

## ~ God’s Will: Driving Factors ~

### Horse‘s Will Man‘s Will

**- 3 primary driving Factors**

1) Survival/ Self-Preservation To do a Job

2) Companionship

3) Comfort

**- 2 Underling Driving Factors**

1) Confidence

2) Energy

**- 1 Variable Factor**

1) Hormones

We basically have the same driving factors as our horse does, self-preservation, companionship, and comfort. *Self-preservation* has become the American way, ―Look out for number one. From the time we are born, we are selfish and very good at looking after our own needs. It is this self-preservation that keeps our horse from submitting and falling perfectly in our will and it is the same self-preservation (flesh) in us, which keeps us from submitting to God and falling perfectly in His will.

We all seek *companionship* and want to be with someone or something we feel comfortable with. The computer guy that hates people and never leaves his house finds companionship with the computer, and the quiet bachelor cowboy finds companionship with his cows, horse, and dog. Just like riding a colt that has never been weaned from its mother or friends, the companionship we have with our family, friends and even our spouse, can keep us from falling in line to God’s will. Instead of turning to God for comfort and companionship, we turn to our earthly companions to meet all our needs, keeping us from coming into the fullness of Christ. Like the song says, ―What a friend we have in Jesus, however we need to be willing to go to Him. I think there are many of us who need to be weaned from our earthly companions, so we can be drawn to our heavenly companion. For our only companion who will **never** let us down and **always** give us comfort, meeting all our needs, is Jesus Christ.

We all want to be *comfortable*, even the people that like to be physically uncomfortable find comfort in that (extreme sports). The people that work themselves to death receive comfort from the work. If they were not trying to kill themselves they would not be comfortable. We are all filled with a void from the time we are born and try to fill this void to satisfy ourselves and make us comfortable. Some people try to fill this void with work, trying to give their life purpose. Others look for comfort in all the wrong places, sleeping around, or looking to drugs. However, ultimately the only place that this void will be truly filled and enable us to find true comfort, is through Jesus Christ.

Men and women are obviously driven by *hormones*. Some might argue that is the only driving factor for some men. I think everything we do can be linked back to the same 3 driving factors.

## ~Confidence/Faith~

**Major underlying factors:**

**1. Confidence**

**2.** **Energy**

### Confidence

**Increase in Confidence = Decrease in Self-Preservation (vice versa)**

**Comfort and Companionship Increase = Confidence Increase (vice versa)**

**Measures of Confidence level**

1) Head height (best measure of confidence level)

a. High = Bothered/Unconfident

b. Low = Relaxed/Confident

### Energy

**Energy level decreases = Self-Preservation decreases = Increase in Comfort and**

**Companionship = Increase in Confidence (when presented in the correct manner)**

The more I work with horses, the more evident the importance of the horse’s confidence level becomes to me. I have started lots of horses and have even taken horses through the bridle that did not have a high level of confidence in me. I am not saying that they didn‘t have any confidence in me. However, there were many times during a ride, or on the ground that these horses’ head level would be elevated and bothered. Also, when I would walk out into the pasture to catch the horse, if I could not get the horse cornered where they knew they had no hope of escaping, they would try to run by me. These horses were broke by most people’s definition. I could use these horses to brand calves, work cows, and do a reining pattern. However, if someone else was to ride the horse I would have to warn him or her that the horse was a little spooky or touchy, and if you put them in a tight spot, some of them might buck.

These horses were broke, as far as handling goes. However, they did not have a high confidence level. **A horse that is confident in us will not have a high level of self-preservation and will experience comfort and companionship with us.** I have started many horses overlooking this simple concept. I can be on a colt in a few rides and accomplishing a job. If they get tight or bothered I can ride them through it and go on with the job. However, if we overlook the confidence level in order to accomplish a job, often we run the risk of shattering their confidence. The better the cowboy (riding a horse with a shattered confidence, running, bucking) the more they can ride a horse with a low confidence level.

However, we can only shatter that confidence so many times until the horse learns that we are untrustworthy. The cowboy may be able to get along with the horse fine, but if they turn the horse over to someone else, the horse will easily fall apart. The more times we shatter the confidence, the easier it is to shatter it the next time. Just like a young kid losing confidence by getting bucked off, it will take a while to rebuild the kid‘s confidence back and his confidence can only be shattered so many times. If shattered enough, eventually the kid will want nothing to do with horses. The same is true with a horse.

We can learn a lot from a little kid‘s horse that enjoys being with the kid. Some of the most amazing things that I have seen performed out of free will by a horse, have been by kids’ horses. I have seen kids’ horses take care of kids in ways that are truly amazing. They would do things that would be totally uncharacteristic of a horse to ensure the kid‘s safety. The same horse, when ridden by a big fat man who went to jerking and pulling them around, would buck the rider off. However, the horse would never dream of bucking with the little kid. They would never dream of doing anything to displease the little kid.

What changes these horses? The horse experiences comfort and companionship with the kid, but the man brings out the horse‘s self-preservation through unwilling submission. Surprisingly enough, we can do quite a bit with a horse using their self-preservation, driving them to do a job. However, it is amazing what a horse will do for you when they enjoy being with you. We can train a horse to do a reining pattern, work a cow, or team rope. However, it is so fun to ride a horse that is not only trained to do a job, but thoroughly enjoys doing the job with us.

### Learning the Importance of Confidence

One summer when I was around a freshman in high school, Dad had a pile of outside horses. We would ride colts what seemed like all day, every day, all summer. One day my dad was gone and it was just me riding the colts. I would get so bored riding the colts that I thought I would spice it up a little bit. At the end of the day I had ridden 12 colts and proudly walked up to my mom and said, ―Well, I got every one of them to buck with me.‖ There were a few of them that were a little lazy, so I thought I had really accomplished something. I would catch them, saddle them, and cinch them up as tight as I could. Then I‘d jump on them and drive my spurs in the belly and go for a little bronc ride. It did spice the day up a little bit. However, my mom told Dad, and Dad pretty well put a stop to that. He told me if I wanted to try to get them to buck, then he would find some fence for me to build. After that I didn‘t *try* to get them to buck with me anymore.

