

## A Willing Mind

### I. Introduction:

A. Let's think about how distractions keep us from making up our minds on things. Consider what was said to the soon to be king, Saul (**I Samuel 9:1-27**) \*vs. 20.

1. What if someone's mind is on one thing when they are presented with something entirely different to consider (**Acts 24:22-27; 26:24-26**)?
2. What if someone has a divided heart (**Hosea 10:1-2**)?
3. How does the Lord view those who like to ride the fence regarding spiritual matters (**Luke 11:23** and **Revelation 3:14-16**)?

B. Think about indecisiveness when it's time to choose (**Luke 9:57-62**).

1. Think about God's various instructions to "choose" (**Deuteronomy 30:15-20, Joshua 24:15-22, I Kings 18:20-22, Psalms 119:30, Proverbs 1:27-31, Luke 10:38-42**, etc.).
2. What if it is a "person's nature" to be indecisive (**James 1:8**)?
3. How could that cause sin, even in areas of authorized liberties (**Romans 14:22-23**)?

II. Body: **II Corinthians 8:1-12** [cf. **I Corinthians 16:1-4**] "readiness to will" (vs. 11); "willing mind" (vs. 12).

A. The wording, from the Greek word "προθυμία" meaning: "predisposition, i.e. alacrity: — forwardness of mind, readiness (of mind), ready (willing) mind. Zeal, spirit, eagerness, inclination, readiness of mind" (Strong's # 4288).

1. "Readiness of mind" (**Acts 17:10-11**).
2. "Ready mind" (**II Corinthians 8:19**).
3. "Forwardness of your mind" (**II Corinthians 9:1-2**).

B. Think about an unwilling mind, a mind not willingly ready for something (**Philemon 1:8-22**).

1. Even the right actions can be wrong if our minds are not ready, not willing in doing something (i.e. **I Peter 4:9**).
2. In thinking back to **II Corinthians 8-9** and the act of helping needy saints: how important is it for such rightful actions to be done with a readiness; willing mindset (**I Timothy 6:17-19**)?
3. Think about the one who just gets stuck, doesn't have his or her mind set for action, and buries the will of God (**Luke 19:11-27**).
4. Can principles such as the great truth of "counting the cost" (**Luke 14:25-33**), which was taught because of excuses (**Luke 14:16-24**), lead to overthinking and possibly getting stuck in neutral; indecision [like Pilate] (**Luke 23:1-25**; cf. **Matthew 27:15-26** and **John 18:12-15**)?

C. All hope is not lost when a person is stuck, doesn't have a forward mind to the will of God. Moses is a great example of this (**Exodus 3:1-4:31**).

1. He went from a man of why he couldn't do it, to the man the Lord spoke to mouth to mouth (**Numbers 12:6-7**).
2. He was called faithful in all his house (**Hebrews 3:2; 3:5**).
3. These principles are obvious even to sinners (**Matthew 21:28-32**).

III. Conclusion: Consider David's counsel to Solomon (**I Chronicles 28:9**).