

Reflections

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The Will

1. Disintegration of the will

1.1 The inability to decide. Whether it is because of a lack of will or a very weak will, for Father Joseph Kentenich, Founder of the Schoenstatt Movement, this is typical for the mass-man of today who is happy when others decide for him/her. He/she feels powerless. His/her preferred phrase is: “What can I do, that’s the way I am.....”

1.2 Subjectivism. It is not allowing myself to be guided by my intelligence and my will in my decisions; it is allowing the feelings to decide what I do or do not do.

A subjectivism criterion is **comfort or comfortableness**. I look for the easiest way. I only do what does not go against my comfort or comfortableness. How difficult it is to find mature personalities in this sense, personalities who do not seek what is easiest, what is most comfortable, but rather what is best!

There are also **the postponements (delays):** to leave for later what we should do today. When postponing things, many feel interiorly that they won’t ever do them. It is also very common to do things at the last moment, under pressure; for example, buying the present on the way to the birthday party, packing the suitcases.....

1.3 The inability to accomplish what has been decided. There are people who know how to decide, but at the moment of truth, they do not come across.

The Lord said it already of the Pharisees: “they don’t practice what they preach” (MT 23,3).

Lacking are a strong will, constancy, ability to strive and action. A typical phrase for these persons is: “I can’t, I am not capable.” Often it is a pretext. When someone wants to, they can. With a little bit of effort, everything is possible. St. Paul said it already to the Philippians: “I can do all things in Him who comforts me.”

2. Integration of the will

2.1 We should learn to decide. Conquer the ability to decide.....abandon the comfortable attitude of being a passive observer at the shore and fling ourselves into the water.

What characteristics should our decisions have?

a) Prudent decisions. There are 2 extremes: the impulsive person who makes hurried decisions, and the excessively thoughtful person who has a terrible time deciding. Let us look for a happy medium between the two.

b) Free decisions. I do not decide because the TV says so. I decide because I have analyzed what they tell me and I come to the conclusion that it is correct. Then I assume it with a personal and free decision.

c) Thoughtful decisions based on principles. I should be able to give reasons as to why I decide or do something.

2.2 To learn to fulfill what has been decided.....to convert into facts and actions what we have decided in spite of the obstacles and difficulties. This demands of us: to lose the fear of “what will others say” and to lose the fear of failure.

We must come out of our comfortableness and mediocrity and dare to do something great which is worthwhile.....we must overcome our passivity.....we must take the initiative and develop our creativity.

It is not about doing many things, but in **doing well** what we have assumed. Don’t do things halfway, finish them; do them well or don’t do them. To do things well also implies taking care of details. Here we could add **punctuality**. It is a common fault in many countries to arrive 20 minutes or half an hour late. Everyone already counts on that delay. We arrive late for work, for school, and even Mass. It is a lack of responsibility and respect.

Questions for reflection

1. How are my decisions: hurried or thoughtful?
2. Am I a punctual person?
3. Is it hard for me to make decisions? _____

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