

## In the Beginning...

### Sermon on Genesis 1

In the beginning, God stepped out into space and looked around at the nothingness, at the chaos and emptiness all around, and God said, "I will make a world."

As far as the eye of God could see, there was blackness everywhere; "the blackness was deeper than a thousand midnights", I read in a poetry book on the creation story... And God said: I will have light."

So the thunder rolled, the lightning flashed, and the sun appeared in the sky.

God's "I will" brought the moons and the stars and the galaxies whirling and swirling in the skies.

God's "I will" was a clap of hands that created the mountains.

God's "I will" was the batting of eyes that gave us oceans and seas, rivers and lakes.

God's "I will" brought the roses and the daffodils, the daisies and the primroses...

God's "I will" brought forth trees and forests, meadows and grass.

At the sound of God's "I will", the cooling rains came down.

The wonder of creation, the majesty of our world, and the splendour of the universe were designed by God's divine will.

Eventually God decided to create human beings in God's image.

So, like a great mother bending over her child, the God of eternity stooped down and gathered a lump of clay. Moulding and shaping the clay into form. With a gentleness and a sureness that were clear, the creator designed our first parents. Then looking at these fine specimens of humanity, God thought and thought about the gifts that the humans would need for their life... and then God breathed "I will" into the nostrils of the lifeless, and we became living souls!

#### **Isn't this a love declaration to all of us?**

This divine "I will", this godly breath in each and every one of us tells us:

You are not a loser in the game of life. You are not doomed to come in last in the race with time. You are not forever destined to be one of the have-nots. It makes no difference what is going on in your life right at this moment. It really does not matter what you do or do not have in your bank account today.

God does not care that you are overweight, too thin, too small, or have no rhythm. What matters to God is what you are doing with that divine "I will" which was planted inside you "in the beginning".

This "I will" can take you from where you are to where you ought to be in life. This "I will" can move you from the dumps to the heights. This "I will" can change your life and open your future. You just have to find access to the "I will" inside yourself! We all have it! ☺

The difference between the haves and the have-nots is the amount of "I will" they choose to activate in their lives. The difference between those who make strides and achievements in their lives and those who don't is in direct proportion to the "I will" that they allow to motivate and inspire them on a day-to-day basis. The difference of those who move things in the world and in their own lives and those who simply plod along,

limping through life, is that the movers are motivated and confirmed by the “I will” of their God.

Knowing, that deep down at the roots of my being is God’s will for me to live, can change my whole approach to life...

I then know that I will make a difference! I will be bold and brave! I will have a say in my world! I will be the queen in my own land! I will help someone significantly. I can do it! I will have a career, I will have a path that fascinates, I will have an interesting story to tell... I will love myself and because I love myself I will be able to respect and love others. I will serve God with every breath I take.

I will let the Holy Spirit lead me and guide me along the way. I will live a life of freedom, joy and peace. I will bring about as much good as I can. I will care for myself and keep my body in a divine order. I will have friends who love and support me.

I will dream impossible dreams and believe that the impossible can come true.

**I will!**

My will is a gift from God. My dreams, my goals, my ideas are God given. And God wants me in his world as his partner to bring about the beautiful and joyful, the peaceful and creative... to live the unusual... My mandate is to follow a divine path, to change life circumstances for myself and others, to follow a divine path that is pleasing to God.

**I can do it** ...if I choose to use the “I will” God planted into me at the very beginning of my unique life.

I may feel ever so inadequate, small and shy, unimportant and useless, it doesn’t matter to God. He or she trusts me, believes in me and equips me. I only have to discover them all, the abilities and powers, the strength and energies, the gifts and talents which all God’s human beings were once given.

Jesus was chosen and anointed by God. Jesus was filled with the Holy Spirit and with power. Jesus went about doing good, making a difference and bringing joy, life and beauty wherever he went. He did it because God was with him. He chose to live out of the “I will”:

“I will change the circumstances of the little and insignificant ones. I will bring life where evil has brought decay and death. I will take the common and ordinary and show them the fullness – in bread and in wine, in the water and the grape juice. I will show them how to live a life seeking justice. I will show them how to live a life of prayer.”

Jesus was the servant of God. He was directed and upheld by God. He was God’s delight, God’s partner, God’s son.