This was pretty well my mentality growing up starting colts. I was not too concerned with riding in perfection, but more or less just getting the job done. I got them riding quiet, soft in the mouth, and able to do a job. However, when I left home and had to start colts by myself, where my dad was not around to help me, I noticed that I started getting into a lot more wrecks with my horses. When we would start large bunches of horses at home, Dad would work them on horseback then hold on to them while we got on, then lead us around and turn us loose. We usually did not get into many horrible wrecks that couldn‘t be salvaged. Dad was always there to head them off. Starting colts growing up was pretty easy. However, when I left home the colts got a little tougher.

I thought either I had been running into a lot tougher horses than Dad ever had, or he was doing something a little different than I was. Well, what I came to realize is that besides doing a much better job of setting a foundation early (giving the nose/eye and breaking the hindquarters), Dad was able to read the horse‘s confidence level and communicate with the horse much better than I was.

Growing up I would often be working with a horse and be having so much trouble trying to follow the ―correct way‖ of working with horses. I would be trying to ―make the wrong thing difficult and the right thing easy, looking ―for the smallest change and the slightest try‖ (Ray Hunt). I would be trying so hard to help it make sense to the horse, and the more I worked with the horse, the more bothered they would get. I was always amazed how I could try so hard, for so long and the more I tried the more bothered the horse would get, losing confidence. Then my dad could get on them, and in a few minutes the horse‘s head would drop, and they would start doing what I was trying to get them to do and do it riding calmly and relaxed with confidence.

What was it that my dad, my grandpa, and all great horsemen possess that enabled them to control the horse‘s confidence level? They follow the basic principles of this book: willing submission, good communication, a solid foundation of maneuvers, and a balanced life to direction ratio. Willing submission – They do not force the horse into unwilling submission, running the risk of the horse rebelling. They wait for it to be the horse‘s idea instead of their idea. Good communication – They can communicate with the horse, not only telling the horse what to do, but also feeling where the horse is lost and knowing how to help them understand. Solid foundation of maneuvers – They greatly understand how the head and neck, shoulders and hindquarters work to accomplish a job and know how to control, and move them with feel, timing, and balance. Balanced life to direction ratio – They know the importance of bringing the life to the direction so that the horse does not become resentful to the direction and they do not ride with a high level of life, which they cannot direct in a positive manner.

When trying to work with the colts before my dad would get on them, I would be trying to not force the horse, trying to wait for willing submission. However, as stressed by the theme of this book, it is so important to have a good level of communication. I was trying to do everything right to help my horse. However, my lack of communication was causing the horse to lose confidence in me. The same thing is true with the Lord. We can try to be doing everything right, reading Scripture, and going to church. However, if we have no communication with God, it is hard for Him to direct us and easy to lose faith. If we are not communicating with God and only putting our faith in our religious teacher and religion, we run the risk of being let down.

Faith

The confidence level between our horses and ourselves can be compared with our faith between God and ourselves. In order to build on our faith, we must focus on the same principles that we would with our horse, willing submission (give God our entire life), good communication (listening to the Holy Spirit), a solid foundation of maneuvers (revelations from God), and balance the life to direction ratio (the letter kills, but the Spirit brings life). **―But without faith it is impossible to please him; for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him (Hebrews 11:6 KJV).** I would definitely say that without confidence it is impossible for our horse to please us as well. If the horse had no confidence in us, his self-preservation would be in full operation, causing him to fight or run for his life.

In order for us to have faith in God we must believe that He is. If we do not believe in God, then we would obviously not have faith in Him. We would also not have faith in God, if we did not believe that He was good and wanted the best for us. If we believed that He was bad and out to destroy us, we would be hesitant to come to Him, and we would not be diligently seeking Him to give us a reward. In order for our horses to have confidence in us, they must also believe that we are not out to destroy them, and must believe that we offer them something good. What do we have to offer our horses? We must offer them comfort, and companionship. If we offer them anything else, this will set off their self-preservation and they will try to rebel and save their life.

The second part of this scripture is something that I have really spent a lot of time observing in my horses lately, ―rewarder of those who diligently seek Him. We reward our horses with relief. I will put a horse in a situation where they start to lose confidence, then back off and offer them comfort and relief. It is like my dad says, ―It takes pressure for relief to be effective, and relief for pressure to be effective. If we follow this mentality our horse will start to look for this comfort any time we place them in a situation where they start to lose confidence. However, if we put them in a situation where they are unconfident, and then keep pushing them until they lose confidence, they will find us untrustworthy and will not place any confidence in us.

It is easy to observe your horse‘s confidence level, just look at his head. If his head is elevated, he is bothered, unsure, and unconfident. If his head is low, he is relaxed and confident. Our horses must have confidence in us. This confidence starts on the ground and then carries over to their back. The best way I have found to gain this confidence through comfort and companionship while starting colts, is to pet them on their forehead, the space between their eyes and their forelock. Just like us, a horse that is relaxed is easier to teach. A horse that is tight and bothered will not learn as easily. Colts with a high level of self-preservation will have a high head set when we are close to them. However, by petting them on the forehead they start to relax and lower their head. This is a very key concept that I missed with a lot of horses I started in the past. I was able to get them broke, but they did not experience a lot of comfort and companionship with me.

Horses are so funny. They can be so scared and bothered, but if we take our time and slowly get to where we can pet them between their eyes, they will melt and lower their head. I do this a lot when starting a colt that is scared and bothered. When halter breaking a colt, I will take a lot of time breaking their hindquarters and getting them to face me. Once I have decreased the self-preservation level through decreasing the energy level, then I work to pet them between the eyes.

I will then work to their sides and on other areas where they are not as confident. Their head will start to come up and they will start to get a little bothered. I will keep their nose tipped, breaking their hindquarters, and building the foundation. Then I will come back and pet them between the eyes and wait for them to melt. Pretty soon any situation I put them in where they lose confidence, they will be waiting for me to come back and offer them comfort and companionship. As they start to gain confidence in me more, they are not bothered by me moving around to other areas of their body. As the energy level decreases, self-preservation decreases and I am able to gain comfort and companionship with them while building the foundation.

