

One-Liners . . . That Changed My Life!

37 “*The secret of the will*”

The 1960’s were traumatic. Assassinations, the Viet Nam war, riots and campus chaos rocked the nation. Ellie and I were in the “funky forties” and many of our children in the “traumatic teens.” And I was silently struggling with the eternal question all of us must ultimately face: “What is the real purpose of life?”

I discovered there were two answers: mine and God’s. My answer was to live to satisfy my own desire for pleasure, position, power and possessions. The quest for these temporary goals also became the anesthetic I used to shield myself from facing the question of eternity and how I would spend it. By contrast, God wanted me to surrender to Him and let Him lead me to those things that would provide not only present fulfillment, but also eternal purpose and meaning to my life and the activities in which I was engaged.

But I was afraid to surrender and trust God. As a friend later challenged me, “You reminded me of a drunk sitting in the gutter who wouldn’t give control of his life to God, because he was afraid He would make a mess of it!”

Fortunately, the book *Beyond Ourselves* by Catherine Marshall introduced me to “***the secret of the will***”. I finally realized it isn’t an issue of desire or emotion, but of the will. Jesus left us the model as He faced the cross and prayed, “*Yet not as I will, but as you will*”; and again in the Lord’s Prayer, “*...your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.*”

The real issue is this: Is God’s will or mine going to rule?

From Grandpa With Love

A Note From the Writer

Moving into my nineties caused me to reminisce. It was eye-opening to realize how much I had been changed by one-liners. I decided some of these might give others a new insight or a chuckle, so—enjoy! You can reproduce this material, provided the copies are complete, including this copyright note, and circulated free of charge. © 2017 Marvin J. Martin