Jesus did not delight God because of his material wealth. He was born in a stable and housed in a manger. So where we begin life and what we accumulate in life do not delight God. Jesus did not delight God because of the great society in which he climbed the social ladder. He chose the scum of society as friends and the uneducated as his disciples. Jesus was a delight to God because he lived a life of prayer.

A life of prayer is a life that depends on God. A life of prayer is a life in which we do the right things even when the opposite is the common way. A life of prayer is one in which

we make good and godly decisions even in bad and ungodly situations. A life of prayer is one in which we follow ethical behaviour, not because somebody is watching but as a way of pleasing God. Prayer is not simply words, not begging, not just talking and listening to God. Prayer is a way of living. Prayer is a lifestyle. Prayer is living out of ethical behaviour. And each of us is called to a life of prayer, for we are followers of Jesus Christ.

It is hard, it is not fair, and it is not easy. But we are God's servants. We are called and chosen by God. We are given a direct breath of "I will" and the power of the Holy Spirit to make things happen. The Holy Spirit is God alive in you.

So, you have the power to do right, even when it is popular to do wrong. You have the power to do right, although it is hard. It is not fair, it does not make sense, and it does not make you feel good. You do it because it brings healing to the world you are co-creating... You do it because it brings healing to those who are watching your life. You do it, because healing brings about justice, and justice brings in the world of God, the kingdom of God or what we may want to call it. God's dream...

Followers of Jesus, Christians, you, we... do right because we have been chosen, we have been selected by God, we have been elected as his people. Why we?

Because God wants us. Out of all who could have been chosen, God picks us. And she does not only pick us, but God will also uphold us. Keep us going, give us strength...

Why?

Because God delights in us – not in what we have or have not done; not in what we have or have not achieved; not in what we do or do not do. God simply delights in our being. Because we are, God loves us. Because God gives us breath, he loves us. Simply because we are his creation, with "I will" planted inside us as a gift from the beginning, God delights in us.

It is powerful, it is awesome, it is breathtaking to know that I delight God, that God delights in me, takes pleasure and joy in me.

When I am down, it pulls me up. When I am scared, it gives me courage. When I am disappointed, it lifts my spirits. When I have messed up and failed, it allows me to go on. When I want to quit, it kicks me to a new beginning. When I want to back up, it is the power that sends me ahead. When I want to do wrong, it is the power that says, "Do the right thing." When I am leaning toward the popular choice, it is the reminder of whose I am.

I am God's servant. I am God's child. I am chosen by God. I am her partner. And I am brave. **I can do it...**

When the world does not choose me, that's alright.

When the majority around me does not affirm me, that's alright.

When life acts up, that's alright.

When the clouds are dark and there are tears in my eyes, that's alright.

If I only remember that I am God's daughter – or God's son.

God is with me.

I am not alone.

And I have the "I will" of creation living within me.

It is the lift in my life.

It is the joy in my song.

It is the new beginning for every day.  
It is the hope for tomorrow.  
It is the resurrection in every death.

The world decided that Jesus was not popular enough. They decided that he was not “in” enough. They decided that he had no good and worthy qualities. They decided that he was a disturber and a troublemaker, a threat to their system...

So they hung him up. They nailed him to the cross and they watched him die.  
But the “I will” was not finished. The “I will” belonged to God. The “I will” rose again.  
And the “I will” lives in me. The “I will” lives in us.

**We can make a difference.**  
**We will sing our songs.**  
**We will tell our story.**  
**We will be the queens and kings in our own land.**  
**We will.**

Just between us: Have you been feeling a bit like a looser lately? Tried sitting somewhere quiet and hiding?  
Discover the “I will” of God in you. Remember what you were created to do.  
The “I will” is the source of your life, the strength in your life, and the purpose for your life. Begin to follow your heart. Listen to your dream.  
Pay attention to God’s voice in you and do what is uncomfortable.  
You will see, life will take off in bursts of wonder and surprise!

### **Affirmation of Faith**

We believe in God.  
When there was nothing but an ocean of tears,  
God sighed over the waters  
and dreamed a small dream:  
light in the darkness,  
a small planet in space.

We believe in Jesus Christ.  
When hate and fear were raging,  
when love was beaten down,  
when hope was nailed and left to die,  
Christ entered into our deep secret places  
and went down into our death to find us.

We believe in the Holy Spirit  
who weeps with us in our despair,  
who breathes on prison doors,  
never admitting it's hopeless,  
always expecting the bars to bend and sway  
and break forth into blossom. Amen.