I watch for the same thing when I get on the horse‘s back. As his head starts to come up and he starts losing confidence, I rebuild the confidence by tipping his nose and breaking his hindquarters. I wait for them to put slack in the rein when I put pressure on the rein, and wait for the feet to pivot around the inside front foot, stopping the forward motion. This causes them to become supple through the loin and poll, helping them to relax. It helps them to relax and helps me to gain control by directing their life. Once they are calm and relaxed, then I try to go further. Whenever they start to get scared or bothered, I bring them back and let them regain confidence. If I don‘t ever shatter their confidence in the first few rides, they learn that I am trustworthy and if they get in a tight spot, they know that I am there to offer them comfort and relief. Then whenever they start to lose confidence, they start looking for me to comfort them, instead of relying on their self-preservation to save them.

God wants so badly to offer the same thing to us. He does not want us scared and confused, relying on our self-preservation to save us. He wants to offer us comfort and companionship, and take away all of our fears and doubts. **―Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest‖ (Matthew 11:28).** However, much like our horse, it has to start on the ground, carry over to the back, and continue through jobs.

When we accept the Lord into our heart, we will feel comfort and companionship like we have never felt before. Like petting a scared colt on the forehead and having him melt in our hands, we melt in the Lord‘s hands when we submit our life to Him. The power of the Holy Spirit comes over our body and gives us comfort and companionship, taking away all of our self-preservation. We receive confidence in the Lord and have faith in Him, that He will lead our lives and protect and guide us.

Once a horse does this, we have a strong foundation of trust to work from, but we are a long way from having a broke horse. The same thing is true with us. We have a strong foundation of faith and know that we are going to heaven when we die, but we are a long way from true unity and perfection in Christ. We all seem to forget this. Salvation is only the beginning. However, we need to continually turn to God and let Him take away all of our self-preservation. Just like a colt, that self-preservation is going to keep rising until we have killed off all the doubts and cares that ever arise and they line up perfectly in our will. Our self-preservation (flesh) is going to keep rising until we too, kill it off and come into the fullness of Christ, **―Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ‖ (Ephesians 4:13).**

The colt does not start by obeying commands. The colt starts by feeling comfort and companionship, gaining confidence. We did not start by going to church and following the commandments, we started by turning to God and melting in the power of the Holy Spirit. Paul speaks to the Galatians and says, **―O foolish Galatians, who hath bewitched you, that ye should not obey the truth, . . . This only would I learn of you, received ye the spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith? Are ye so foolish? Having begun in the Spirit,**

**are ye now made perfect by the flesh?‖ (Galatians 3:1-3).**

We must not lose faith. If we lose our horse‘s confidence, then self-preservation will take over and we will have a wreck. The same thing is true with us. When we lose our faith, our flesh will take over and we will fall into sin. However, it is just like our horses. When we feel a little uncertain, scared, frustrated, full of doubt, we need to turn back to God and let Him pet us on the forehead. Let the Holy Spirit come on us and melt away all of our doubts and concerns (flesh). Return to Eden and let the Lord communicate with you. He will speak life to you and take away all death (sin), **―It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life‖ (John 6:63 KJV).** Then just like our horses, once we have regained confidence in the Lord and trust that He has everything under control, then we can go further in trying to accomplish our job.

When our horse loses confidence, if we try to direct them by putting more pressure on them, they will fall apart. The same is true with us. When we lose faith it does no good to fall under the law and try to obey through unwilling submission (flesh). We need to turn to God and let the power of the Holy Spirit wipe away our self-preservation (flesh) and return to the Spirit, operating through the fullness of Christ.

### Faith Through Communication

Early on, when I worked with a horse only to make the horse more confused, and they lost confidence, then my dad would get on them and the horse would regain confidence and fall perfectly in line. What enabled my dad to do this was the ability to communicate with the horse. Through opening the lines of communication, my dad was able to take away all confusion and lack of confidence in the horse, and was able to accomplish the job with the horse, perfectly in his will. Our heavenly Father is able to do the same thing. He is able to take away all fears and doubt, and communicate with us, reassuring us, and building our confidence in Him. Then we can fall perfectly into His will and return to doing our job.

I am constantly reminded of the importance of good communication to ensure our horse does not lose confidence, and this has shown true in my walk with the Lord as well. One time I went out of my way to help a person and it came around to bite me in the butt. The person ended up insulting my integrity and calling me a liar. I had put so much into helping these people and it was like they slapped me in the face. I got mad and walked off to pick some pens, so I could be on my way and not have to deal with them anymore. I had gotten along great with the lady, but her boyfriend was terribly unreasonable and was being a jerk. As I started to pick the pens, my blood started to boil and I wanted to walk around and punch the guy in the face. However, I had been spending time with the Lord, so I regained my composure and turned to the Lord. As soon as I did, I heard, **―Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving‖ (Colossians 3:23-24).**

As soon as the Lord brought this scripture to my mind, I was like a colt that had been mad, ready to fall apart and had just been petted on the head, taking away all my self-preservation. I lowered my head and melted. I was no longer filled with anger and resentment, but filled with joy and excitement. I made a total 180 from anger to love. I thought, ―Oh man, the Lord is using me, how exciting! I was not working for the man who had been unreasonable; I was working for the Lord. Just like a colt, the Lord was pushing my confidence level until I almost fell apart, and then spoke to me, regaining my confidence. I finished picking the pens and then I heard, **―If someone strikes you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also‖ (Matthew 5:39).** Then I heard, **―If someone forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles‖ (Matthew 5:41).** I became so excited I could not wait to show this man God‘s love.

I took the wheelbarrow and went around to the back of the barn and loaded up a bunch of shavings to fill all the pens. I started to cart the wheelbarrow back into the pens and the man stopped me. He said, ―Oh, don‘t worry about that, we‘ll just let them air out.‖ I told him it was no problem and I sure wouldn‘t mind doing it. The man‘s whole demeanor changed and he apologized for being so grouchy. I told him it was no problem and apologized for any miscommunications we might have had. We talked for a while, I asked him about his job and how things were going, and then we left on good terms.

