

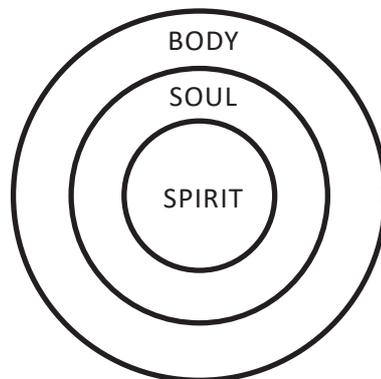
The Four Stages of Christianity 4

The third stage of becoming like Christ in every way is the “Break Me” stage.

3. BREAK ME

This stage is the most vital stage in the entire process, because if we are unwilling to allow God to break our will, and give us a brand new one, then we will ultimately still be the god of our own lives. This has nothing to do with whether we are justified by His blood or not, in our spirit, but everything to do with whether we will mature into the full stature of being Christ like.

This is all an issue of the soul realm, which is made up of our mind, our will and our emotions. Jesus wants to save all 3 of these areas as well, so just like He lives in our Spirit, it's His Spirit that renews and changes our soul, through the surrendering of our soul unto Him and the breaking of our will.



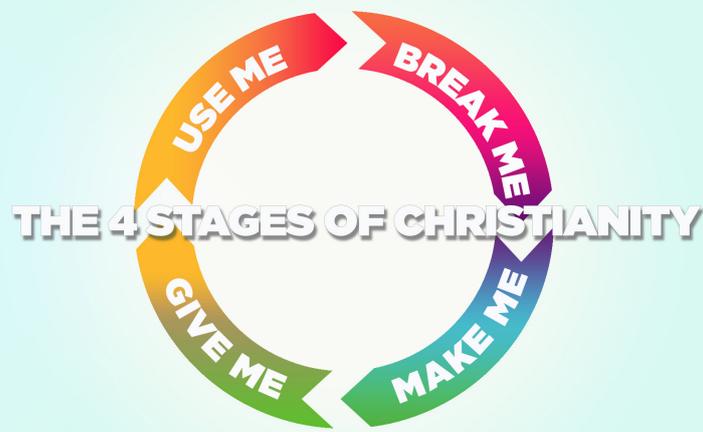
Firstly, it's essential we know and understand, that when we talk about ‘our will’ and ‘His will’, we are not referring to anything functional, but we are referring to the control epicentre of our lives. What controls us. What determines how we learn. What determines the decisions we make. What dictates the way things will be. What we value and hold to as essentials etc etc.

Paul said he was controlled by love. The love of Christ. He was no longer controlled by the love of self.

2 Corinthians 5:14-15 For the love of Christ controls us, having concluded this, that one died for all, therefore all died; and He died for all, so that they who live might no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died and rose again on their behalf.

Paul can say this and live like this, because he fell upon the Cornerstone and had his will broken into pieces, never to be put back together again.

Luke 20:17-18 But Jesus looked at them and said, “What then is this that is written: ‘The stone which the builders rejected, This became the chief corner stone’? Everyone who falls on that stone will be broken to pieces; but on whomever it falls, it will scatter him like dust.”



Paul's will, the thing which controlled him was no longer present at his inner core, his soul. He had been re-rooted into the love of Christ, and it would now be the love of Christ which controlled who he was, how he acted, how he learnt, the decisions he would make, his priorities. It would be Christ or the Spirit who would renew his mind and define his emotions, no longer his own human wisdom.

There are 2 ways in which our will in our soul ceases to exist.

1. We hear the Word of God, the Word of power and this Word pierces 'our will', putting it to death. This is what it means to fall upon the Cornerstone and be broken into pieces.

Galatians 2:20 I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.

The key words are, "I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live". I, meaning Paul's will, no longer exists because it has been replaced by Christ Himself. This is a work of divine resurrection power.

2. We come to the end of our will, by continuously trying to stay in control and find life in everything but Christ. We exhaust ourselves trying and literally come to the end of ourselves. It's then that we give up and fall on the Cornerstone and our will gets broken into pieces never to be put back together again.

Many resist the breaking of their will because of fear and the unknown reality that lives behind it. We don't know what this will all mean and so we decide to trust in ourselves and continue to attempt to enter into eternal life, though the flesh. This is pointless but we continue to do it because the alternative is just way too much and scary.

Our will being broken into pieces so it ceases to exist, is the only way to have the inner eternal life which is promised in Christ. We can continue to do works for Christ and be committed to Christ and works and see God move, while our will still exists, but what we will never come into is the full and overflowing life within us, the kingdom of God, which we have been predestined to know and live from, until we are surrendered to Christ.

The choice is ours!

Questions

1. What are you being made aware of through this resource?
2. What is the difference between being committed to Christ and being surrendered to Christ?
3. Why do we resist the break me stage when there is eternal life on the other side of it?
4. Can anyone relate to having your will broken into pieces, where you are no longer in control of your life? If so share with the group the life you have received from this.
5. The breaking of our will is what empowers us to be made into the image of God. Read again the 2 ways in which our will ceases to exist and discuss.