

Pastor Ron Case
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“Victory Over Stubbornness”

*“But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.”
(1 Corinthians 15:57)*

Stubborn Streak

Deuteronomy 9:4-6 – (4) “Do not say in your heart, after the LORD your God has thrust them out before you, ‘It is because of my righteousness that the LORD has brought me in to possess this land,’ whereas it is because of the wickedness of these nations that the LORD is driving them out before you. (5) Not because of your righteousness or the uprightness of your heart are you going in to possess their land, but because of the wickedness of these nations the LORD your God is driving them out from before you, and that he may confirm the word that the LORD swore to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob. (6) Know, therefore, that the LORD your God is not giving you this good land to possess because of your righteousness, for you are a stubborn people.”

Deuteronomy 10:16 – “Circumcise therefore the foreskin of your heart, and be no longer stubborn.”

Jeremiah 18:11-12 – (11) “Now, therefore, say to the men of Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem: ‘Thus says the LORD, behold, I am shaping disaster against you and devising a plan against you. Return, every one from his evil way, and amend your ways and your deeds.’ (12) But they say, ‘That is in vain! We will follow our own plans, and will every one act according to the stubbornness of his evil heart.’”

Submissive Streak

John 4:34 – “Jesus said to them, ‘My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to accomplish his work.’”

John 5:30 – “I can do nothing on my own. As I hear, I judge, and my judgment is just, because I seek not my own will but the will of him who sent me.”

John 6:38 – “For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will but the will of him who sent me.”

Matthew 26:39 – “And going a little farther he fell on his face and prayed, saying, ‘My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will.’”

“Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said, ‘Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body have you prepared for me; in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure.’ Then I said, ‘Behold, I have come to do your will, O God, as it is written of me in the scroll of the book.’” (Hebrews 10:5-7)

Stubbornness is Subdued by Submission to the Spirit

Strong-Willed Idiocy

“And when we had all fallen to the ground, I heard a voice saying to me in the Hebrew language, ‘Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me? It is hard for you to kick against the goads.’” (Acts 26:14)

True Worship – The Will Bent to God

“But I do not account my life of any value nor as precious to myself, if only I may finish my course and the ministry that I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God.” (Acts 20:24)

“Even if I am to be poured out as a drink offering upon the sacrificial offering of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with you all.” (Philippians 2:17)

Questions to Ponder:

- (1) How sensitive am I to knowing and doing God’s will?**
- (2) Have I hardened my heart in some ways? (Heb. 3:13)**
- (3) How can I guard myself from a stubborn/hardened heart? (Heb. 3:7-8)**
- (4) Do I have a shallow understanding of “worship”?**

(ESV used unless otherwise noted)

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