If I had not turned to the Lord to let Him rebuild my confidence (faith) by speaking life into me, killing off all my self-preservation, I never would have had the opportunity to show a grouchy old cowboy-drunk, God‘s love. How important it is that when we feel ourselves start to lose confidence in a situation, we turn to the Lord and let Him offer us comfort and companionship. Once He has taken away our self-preservation (flesh), then we can regain our confidence, and can fall back into His perfect will and accomplish the job that He has set before us.

## ~Obstacles in Accomplishing the Job~

In order to get a horse to do a job for us, they must first submit their will and accept our will. Then we must try to communicate our will, and finally they will need to obey our commands.

**1st Obstacle – Horse submitting to man‘s will.**

**2nd Obstacle – Communicating man‘s will.**

**3rd Obstacle – Obeying commands .**

**4th Obstacle – Completing the job.**

**Many people try to overcome the 4th obstacle without paying any attention to the previous three.**

In order for God to use us to do a job, we must overcome the same obstacles that our horse does. I will go into these obstacles in greater detail as the book progresses. I will only hit on the main points right now.

First, we must submit our life to Him. If we are trying to live our life, making all the decisions in our life, we limit God‘s ability to use us. Second, we must learn how to communicate with God. This is the primary theme behind this entire book. After willing submission, the biggest limiting factor of true unity between us and our horse or with God is the level of communication that we possess with God or the horse. The third factor is obeying commands. Our horse must learn to obey our commands and we must learn how to obey God‘s commands. Not obeying God‘s commands has kept man away from God since the Garden of Eden.

The last obstacle that we must try to overcome is actually completing the job. What is the job? Our job is to be a light for Christ, **―In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven‖ (Matthew 5:16)**, and lead as many to the Lord as possible (the Great Commission). Just like with our horses, this is not very easy to do if we have not overcome the first 3 obstacles. We all seem to forget this. Not only do we forget the first 3 obstacles, but also we forget what ―the job‖ is in the first place. Our job is to live for Christ. That is our only job on this earth. Everything else is secondary to the kingdom of God. Our focus should be on heavenly things and not on earthly things, **―Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal‖ (Matthew 6:19-20).**

To help keep our perspective, we should remember we have roughly 80 years in this life if we are lucky and then eternity in either heaven or hell. Even if we are certain we are going to heaven, we should remember we will all stand before God one day and be asked what we did for the kingdom of God, **―For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you‖ (Matthew 7:2).** Our actions here on earth will be tried with fire, **―It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test the quality of each man's work‖ (1 Corinthians 3:13).** The things we did for the Lord will remain and everything else will be burned, **―The ax is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire‖ (Matthew 3:10).**

## ~ God’s Will: To Do a Job ~

Our will for the horse is that we are able to use them to do a job. Even if that job is going down a trail on a pleasure ride, or only riding around the round pen, we are still using them to do a job. God wants the same thing for us, to do a job. Jesus wants to lead and wants us to follow. The Lord gave me a vision of this concept one day as I was praying.

After I had gotten sick and I started spending a great deal of time in the Holy Spirit, the Lord began to speak to me. The vision I am about to tell you is one of the first ones that the Lord gave to me.

One time as I was praying I saw myself back in Nevada. I spent my early childhood on a million and a quarter acre ranch in the northeast corner of Nevada. As I was praying, I saw myself riding out underneath the archway of one of the ranches I grew up on, the Wine Cup. Jesus was leading me and I couldn‘t have been more than about 2 or 3 years old. I looked like I did when I was just starting to ride. I was riding a little kid‘s saddle with stirrups that didn‘t even clear the saddle pad, on a big, old, gentle horse. I was not big enough to direct my horse so Jesus was leading me to make sure that I didn‘t get into any trouble.

As I rode out under the archway with Jesus leading me, I couldn‘t have been any happier. I remembered being an excited little kid thinking it doesn‘t get any better than this. Jesus led me out under the archway and onto a map of the United States and then across the map. While He was leading me, I was bursting with excitement to be with my Father. I couldn‘t help but to point at the Lord and try to get everyone to look at Him, I was so proud to be with my Father. As He led me across the map, I began to get people to look at my Father and other little kids started falling in behind us. The further He led me, I began to grow and mature in size, and more kids started following. The further we went, the older I got, and the older the kids got behind me, and the more little kids started following the string of people led by Jesus. Jesus was telling me that He had a job for me, if I would only let Him lead me. If I would let Him lead me, I could live my life with the same excitement felt by that little kid in the vision, bursting with joy just to be riding with my Father.

When the Lord showed me this, I was excited to have the opportunity to be led by Christ. After this vision, I spent most of my time either reading my Bible, at Bible study, or listening to music praising the Lord. I was going to school at Treasure Valley Community College at the time. I would get up and go to class, then come home and spend the rest of the day with the Lord. During this time I was not very social about visiting with people about worldly things. I wanted to spend all my time with the Lord or talking to people about God. I started a Bible study with the same guy that had prayed over me when I had gotten sick and the Lord began to move. The focus of the Bible study was not so much a place to come and learn about God, but to come and hear from God himself. The Holy Spirit moved in amazing ways and lives were being changed.

I wanted to spend all my time with the Lord. Up until this point in my life I had always believed in God and tried to serve Him. However, He was not very real in my life. He was my God, but not my friend**.** After I became sick and God began to speak to me, He became as real as any friend I had ever had. I could see Him, hear Him, and feel His presence. We could have conversations, **―For we are the temple of the living God. As God has said: I will live with them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they will be my people‘(2**

**Corinthians 6:16).** I read of people having relationships like this in the Bible, but I did not think it was possible to have this kind of relationship now.

