

A Willing Spirit, A Weak Flesh Mark 14:26-42

I. I believe that most Christians truly desire to live a life according to God's will.

II. I know that every Christian fails at always doing this. At some point we all seek our own desires over God's will.

III. I am also certain that the cause of this is rooted in the desires of the flesh. The reason we fail is because we give in to our fleshly desires. The Scriptures are clear about this.

Romans 8:3-13

Eph. 2:1-3

IV. The question is, how do we overcome this? If the root of the problem is our giving in to the weakness of the flesh and we are flesh how do we avoid falling short of God's will? **Mark 14:38**

V. The solution is a steadfast spirit. An unwavering desire to do God's will.

VI. When we possess a spirit that always puts God's will first, we can control giving in to the desires of the flesh.

VII. In Mark 14:27-42 we see an example of this.

VIII. In these passages we see both Jesus and Peter dealing with the temptation of the flesh. But only Jesus is able to overcome that temptation. It is here that we find the solution to our problem of giving in to the weakness of the flesh.

Trans: Let's begin by considering Peter's situation.

1. The spirit and flesh of Peter.

A. Without question Peter was one who loved his Lord and demonstrated this by his spirit.

B. His spirit was his strength. It thrust Him to the forefront of the crowd.

1. **Matt. 14:28,29** - Peter walked on the water.
2. **Mark 10:28** - we have left everything.
3. **Mark 9:5** - Peter was the one who wanted to build the altar.

C. In Mark 14 we see that spirit once again.

1. **Mark 14:27,28** - I will not fall away
2. **Mark 14:31** - Even if I have to die with you.
3. **Mark 14:47** - Peter cuts off the servants ear - **John 18:10**

D. But Peter was also flesh and he gave into the weakness of the flesh.

1. **Mark 14:37** - Peter falls asleep, note Jesus' emphasis of "one hour"
2. **Mark 14:39-41** - This happened three times.
3. **Mark 14:51** - Peter flees when Jesus is arrested.
4. **Mark 14:66-72** - Three times Peter denies the Lord he loves.

Illust: In some ways this reminds me of the show "Fear Factor." Often times you will see both men and women boasting of their courage only to crumble when it's time to step up and deliver.

Appl: As we consider Peter's situation we see that he possessed a strong spirit. Yet in the end it was his flesh that was his downfall.

All his powerful affirmations did little good when confronted with the reality of the weakness of the flesh.

In a time of temptation his strong spirit gave way to the weakness of the flesh and he fell short.

Trans: Having considered Peter's situation let's now consider Jesus. It is in Him that we find the answer to the weakness of the flesh.

2. The flesh and spirit of Jesus

A. Although Jesus is deity He was also flesh when he walked on this earth,

Phil. 2:5-7

Col. 2:9

B. Being in the flesh he faced what we all face, the desires and weakness of the flesh.

Heb. 2:14-18

C. In Mark 14 we see the struggle Jesus had with the flesh

1. **Mark 14:33** - Jesus began to be distressed and troubled.

2. **Mark. 14:34** - Jesus' soul was deeply grieved.

3. **Mark 14:36** - He prayed, "Remove this cup from me."

4. **Luke 22:43,44** - His struggle was so intense he was in agony, his sweat was like blood. Why was he sweating? Clearly shows the direst he was under.

D. This is a terrifying moment in the life of Jesus. He had been telling His disciples he was going to be killed, but now the time was at hand. Here is the moment for the flesh to take over and for Jesus to flee. But He doesn't. Why?

E. We can say it was the will of the Father or it was prophesied that it had to be this way, and all of that is true. Still, it was the man Jesus who was going to have to face death on a cross. Did Jesus have some special power that allowed him to face the cross? Something that we don't have?

F. Let's consider Jesus' spirit and we will find the answer.

1. **Mark 14:36** - Jesus' response to his plight was simple. "But what thou wilt"

2. **Mark 14:42** - It was this spirit that led him to calmly say, "Let us be going"

3. **John 18:11** - Shall I not drink it?

G This was the spirit of Jesus, to always do the will of the Father.

1. In the Lord's prayer - **Matt. 6:10**

2. In His life - **John 12:48-50**

3. In life itself - **Matt 7:21**

H. This spirit is what He warned Peter about.

1. **Mark 14:38**

2. **Luke 22:46**

Illust: Psalm 40:6-8 (Heb. 10:5-10)

Appl: What was the difference between Peter and Jesus when it came to the weakness of the flesh? Both were men, both were tempted. But Peter gave in to the weakness of the flesh and Jesus didn't. Why?

It was the spirit. The desire to truly carry out the Father's will.

Jesus was so focused, steadfast and unwavering in doing the will of the Father, He would not allow the weakness of the flesh to get in the way!

Con: Friends this is how it needs to be, and can be with us.

We DO NOT have to give into the weakness of the flesh. It's not something that we have no control over. Every time we give in to sin it's a choice we make. We can also make a choice not to.

But we won't make that choice to not give into the weakness of the flesh without there being some motivating factor. That factor is simply " An Unwavering Desire to do The Will of The Father.

I am not saying that we are going to be sinless. We won't, because we choose to sin.

But..... When we possess a spirit that always puts God's will first, we can control giving in to the desires of the flesh.