

“Freedom of Will”

(T-8.III)

Getting guidance or teaching from Jesus can only help you if you follow it.

You can have guidance from without, but you must accept it from within. The guidance must become what you want, or else it will be meaningless to you. That is why rehabilitation is a collaborative venture. I can tell you what to do, but this will not really help you unless you collaborate by believing that I *know* what to do. (6:6-9)

Why can't he just do it for you? If he did, that would mean him overpowering your will. And he can't do that.

Why can't Jesus just overpower your will and do it for you?

1. Because you and Jesus have equal power. All the Sons of God do.

My will cannot overcome yours, because *yours is as powerful as mine*. If it were not so, the Sons of God would be unequal. (8:7-8)

The perfect equality of all God's Sons cannot be recognized through the dominion of one will over another. (10:5)

2. Because God gave your will its power. To go against your will would be to go against God.

I cannot oppose yours without competing with it and thereby violating God's will for you. Nothing God created can oppose your will, as nothing God created can oppose His. God gave your will its power, which I can only acknowledge in honor of His. (9:5-7)

3. Because God's Kingdom is freedom. How can freedom be learned by the tyranny of one will over another?

I can teach you, but only you can choose to listen to my teaching. How else can it be if God's Kingdom is freedom? Freedom cannot be learned by tyranny of any kind. (10:3-5)

The punch line

If you want to be like me, I will help you, knowing that we *are* alike. If you want to be different, I will wait until you change your mind. (10:1-2)

Exercise

Just take a moment and talk with Jesus about this. Acknowledge the ways in which you have not done what he has asked. Acknowledge your secret resentment that he has not done enough to speed your spiritual journey along. Acknowledge how reasonable his teaching is here, that freedom cannot be learned by the tyranny of one will over another. And tell him that you do want him to guide you and that you do want to choose to follow him.