However, the Bible tells us we are capable of even more than the men in the Old Testament, ―**And these all, having obtained a good report through faith, received not the promise: God having provided some better thing for us, that they without us should not be made perfect‖ (Hebrews 11:39-40).** Hebrews 11:39 and 40 tells us that we are capable of having more than Abel, Enoch, Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Sarah, Joseph, Moses, Sampson, David, Samuel, and all the prophets. We are capable of having *even* more than Moses. More than the man that talked to God and became so consumed in God‘s mighty presence that His glory beamed off his face and the people could not look upon him. **―And it came to pass, when Moses came down from mount Sinai with the two tables of testimony in Moses' hand, when he came down from the mount, that Moses wist not that the skin of his face shone while he talked with him‖ (Exodus 34:29). ―But when Moses went in before the LORD to speak with him, he took the veil off, until he came out. And he came out, and spoke unto the children of Israel that which he was commanded. And the children of Israel saw the face of Moses that the skin of Moses' face shone: and Moses put the veil upon his face again, until he went in to speak with him‖ (Exodus 34:34-35).** I know that this is hard to fathom. However, Paul tells us we are able to receive even more than Moses did. Moses never received the promise. Moses could never reach perfection/completeness in Christ Jesus. Not only are we able to be closer to God than Moses, but God can even use us more than He did His own Son. All we have to do is believe and ask. **―Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father. And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son‖ (John 14:12-13).**

One day as I was praying, I was feeling a little hungry. I didn‘t have a lot of money going to school, and I had been trying to tithe as much as I could and had just tithed the last little bit of cash I had on me. As I prayed, I thought it would sure be nice to have a ―Bacon Ultimate Cheeseburger at Jack in the Box, but I didn‘t have any money. God told me to go look behind the seat in my pickup. I went outside and looked behind my seat, and found my checkbook that had been lost for 6 months with a hundred dollar bill stuck in it. God told me if I would let Him lead me, He would supply me with all my needs, **―. . .and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well (Matthew 6:32-33).**

During my last semester at Treasure Valley Community College I was taking 45 credits. I had been accepted to MSU and was trying to get a degree out of TVCC before I went to Bozeman the next fall. The teachers were great and were trying to work with me. I was going to about 35 credits worth of classes and the other 10 credits the teachers were working with me so I could write papers or test out of them.

One morning I woke up with a very sore back. I prayed to the Lord to ask why my back hurt so badly. I knew I didn‘t do anything to it, and the 2 air mattresses stacked up on top of each other that I spent the school year on, were surprisingly comfortable. The Lord told me that I was carrying too big of a load. Studying for the classes was taking up all my time and I wasn‘t having very much time to spend with the Lord. I thought that if I was going to be an instrument for God, His ability would probably not be limited by me having a 2-year ranch management degree from TVCC. I needed some direction for the next step in my life.

I went over to Timothy St. George‘s. He was the man who had been leading our Bible studies and I prayed to the Lord. The times with Timothy were amazing. It was amazing because he would usually talk for a while and then enter into a time of praise and worship when the Lord would speak to me. The amazing thing was that I learned more about God with Timothy than any other person I have ever been around. However, I did not learn it from Timothy. When Timothy would be talking I would be so filled with the Holy Spirit that I could not pay attention to much of anything He was talking about. When I would go home I would remember which part of the Bible he had been talking from and the Lord would speak to me through the Scripture.

While I was searching for direction at Timothy‘s, whether I should go to school or not, I also had another thing I was struggling with. I wanted to give God my all, everything I had. However, I had a girlfriend at the time that I thought I wanted to marry and God wanted me to marry. However, I had just read a scripture which said it is better to not marry; **―It is good for a man not to marry (1 Corinthians 7:1).** If we are single our life is devoted totally to God, but if we get married it is split between God and our wife, **―An unmarried man is concerned about the Lord's affairs—how he can please the Lord. But a married man is concerned about the affairs of this world—how he can please his wife—and his interests are divided‖ (1 Corinthians 7:32-34).**

I had liked different girls from time to time and had prayed from the time I was 6 years old that the Lord would find me a good-looking Christian cowgirl (that was my exact prayer for 12 years). (Amaia told me later that she had been praying from the time she was in the third grade for the Lord to find her a good Christian man and for it to be Wade Black.) The girl I was dating was a great girl, a good Christian, good family, and was quite the looker to boot. She lacked a little on the cowgirl aspect, but was very interested in it and picked it up very quickly. My cousin told me that was better anyway. I could then help teach her everything she knew about horses and cows, and we would not have any disputes about what the right and wrong way to do something was. Because bless her poor little heart, right or wrong the only way she would know would be my way.

With the different girls I had liked in the past, my feelings for them would usually fade when I got around other good-looking girls. However, for Amaia it was different. I prayed for over 6 months that if Amaia was the one, I would have feelings for her and only her and if she was not the one, I would not have any feelings for her. She was a good girl and if she was not the one, I did not want to get too serious and end up hurting her in the end.

The more I prayed this prayer, the more my love for her grew and the more my interest in other girls started to fade. I finally decided that Amaia was the one when I went to the High School National finals in Springfield, Illinois to ride saddle broncs. Before I left, she said she would fast for me the days I rode and would be praying for me. I thought that was a pretty neat and selfless thing to do. The praying was sweet, but the not eating? Wow, that must have been some kind of love. Wrestling season had just gotten over. I would have been more than willing to pray for someone, but just the thought of not eating for a day made me hungry.

The whole time I was at Nationals surrounded by good-looking girls, they could just as well have been 80-year-old women, because my heart was totally sold out to Amaia. I would compare the girls to Amaia and she had them all beat. The entire time I was at Nationals, I was not in the least bit interested in any of the girls, but just wanted to get back home to Amaia. I had never felt that before and it was at that moment that I knew Amaia was the one. God had answered my prayer, ―If Amaia was the one, I would have feelings for her and only her.‖

A year later I still loved Amaia and wanted to marry her. However, if God was trying to tell me not to marry her and love only Him, I wanted to be obedient to what the Lord wanted me to do. While I was praying, I thought of Abraham putting his son Isaac on the altar, **―When they reached the place God had told him about, Abraham built an altar there and arranged the wood on it. He bound his son Isaac and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood‖ (Genesis 22:9).**  I was willing to give up Amaia to be close to God, but the thought of it filled me with sadness. When I told the Lord I was willing to give up everything to serve Him, He told me to ―**Eat and drink of Him for three days**.‖

I obeyed the Lord and decided to take a few days off from school to go to a cow camp in Jordan Valley, OR, to fast and pray to the Lord for three days. I went to find direction and answers to my questions. When I left Timothy‘s I was overflowing with the Holy Spirit, and remember thinking, ―Lord, I am busting at the seams, I need somebody to share your goodness with.‖ As I said this pulling on the freeway, I passed a hitchhiker on the side of the road. The Lord told me to pick him up, so I did.

