

## In a Garden...



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**“Then an angel appeared to Him from heaven, strengthening Him. And being in agony, He prayed more earnestly. And His sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground.”**

**Luke 22:43-44.**

This chapter contains material that sensitive readers may find distressing.

It's fitting that the first bleeding should start in a garden because it was in another garden that Adam and Eve believed a lie and lost their perfect state. The world is about to come full circle.

Luke 22:43-44 reveals Jesus alone and praying just before His arrest and crucifixion. He's fully aware of the excruciating suffering and death that await Him. His heart is filled with sorrow that His friends will desert Him and one will betray Him, and then, on the Cross, for the first time in eternity, God the Father will turn His face away from Him as He takes on the sins of the world.

Jesus had brought His closest disciples with Him and had shared what He's experiencing with them. “He began to be sorrowful and deeply distressed. Then He said to them, “My soul is exceedingly sorrowful, even to death. Stay here and watch with Me.” Matthew 26:38. They have no idea what He's facing and the emotions He, as a Man, is dealing with. To them, He has always been strong, composed and in charge, so they have no way to comfort or means to lighten His distress. As He'd often come up here to pray, they expect that He will spend time with His Father and come back restored and comforted.

Jesus moves apart from His disciples to pray because there's nothing else He can do – He's moving towards the cross. In deep anxiety and fully aware of what is about to happen, He pours out His heart saying, “Father, if it is Your will, take this cup away from Me; nevertheless not My will, but Yours, be done.” He's at His lowest point, but He doesn't waver from His mission. There's no other way but through the cross. “Then an angel appeared to Him from heaven, strengthening Him. And being in agony, He prayed more earnestly. Then

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His sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground.” Sweating blood is a medical condition called haematidrosis, where capillary blood vessels that feed the sweat glands rupture due to extreme stress causing them to sweat blood.

Jesus returns to His disciples and finds them asleep, unaware of the battle He’s waging inside Himself. This is a journey He must undertake alone because He alone can complete what lies ahead.

### **The First Bleeding Accomplished:**

- **Peace.** He took on our distress, anxiety and fear and, as Prince of peace, gave us His peace. As the Prince of peace, He rules over the peace He purchased. Isaiah 9:6. In effect, this is not an earthly peace, it’s the peace that passes all understanding and contains in it the power to overcome anything.

Isaiah 53:5b “The chastisement for our peace was upon Him...” **His ultimate stress was the chastening paid by Him in blood for our complete peace.** The word ‘peace’ is ‘*Shalom*’ which has a root meaning of whole and perfect in welfare, health and prosperity.

This peace is much more than a restful or quiet state, it’s a point of total restoration back to wholeness where everything is complete. Through His blood-filled sweat, He fulfilled His promise that He came to give life and give it more abundantly, John 10:10.

No matter what you face, Jesus’ first bleeding promises: “Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.” Jesus is the Prince of peace (Isaiah 9:6) and we who are in Him have the right to live in the fullness of His peace that has made us whole. When Jesus, alone and anxious sweated drops of blood in His distress in the garden, He assured our peace. He upholds that peace eternally “for He is our peace.” Ephesians 2:14.

When He sweated blood in the Garden in utter anxiety and agony, He gave us the peace that empowers us – not only for a peaceful life but as a force to change things.

### **You see, peace is not just feeling, it extends to and influences all your living and life.**

Let’s look at Jesus in the midst of a storm as our example on how to live in that blood-bought peace. Although we know in this account that Jesus must have been very tired, we know that He slept through the storm, not because of His fatigue but because He was at total peace. Mark 4:37-40 “And a great windstorm arose, and the waves beat into the boat so that it was already filling. But He was in the stern, asleep on a pillow. And they awoke Him and said to Him, ‘Teacher, do You not care that we are perishing?’ Then He arose and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, ‘Peace, be still!’ And the wind ceased and there was a great calm. Jesus’ peace overwhelmed the waves and the wind, so when He spoke in authority, nature not only obeyed, but a great calm also descended.

Living in the peace you have, you too can speak to your storms. You’ve been empowered through the blood sweat in the Garden to transform things around you through peace. The fullness of that peace is available to you to use and to influence every area of your life. And it all started with Jesus showing us what peace is, how to live in it and how to use it in all the places of our life.

If you find anxiety overtakes you or you wrestle with fearful emotions, there are ways to step into the fullness of what Jesus purchased. Because sometimes even having the gift of peace, we in ourselves don't have the knowledge to use it fully. Here is a book that will help you.

'The Fruit of the Spirit: The way to whole and happy living'

<https://www.amazon.co.uk/dp/B08MYXVDQ6>

- **Willpower.** In the Garden, Jesus was faced with a choice that He wrestled with as a man in a physical body feeling all the emotions of what's ahead and anticipating all the physical pain He would endure. He chose to go through with the cross and His will propels Him forward. This was a conscious, determined act that started before the night in the Garden. Jesus' whole life had steadily and purposefully moved forward towards the endpoint: the cross. "He steadfastly set His face to go to Jerusalem" (Luke 9:51), because it was in Jerusalem where He would complete the work He came to do.

