



Battle of Okinawa Reviewed; Paul's Behavior Problem: One's Desire to Do God's Will Does Not Imply Attainment; Failure Must Not Lead to Frustration

1. In order to solve this problem one must first determine where the solution lies—in the body or in the soul.
2. According to 1 Corinthians 15 we find that the body is perishable flesh and blood thus mortal and subject to physical death.
3. But the influence of the sinful nature over the soul can, with volitional assent, cause operational death within the soul.
4. On such occasions the first husband regains power over the soul and has dictatorial authority over the believer's free will.
5. In this circumstance, the power of the flesh can only be broken by rebound; it is the only recovery technique and the only corrective procedure.
6. It must be stated that some good of intrinsic value does exist in Paul, but its residence is not in his body but in his soul—the filling of the Holy Spirit and Bible doctrine in the kardia.
7. Therefore, the soul has good of intrinsic value in the stream of consciousness but the body has no good of intrinsic value within its members.
8. The next sentence of the verse emphasizes the part of the soul which is involved in the grace solution—human free will. It begins with the conjunction **γάρ, gar** plus the present active infinitive of the verb:

(#14) **θέλω, thelō** - “desire” “for the desire is present in me”

- present: Customary; denotes that which habitually occurs, or may be reasonably expected to occur. Paul consistently has the desire to do the will of God.
- active: Paul produces the action with a repeated desire to do that which is right.
- infinitive: Articular; the verb is used as a noun and thus becomes the subject of the sentence. It is accompanied by the definite article **τό, to** which is the nominative neuter singular, thus, “The desire, the will, the purpose, the resolve is *present* in me.”

2. The verb “present” is the present middle indicative of:

(#15) **παράκειμαι, parakeimai** - “is present”

- present: Customary; denotes that which habitually occurs or may be reasonably expected to occur. It also may be viewed as an iterative present which indicates that this is a repeated action. Therefore, we have a facilitated wheel-track that is habitual for Paul: the desire to do the will of God is present in him. **[R(2); R(3)]**
- middle: Indirect; indicates that Paul produces the action of having this desire to please God present in him but does not participate in the results of the action. In other words, Paul's desire to do the will of God is present in him but he does not always do it.
- indicative: Declarative; reality of fact.

3. The desire to do the will of God is a good sign. But if Paul is consistently unable to accomplish this desire then it must be concluded that his volition is weakened by a lack of facilitated doctrinal wheel-tracks and a tendency to submit to the lust patterns of his sinful nature.

4. This means that Paul's volition is not responding to the doctrines that define for him God's will.



5. If Paul is going to do the will of God then volition must grant compliance, otherwise his desires will continue to have little value.
6. Volitional failure was responsible for the bad decision in Eden to eat the forbidden fruit, where as Adam and Eve's volitional decision to believe in Christ for salvation was a good decision.
7. After salvation, the success of the believer's life is contingent upon his inculcation of biblical principles in order to form an inventory of divine thought by which good daily decisions can be made.
8. When sins are committed and failure occurs the believer must consistently use his free will to confess these sins to God so that he can return to status quo spirituality.
9. Paul's desire to do the right thing but failure to follow through leads to frustration caused by ignorance of doctrine which would provide biblical direction and grace orientation.
10. The desire is present but execution is absent leading to the frustration expressed in the first half of verse 18.
11. Consequently, the best intentions of believers who have an emotional desire to serve God ultimately fail and the resultant frustration leads to a desperate effort to recover through human viewpoint solutions. This entraps the believer in the cosmic web of human good and evil.