I ended up driving an hour and half past my exit so I could continue to visit with him. When I picked him up he was rude and crude, and wanted to talk about the wild college life. I said a prayer, became filled with the Holy Spirit and I began to speak to him about the Lord. He was hesitant at first. He told me about the times he spent in prison and all the bad things he had done. Then he kind of braced up changing his whole demeanor and barked out ―I worshiped Satan for a while.‖

I wasn‘t really sure how to respond to that, so I just said, ―Oh yeah, how‘d that treat ya?‖ He told me it wasn‘t very good and explained some of the things that had happened that really freaked him out. I then told him more about God and the Bible, and how God could forgive anyone of their sins. I told him the story of Paul, and how he had killed Christians and God still forgave him.

The man then told me how he was dying with cancer and was hitchhiking to find his son and daughter whom he had not talked with for years. He wanted to tell them goodbye before he died. I drove as far as I felt like I was supposed to drive and gave the man my Bible. I would have prayed with the man, but for some reason I felt like that was all I was supposed to do, open the door, show him the way and I guess Jesus was going to lead him in.

After that experience I couldn‘t think of anything more I would like to do with my life, than to give dying men life. The whole experience baffled me, it was amazing and extremely fulfilling.

I decided to take some time off from school and head up to a cow camp in Jordan Valley, OR, to ―eat and drink‖ of God ―for 3 days.‖ The experience of telling my advisor was something else. When I began to speak to him, I could feel the Holy Spirit come on me and I could tell he knew there was something different about me. I asked him if he believed in God and if he had ever read the Bible. He told me that he did believe in God and had read the Bible. I then told him that I needed to go to the mountain like Moses did to find out what God wanted me to do with my life. Needless to say I left my advisor, who was an old cowman, a little speechless. All he could say was, ―Wow, I had no idea.‖ He repeated that again and then said goodbye and that was all he was able to sputter out.

When I left school I went to the ranch of Ted and Dorothy Payne. Dorothy is an amazing woman of God and has had a tremendous impact on my life both directly and indirectly. I went to the mountain to see God. I read in the Bible how Moses had climbed the mountain and it was on top of the mountain that he had heard from God. I also remembered in Scripture where it had said we are to come boldly to the throne, **―Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need‖ (Hebrews 4:16 KJV).** In other scripture it said if our father on earth knows how to give good gifts how much more will our Father in heaven, **―If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him! (Matthew 7:11)**, and that we are supposed to ask, seek and knock. **―Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened‖ (Matthew 7:7-8)**. All I wanted was to know God. I wanted to experience God as Moses did and know God‘s will for my life. I was willing to leave everything behind if the Lord told me to. I was laying my entire life down at the Lord‘s feet. If He told me to go to Mars to minister to the Martians, I would have had my bags packed the next day.

### MOUNTAIN TOP EXPERIENCE

The Payne‘s ranch is located on South Mountain about 30 miles southeast of Jordan Valley, OR. When I arrived at their ranch they needed help moving some cows, so I figured I would lend them a hand. I helped them for a couple of days, and then drove out to a remote cow camp to spend time with the Lord and begin fasting and praying. After the first day of not drinking anything, I quickly began to realize that I did not drink very much the couple of days I had helped them move cows and came into my fasting dehydrated. The not eating wasn‘t bad. I was a wrestler and was used to not eating, but by the second night I was beginning to get pretty thirsty. My throat was dry and I was developing cottonmouth.

I laid there in my bed, trying to pray to the Lord. However, I couldn‘t help thinking how nice it would be to get a glass of water. I had a thought come into my mind. I remembered someone telling me that it was kind of odd that the Lord had told me to ―eat and drink‖ of Him for 3 days. The person had spent many times praying and fasting to the Lord and the Lord had never told them to not drink. The person was not trying to lead me against the will of God; they were merely stating a fact. However, what they had said slowly began to pique my interest as I laid there dreaming about how good a nice cold glass of cool mountain water would feel sliding down my dry throat.

I began to tell myself, ―What will one little glass of water hurt?‖ Maybe I did misinterpret what the Lord told me to do. Maybe I was supposed to just ―eat‖ of Him for 3 days. I prayed to the Lord and asked Him if it would be ok if I got up and had one glass of water. I heard a ―yes.‖ Believe it or not, that was the exact answer I had been hoping for. So with little hesitation, I got up and took a few long pulls from a gallon of water I had in the camp. The water felt great on my dry throat, and I could have easily drunk more, but I didn‘t.

I laid down for a while and was temporarily satisfied. Within only a couple of minutes I began to feel sick, and within less than 5 minutes I had to go outside and puke. After puking up all the water I just drank and what little bit of food I had in my stomach, I began to realize, maybe the Lord really did mean ―eat and drink‖ of Him for 3 days. I thought okay, point taken, no more drinking. I took a little drink of water to wash out the puke taste in my mouth and went back to bed. I no more than reached my bed than I had to go back outside to puke up a kidney. At this point I had nothing more in my stomach, leading to the dry heaves.

After I had finished ―calling some dinosaurs,‖ I went back to bed thinking, ―Good to know, when the Lord says something, He *really* means it.‖ When He had told me to eat and drink of Him for 3 days I was filled with the Holy Spirit, and I had heard from the Lord. When I had asked the Lord if it was ok to get a drink of water, I was consumed with my flesh thinking how great it would be to get a drink of water. It was not the Lord I had heard from, but an evil spirit. This is why Paul tells us to test the spirits, **―Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world. This is how you can recognize the Spirit of God: Every spirit that acknowledges that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, but every spirit that does not acknowledge Jesus is not from God‖ (1 John 4:1-3).** All we have to say is, ―Did Jesus come in the flesh?‖ If what we heard was not from the Lord, the spirit will not confess that He did. We can tell the spirit to flee in Jesus‘ name and it will leave us alone.