And alone, in that Garden, He is finally face-to-face with all His human self. When He sweated blood He healed our willpower. He liberated us from our will and our willpower working against us in limitation.

### **Why is the will so important that Jesus had to bleed to heal it?**

Just like peace, your will affects your entire life. Imagine five children born to you, who you placed no demands or restraints on and who you offered no training. The obvious conclusion is that at age 16 these five children would be utterly unruly and destructive without knowing that reality about themselves. Your mental realm has five children namely, emotions, intellect, will, imagination and memory.

It is your will that brings the power of your mind working through emotions, intellect, imagination and memory to its fullest. Because of this, it has incredible power in our journey toward whole being living because it will compel the other four 'children' of the mind onward, even if they want to resist.

**Every extraordinary life is made up of small increments of decisions and choices propelled by will into action.**

The will is that hardworking and determined part of the mind that will persist when all else gave up and went home and there seems to be no reason to go on. We use our will in leaning toward that thing which we have determined in our hearts to follow. This is more commonly known as 'willpower'.

Will works for either good or bad, even in the redeemed. Think not? Look at the lengths David went to with the Bathsheba incident to set up his wrong. Or, closer to the bone, think of the last time you used your will to positively bend your creative ability to achieve something you desire.

**The will always seeks to bend the mind and actions towards something.**

Your will at work bends or stretches the heart toward God by changing the inclination. But notice the will won't only bend towards something it also bends away from something. There's movement and it's evident. So, when will is correctly used, it leads the mind into another direction, not by force, but by changing the direction or inclination. This is the difference

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between enforcing morality from the outside in and, in contrast, the surrendered will operating in us under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

In Hebrews 10:26 the writer reminds us that to use our will to 'voluntarily, or wilfully' do wrong knowingly and continuously will mean that we will end up having no recourse left. Why? The marred nature will begin to influence the new spirit in the redeemed and re-pollute it. Wilfulness implies a calculated and perpetual use of the will toward darkness and brokenness. This is what Lucifer used as the power behind his rebellion and his statement of independence from God. Isaiah records the event and the tragic consequences.

Let's look at Lucifer and how his will determined his fate. "How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How you are cut down to the ground, you who weakened the nations! For you have said in your heart: 'I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation, on the farthest side of the north; I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High.' Yet you shall be brought down to Sheol, to the lowest depths of the Pit." Isaiah 14:12-15.

This was his will at work to motivate rebellion and bring about the goal of overthrowing the rightful King and Creator and to bend the hearts of humanity toward him and worship him! The perfect picture of the perverted will and how it works!

His wilful actions created a kingdom of darkness and death and trapped us in it. While in bondage to sin we operate from a wilful state of wrongdoing and wrong thinking. That's why the bible contains many verses about the use of our will. Let's look at just two:

- For all leaders. Titus 1:7 "For a bishop must be blameless, as a steward of God, not self-willed.
- For all believers: Colossians 2:23 "These things indeed have an appearance of wisdom in will worship, false humility, and neglect of the body, but are of no value against the indulgence of the flesh." When we act religiously without showing the fruit of the kingdom, we are in will worship.

Will is also defined as, 'conscious and deliberate self-decision and self-control'. The ability to control impulse is the base of will and character and equals self-restraint. Self-restraint is a wonderful tool against will worship and false humility because it will not allow us to indulge the marred nature.

When we do the will of the Father we operate in goodwill. It doesn't give us a place in the kingdom, but it does release the power of it. We all know that children of the kingdom are entitled to all of the power, goodness and blessing of the kingdom. Isaiah 1:19-20 "If you are willing and obedient you shall eat the good of the land." By determining to do the will of God we determine an outcome of blessing because we're conforming our will to His. Jesus confirmed this in Matthew 12:50 "For whoever does the will of My Father in heaven is My brother and sister and mother."

### **Jesus shows the power of will.**

God's will is far more than His written Word, it's His very heart to do good to His creation. God in flesh is the ultimate reality of the will attached to the ultimate goal: The will of God bent to the goal of redeeming His creation. His will sets in motion those blessings that enlarge and

increase our lives daily and establish our destiny.

In the surrender of Jesus' will to the Father, Jesus finds nourishment; food! In other words, the surrendered will empowered and strengthened God who is in human form to do those powerful things that would empower all creation. Will has great power that affects your whole life!

Jesus lived the example of living fully in a will bent on abundant living. He always lives with His will yielded to the Father, as seen in John 5:30. He does nothing apart from the will of the Father in His life and in the Garden before His crucifixion, Luke 22:42, right up to the end of His life. John 4:34 "Jesus said to them, 'My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to finish His work.'"

