

I WILL

DAY 1

For those of you who are married you will remember I'm sure quite clearly that on your wedding day you and your wife/husband had to say "I will" to each other. Even with practice it sometimes came out a bit hesitantly due to nerves!! It was, however, a promise that you made to each other "for better for worse, for richer for poorer, in sickness and in health, till death us do part"!!

The phrase "I will" is used so many times in the Psalms as the various writers record their promises to God. This week we are going to look at a few from Psalm 119 and then we will finish the week with looking at God's "I will" to us!

Psalm 119:7 (TPT) *"I WILL give my thanks to you from a heart of love and truth."*

The beginning of the week is always a good time to start by thanking God for His goodness to you over the past week. Even if you had a tough one, there is always something to be thankful for. As we read the Psalms, we find many of the writers recording the tough things of life but then declaring that in the midst of it all they WILL give thanks. There are days when it truly is a matter of the "will" to give thanks – it doesn't always come naturally when we are going through the hard times of life but somehow thanks and worship bring us into the presence of Jesus like nothing else. It helps to take our minds off our worries and focus on the one who has promised *"to never leave us or forsake us."* Like the various writers of the Psalms, it often helps us to take time and write down what we are thankful for – somehow seeing it in black and white on the page helps us to focus. Take some time at the beginning of this week to "give thanks" and feel the presence of Jesus surrounding you

DAY 2

Psalm 119:45,32 (TPT) *“I WILL walk with you in complete freedom...I will run after you with delight in my heart.”*

I've done a lot more walking during the past 18 months than ever before and I have to say that walking in some of our beautiful parks, countryside and seaside has given me a sense of freedom. I haven't yet got to the running yet (not sure I ever will!!) but I have to say as I've observed God's creation on my walks there has come a real sense of *“delight in my heart”*. Again, like yesterday this is a choice we must make – I had to choose to walk and there were some days it was hard especially when the sun wasn't shining. We too must make a choice to *“walk”* with God even on the days when the sun is not shining in our lives because this will bring us into freedom, and we will find delight coming into our hearts as we press into His presence. Let's choose to walk or run towards God today and as we do His presence will bring us delight.

DAY 3

Psalm 119:168 (TPT) *“I WILL keep your instructions and follow your counsel; all my ways are an open book before you.”*

Sometimes when we read words like this in the Bible our minds are taken to either the Ten Commandments or all the laws in the Old Testament. Jesus, however summed up all the instructions in just two: *“Love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind and all your strength... love your neighbour as you love yourself.”* Mark 12:30,31. This is what God desires for us – how are you demonstrating your love towards Him today and how are you demonstrating your love towards your neighbour today? Once again this is a matter of the will. Spend some time today telling God how much you love him but also plan how you can demonstrate His love to one of your neighbours this week.

DAY 4

Psalm 119:176 (TPT) *“I WILL never forget what you’ve taught me Lord, but when I wander off and lose my way come after me, for I am your beloved.”*

What’s your “forgettery” like? The older we get the harder it is to remember details of peoples’ names – coming back to church and meeting people I haven’t seen for 18 months has been a huge challenge to my memory. But today God challenges us to “*never forget!*” I think when He talks about not forgetting what He has taught us He is not just referring to learning Bible verses off by heart or remembering preaches we have heard but I think He also wants us to remember every experience we have had where He has allowed us to learn valuable lessons from it. We only grow in our Christian experience by remembering these lessons. The encouragement from the Psalmist, however, is that when our “forgettery” starts working and we lose our way, we are still so loved He will come after us! Spend some time today remembering all the way God has led you and the valuable lessons He has taught you even when you’ve got lost at times and give thanks.

DAY 5

Jeremiah 31:2-13 *“I WILL...give rest...rebuild you...bring them...not forget them...gather them...as a shepherd does...turn their mourning into joy...comfort them and exchange their sorrow for rejoicing.”*

As we come to the end of this week, I think it is so encouraging to know that this is a two-sided relationship we have with God. Like any marriage it is important that both parties keep to the “I will’s” that they made at their wedding. Well, be encouraged today, that God always keeps to His “I wills” even when we don’t.

In the passage from Jeremiah today we are reminded that like the Israelites who spent so much time wandering from God, so much so that they would end up in exile in Babylon, God still reminds them of what He WILL do for them – He’ll give them rest, re-build them, not forget them... What a faithful God we serve? If today, you are feeling that you have let Him down with your “I wills” then read His over you and be assured as you mourn, He will turn it into joy!

PRAYER

“At the end of this week, Lord, I want to thank you that you have made so many promises over me which come from your loving will. Thank you that you will give me rest, rebuild me, forget my mistakes, turn my mourning to joy and comfort me. I WILL commit again to give thanks for your goodness regularly, walk in freedom and run after you with delight, keep your instructions and follow your counsel, never forget what you’ve taught and always remember that you love me.”