I was tricked by Satan‘s oldest trick in the book. He made me question what the Lord had told me and began speaking to my flesh. He made me think that surely one little drink of water wouldn‘t hurt anything. I was tricked, just like Eve was in the Garden of Eden. I didn‘t mean to deliberately disobey what the Lord had told me. However, Satan was able to tempt me when my flesh was weak and he was able to deceive me. Satan tried to do the same thing to Jesus when He fasted and prayed in the wilderness, **―Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil. After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. The tempter came to him and said, ‗If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread‘‖ (Matthew 4:1-3).**

Whenever the Lord tells us something and we are obedient in following what He has told us, it is almost inevitable that Satan will come and try to get us questioning what we have heard. Most of the time he will not try to lead us 180 degrees from what we have heard from the Lord, he merely tries to tweak it, slightly leading us off track. We can learn from Samuel, **―Then Saul said to Samuel, ‗I have sinned. I violated the LORD's command and your instructions. I was afraid of the people and so I gave in to them. Now I beg you, forgive my sin and come back with me, so that I may worship the LORD.‘ But Samuel said to him, ‗I will not go back with you. You have rejected the word of the LORD, and the LORD has rejected you as king over Israel!‘‖ (1 Samuel 15:24-26)**, that doing 99% of what the Lord has told us and only leaving out 1% will still have consequences. Do not be deceived by Satan when things get heated. Believe what God has told you and stand on faith. This is faith, believing what God has told you.

After I had gotten sick for the second time, I went back to bed and the remainder of the night wasn‘t too bad. I was thirsty, but did not let Satan shift my focus to the thirst. I stayed focused on God. I worshiped the Lord for a while, became full of the Holy Spirit, and fell right to sleep. I spent the next morning reading my Bible and praying. I read the entire New Testament, except for Revelation, while I was on the mountain. The Lord had not really spoken to me too much the first 2 days. I thought about how Jesus rose the third day and thought I would probably hear from Him on the third day. I prayed to the Lord the morning of the third day asking Him to reveal Himself to me.

The afternoon of the third day, the Lord told me to go to the mountain and He would give me a gift. The cow camp where I had been staying was next to a mountain, so I began to hike. I was a little weak so it took me quite a while to hike up the mountain. I was tired from not eating and drinking, but I was also not in very good shape from having the Epstein Bar Virus for 4 years. On my way to the top, I had to stop many times to catch my air and regain strength. I would stop and pray, regroup and then continue climbing. When I reached the top of the mountain, the Lord told me I could have a bite of snow. It felt good to have a bite of snow and I took a little piece to suck on as I hiked down the mountain. I must admit however, the bite of snow was not exactly the gift I had in mind.

When I got down from the mountain and back to the cow camp it was late afternoon. I climbed in my pickup and turned on some worship music and began to worship the Lord. I probably worshiped the Lord for about 15 minutes. I felt the presence of the Lord get stronger and stronger until everything went black and then white. I was then left with total peace. I kept my eyes closed and saw a caterpillar crawling along a branch on a tree. The caterpillar turned into a butterfly and flew off the branch and I heard ―Transformation.‖ Then I heard ―Take your wife and preach the Gospel.‖ This caught me way off guard. I asked the Lord if He wanted me to marry Amaia and He said ―Yes.‖ While He was talking to me, I thought I would ask when He wanted me to marry Amaia. I immediately heard July 14th, 2004.

God has the ability to speak life into His people. I was weak and tired when I laid down to pray to the Lord, but hearing His voice re-energized my body, ―**For, lo, as soon as the voice of thy salutation sounded in mine ears, the babe leaped in my womb for joy**‖ (**Luke 1:44**). I could have flown off that mountain. It was on the third day that the Lord had spoken to me and as I drove off the mountain I heard ―Go to the mountain and I will give you a gift.‖ The Lord did give me a gift by going to the mountain. He gave me a lovely wife to preach the Gospel with.

### Coming off the Mountain

I left the cow camp and drove back down to Ted and Dorothy‘s house. I spoke to Dorothy a little bit and then drove back down to Homedale to talk to Amaia. Dorothy could tell that I had heard from God. I did not look like a man that had not eaten for 3 days (I drank after I left the cow camp, the fast was over). I looked like a little kid who had just seen Santa Claus flying over his house with reindeer. I am not trying to say that what I did was out of the ordinary and could have only been done by God. I know there are people, especially cowboys and wrestlers, who go without eating and drinking for days. However, when our body has not received nourishment it becomes weak and tired, not re-energized. After I had heard from God, a bolt of energy came in me like a bolt of electricity, which could have only come from God. People go without eating and drinking for days. However, at the end they do not look like people that have just drank 5 Red Bulls and had a big lunch.

I drove off the mountain and headed back to Homedale, as high as a kite. As soon as I got in cell phone service, I called Amaia and said I was picking her up and taking her to Jack in the Box. I couldn‘t wait to tell Amaia the good news. However, I must admit, I was awfully excited about that ―Bacon Ultimate Cheeseburger.‖ I picked up Amaia and told her what had happened up on the mountain. I was expecting a, ―Wow, Wade! Sounds good, let‘s get it done!‖ High five, yeah team! However, the response I got was not quite as enthusiastic.

I pretty well told Amaia how it was. I told her we were getting married and told her the date we were getting married on. It was in the spring of 2003 and Amaia was still a senior in high school. (Yeah, I know, I was a bit of a cradle robber.) Amaia‘s reaction to what I told her was exactly what mine would have been, if the situation had been reversed. She didn‘t say I was totally crazy and try to beat me off with a stick. However, she was not exactly sold on the whole idea of getting married one year out of high school, at age 19. It wasn‘t like she hadn‘t planned to marry me, just the time frame was a little soon and sudden.

She didn‘t say, ―No way in heck.‖ She just had to obviously pray about it. At the time I didn‘t really see what the big deal was. God told me to ―take my wife and preach the Gospel.‖ He gave me a date. I was going to take my girlfriend, make her my wife, and preach the Gospel. I didn‘t see a problem. Needless to say, I had a lot to learn about the opposite sex and not making things happen by my will, but waiting for God to let them happen.

When I get my mind set on something, I go 100 miles an hour and run over anything in the way to get it. This is something I need to learn to work on, letting things happen instead of making things happen. My mother tells me I have always been like this. When I was younger I would be jumping around, not paying attention, breaking things, trying to get done what I thought needed done. My mother would finally have enough and say, ―Sit down! You‘re like a bull in a china closet!‖

I didn‘t have a clue what that meant. I remember sitting down one day after my mother had just told me that and looking into the china closet. The china closet had glass doors so I could see inside. I looked at a bowl and thought, ―What does me jumping around breaking stuff have to do with that bowl sitting in the china closet?‖ The whole concept baffled me and never really made sense until I was probably in junior high, yeah, not the brightest.