So, in the Garden, Jesus bled to set at liberty our will and our willpower. Jesus came to set our wills free from the way our wills were perverted in the kingdom of darkness. His blood-sweat released us from slavery and allowed us to take control of our will to govern our lives in light. We can now bend our lives to walk with God and use our will to do what Jesus did with His will.

### **Will can bless and heal.**

Jesus used His determined will to bring healing. Matthew 8:3 "Then Jesus put out His hand and touched him, saying, 'I am willing; be cleansed.' And immediately his leprosy was cleansed." Because you have the same Spirit as Jesus and are a joint heir with Him to all kingdom power (James 1:18), your will works through your faith to produce healing too! It's through your will that you release all the empowerment you have in the kingdom.

Clearly, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit use will to bless, enrich and love us. Hebrews 2:4 "God also bearing witness both with signs and wonders, with various miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit, according to His own will." God uses the miraculous to show that His will for us is redemption and a will that can be used of God with signs and wonders. When our will is utterly yielded to the power of God, we become the instrument to perpetuate the completed work of Christ to the rest of creation in signs, wonders, miracles and gifts of the Spirit.

If you want to learn more about using your will and all your mind fully, I recommend 'Create your New Mind: Solve the Mind Puzzle and Create the Best Version of You'.

<https://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B07Y5WC9GW>

The will and its power are used to help us to conform the mind to those things we need to enable us to live abundantly and fully in the kingdom. Will is the first place of struggle we have when entering the redeemed life but once we learn the power and abilities the will can offer on our journey; we progress in strides! Living destiny by unleashing the unlimited potential of the life we have been given is both wonderful and hard. It starts with the conscious and daily decision to not allow any part of our will to move away from what Jesus gave us when His sweat was blood.

It can be phrased as a positive affirmation:

"I consciously decide to keep all my will and all my mind firmly anchored to my new thinking and the mighty potential released through it. I choose to live in the peace Jesus purchased for me."

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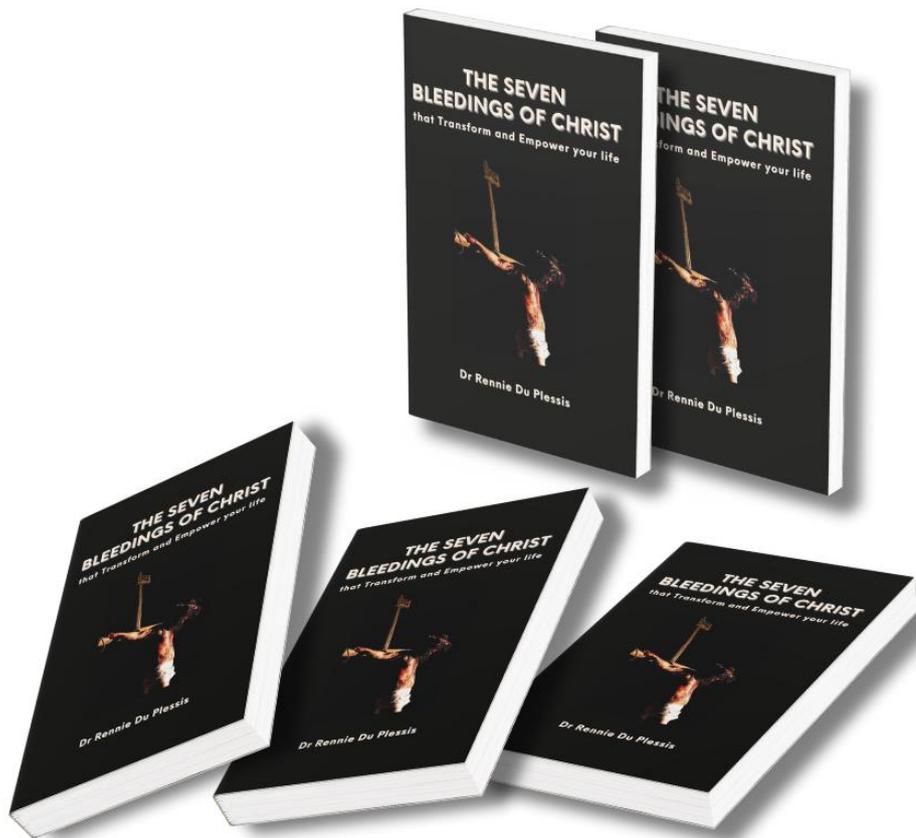
Follow up the words you speak in your affirmation with action. Take ownership of this because YOU have to make the choice to do this. It's exercising your God-given free will. Make a point of saying your affirmation out loud to yourself often during a day or when you feel yourself wavering at the largeness of what lies ahead. Jesus paid for it, so live it in gratitude.

The first bleeding is done and Jesus rises from the ground. We rejoin Him as He and His disciples face Judas and the soldiers, He performs one final healing miracle for Malchus, and He watches as His disciples run away before He's led away...

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