

## WILLFULNESS

Several times recently Holy Spirit has led me to pray about willfulness. He has been showing me willfulness is a stronghold that He wants to deal with on so many levels.

*“Willfulness” means obstinately bent on having one's own way; when an individual puts their own desire to do what they want above the desire to grow; the trait of being prone to disobedience and lack of discipline.*

Wow! We can sure see how willfulness can be a problem if it's a stronghold in our government, in the people of our nation, in our workplaces, in our areas of ministry, in our homes or in our own hearts.

So, how do we deal with this stronghold? First, present your own heart before the Lord. This is what I've done and will continue to do every time Holy Spirit brings willfulness to my attention. I can't deal with it in my nation unless my heart is free of all willfulness. *Lord, search my heart. Have I made excuses for any place of willfulness or stubbornness or rebellion? Have I been more intent on being right than on being righteous? Have I bristled at correction because I am “right in my own eyes”? Forgive me, Lord. Help me to walk in a place of deep humility, submission to the growth You are bringing in my life and righteousness that flows from the position of my heart before You. By the power of Your Blood, break any stronghold of willfulness in my life and set me free. Make me pliable in Your Hands and conform me daily to Your Will.*

Next, from your position seated with Christ in Heavenly places, declare that any territorial spirit or principality that is stirring up an atmosphere of willfulness must loosen its grip and submit to the atmosphere of Heaven. *Lord, we declare that You alone are Lord; there is none but You. By Your Lordship and the power of Your Blood, break the influence of any territorial spirit or principality that has people imprisoned by a stronghold of willfulness. Clear and cleanse the atmosphere of the stronghold of willfulness so we can be set free.*

Finally, release people who are bound by willfulness – release them to forgiveness and the deliverance of Christ. People still must choose to walk in freedom, but they have more opportunity to do so when the stronghold has been addressed. *Lord, break the stronghold of willfulness in those we are praying for. Set their hearts, their minds, their emotions free from willfulness by the power of Your Blood. Set them free to see their need to walk in humility before You and before others. Set them free to repent and turn from patterns of willfulness. Set them free from disobedience and rebellion. Set them free to know You more deeply and more freely. Help them grow in a pliability in Your Hands that can be formed and transformed daily.*

What is the opposite of willfulness? Patience, obedience, submission, receptivity. Wow! *Lord, produce the fruit of patience, obedience, submission, and receptivity in me. Lord, thank You that You are taking us to a higher level of freedom and maturity. Thank You for delivering us from willfulness.*