For the first time in my life I had gotten direction for my life. The Lord had told me what He wanted me to do with my life, told me who He wanted me to marry and even gave me a date for the wedding. I had the direction, but I would soon learn that direction sometimes needs life

(Holy Spirit) and time, to make it come to pass. I will carry on with Amaia‘s and my story later on in the book, in the ―Direction and Life‖ chapter.

## ~1st Obstacle: Submitting Our Will ~

**I. 1st Obstacle – Submitting to man‘s will**

* **Two types of Submission** 
  1. **Willing**
  2. **Unwilling**

* **Both are effective to get the job done. However, unwilling has negative consequences.**

**A) Unwilling Submission ―Giving to Pressure**

**- Attained by Force**

### B) Willing Submission ―Seeking Relief

### - Attained by Free Choice

Just like our horses, there are 2 ways that we submit our will to God. There is willing and there is unwilling. Willing means that we gladly submit our will and would have it no other way. Unwilling means that we submit our will because we know it is the right thing to do, and we know that if we don‘t, we will regret it. However, deep down the unwilling individuals would rather be somewhere else, doing something different. Martin Black says, ―There is a difference between giving to pressure and seeking relief.‖ Although they are totally different, from a distance they may look the same. We may get by for a time, but a horse has trouble operating through unwilling submission. There is always a chance that they will rebel against our will, and follow their own will.

God has made 2 covenants with His people. One takes on the form of willing submission and the other takes on the form of unwilling submission. These 2 forms of submission are known as the ―Old Covenant‖ and the ―New Covenant‖ in the Bible. Abraham was the father of God‘s children, and through his seed started a covenant between man and God. God told Abraham, **―I will establish my covenant as an everlasting covenant between me and you and your descendants after you for the generations to come, to be your God and the God of your descendants after you‖ (Genesis 17:7).** **―My covenant in your flesh is to be an everlasting covenant. Any uncircumcised male, who has not been circumcised in the flesh, will be cut off from his people; he has broken my covenant‖ (Genesis 17:13-14).** The first covenant dealt with the flesh. The covenant was marked by the flesh and upheld through the flesh. It was through this covenant that the law came.

The law consisted of Commandments from God and rules for holy living. This law was given to Moses, and his people were to follow it ―religiously.‖ It was sin that kept God‘s people from God, after the fall of man, the first covenant was an attempt to keep God‘s children from sin through the law.

However, the first covenant could not be upheld through the flesh, through the will power of man. ―**For when we were in the flesh, the motions of sins, which were by the law, did work in our members to bring forth fruit unto death‖ (Romans 7:5 KJV).** The law was an attempt to bring man into righteousness and into unity with God. However, it only brought more sin and death. There needed to be another way to keep God‘s children from sin, and allow fellowship with Him. This new way came through Jesus Christ, and His spirit living within us.

**―Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death. For what the law was powerless to do in that it was weakened by the sinful nature, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful man to be a sin offering. And so he condemned sin in sinful man, in order that the righteous requirements of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the sinful nature *(flesh)* but according to the Spirit‖ (Romans 8:1-4).**

This is the New Covenant: **―This is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel after that time, declares the Lord. I will put my laws in their minds and write them on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people. No longer will a man teach his neighbor, or a man his brother, saying, ‗Know the Lord,‘ because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest. For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more. By calling this covenant ―new,‖ he has made the first one obsolete; and what is obsolete and aging will soon disappear‖ (Hebrews 8:10-13).**

There are 3 parts to the New Covenant. 1) His laws will be in our mind and heart; 2) We will not need to be taught by man, for all shall know God; and 3) God will no longer remember our sin.

The ―New Covenant‖ is life in the Spirit, the spirit of Jesus Christ living inside us. ―**But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man has not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his‖ (Romans 8:9 KJV).** By receiving the spirit of Christ we become sons of God**.** We become heirs to the promises of the Old Covenant, but we are not under the law of the Old Covenant.

**―For it is written, that Abraham had two sons, the one by a bondmaid, the other by a free woman. But he who was of the bondwoman was born after the flesh; but he of the freewoman was by the promise‖ (Galatians 4:22-23 KJV).** What is the promise? **―For as many are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God‖ (Romans 8:14 KJV).**  And if we are sons of God then we are joint heirs with Christ. **―The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together‖ (Romans 8:16-17 KJV).**

If we are the sons of God and joint heirs with Christ, then we are entitled to a birthright, our inheritance**. ―And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession—to the praise of his glory‖ (Ephesians 1:13-14)**.

This is the New Covenant, life in the Spirit. We are no longer under the bondage of the law, the Old Covenant, **―. . .(for the law made nothing perfect), and a better hope is introduced, by which we draw near to God‖ (Hebrews 7:19).** Through Christ living inside us, He has the ability to change our unwilling submission into willing submission. However, just like our horses we have to make a decision as to which law we will fall under. We are the sons of God and have the right to an inheritance, but we still have to make a choice to go and receive it.

Unwilling submission in some ways appears easier. It is often easier to fall into our flesh. However, in the long run it requires much more work, and perfection is never attainable. Willing submission can take longer to learn, to learn to operate in the Spirit. However, in the long run we will live the life God intended, living in the perfect will of God.

Under the ―Old Covenant‖ we are slaves to sin. However, under the ―New Covenant‖ we have life through Christ. In Tom Dorrance‘s book, Tom‘s students tell what they have learned from Tom. One student quoted Tom saying, ―You need to be the horse‘s master, but he is not the slave, rather your willing partner.‖ It is a choice we make with our horse and it is a choice we make with God, whether we will be a slave or a partner. Slaves run the risk of rebellion into disobedience. But partners, although they may mess up, want nothing more than to please their companion. Through the New Covenant we are no longer a slave, but a willing partner. It is through the New Covenant that man and God may become one through Christ: True Unity, between man and God.