8
- **Characteristics of those who walk after the flesh** (v.10)
  - o Live a life full of sin i.e. “in the lust of uncleanness”
  - o Despise Government
  - o Presumptuous
    - Greek, **tolmetes**, meaning a daring (audacious) man.
  - o **Selfwilled**
    - Greek, **authades**, meaning self pleasing that is arrogant:- self-willed.
  - o Not afraid to speak evil of dignities
    - Greek word for dignities, **doxa**, meaning glory(as very apparent) in a wide application (literally or figuratively objectively or subjectively): - dignity glory (-ious) honour praise worship.
  - o Bring railing accusations (v.11) against God’s people , like their master, Satan, the accuser (Rev. 12:10)
  - o Destitute of reason (v.12)
    - Greek for natural, **phusikos**, meaning instinctive i.e. governed by the instincts of nature
    - Greek for brute, **alogos**, meaning irrational: -unreasonable
    - Greek for beast, **zoon**, meaning a live thing that is an animal
  - o Speak evil of things they understand not (v.12)
  - o Count it pleasure to riot in the day time (v.13)
  - o Have eyes full of adultery (v.14)

- Cannot cease from sinning (v.14)
- Unstable (v.14)
- Covetous (v.14)
- Cursed (v.14)
- Wells without water (v.17)

### **Lot (Genesis 13:10-13)**

- Righteous man
  - Peter states in 2 Peter 2:8, “For that righteous man”
  - Abraham’s Nephew (Gen. 12:5)
- Why did they split?
  - Split from Abram due to their combined abundance (Gen. 13:7)
- How did Lot decide which way to go?
  - By lust of his eyes (Genesis 13:10)
  - By not seeking direction from God in which way he should go
  - By his own will
- What was the outcome of Lot’s decision?
  - 2 Peter 2:8 states, “Vexed his righteous soul from day to day with their unlawful deeds.”
  - Lot immersed himself into the most sinful place that he, possibly, could have found. The righteous should be separated from the heathen.
  - In an effort to prevent the inhabitants of the plain from molesting the angels that God sent to Lot he offered up his own daughters who were virgins for the men to do with them as they saw fit.
  - His wife died because she did not heed the warning of the angels when they said do not look back as the cities of the plain were being destroyed, she did and became a pillar of salt.
- **Israelites (Numbers 13 and 14)**
- God promised the land of Canaan to Abraham and to his descendants, the Israelites. (Gen 17:8)
- Set the scene
  - Moses sent Spies, one from each tribe, to spy out the land (Numbers 13:3)
  - Ten of the Twelve lacked the faith and those that were the elders lacked also and opted to go back to Egypt (Numbers 14:4)
  - After Moses and Aaron fell on their faces, Joshua and Caleb reasoned with them but they would not hear instead stating they should be stoned. (Numbers 14:10)
- What happened?
  - God’s wrath was greatly kindled (Numbers 14:12).
  - God did not allow those that doubted him to inherit the land causing them to wander in the wilderness until all those that longed to go back into Egypt had perished. (Numbers 13:29)
- Evidence of their selfwill
  - Moses informed them of Gods punishment for their lack of faith and their unbelief. (Numbers 14:39)
  - The people were obstinate in their acceptance of God’s punishment and decided that they would go up and fight against the Amalekites and Canaanites to **OBEY** God. (Numbers 14:40)
  - Refused to hear Moses’ instructions not to go because the Lord was not with them. (Numbers 14:41-42)

- Earlier evidence, They refused to hear Joshua and Caleb plead they could take the land (Numbers 14:6-9)

### **Diotrephes (3 John 1:9-11)**

- Who was Diotrephes?
  - He was a “Christian” mentioned in the 3<sup>rd</sup> epistle of John.
  - Seemingly worked his way into a prominent position seeing as he was able to deny John from visiting the Church. (3 John 1:9)
  - Attention seeker, ambitious, bigoted (3 John 1:9)
  - Thought of himself as an overlord of the church.
  - Totally self-willed

### **Ananias and Sapphira (Acts 4:32-27)**

- Who were Ananias and Sapphira?
  - They were two members of the early church at Jerusalem at a time when they were selling off land and giving it to the Church. (Acts 4:32)
- What did they do?
  - Sold land but kept a part of the money back. (Acts 5:1-2)
  - In presenting the money to the apostles as though it was the full sum of what they had been paid for the land they lied to the holy ghost. (Acts 5:3)
- Evidence of their self-will
  - In holding back part of the money they were serving their own self-interests rather than Gods will.
  - Arrogant in the way they presented the funds as whole instead of part.