

## Thy will be done

Do you ever find yourself tempted to go against your better judgment and disobey your teachings for the sake of expediency....in other words, cut corners? This can be more than just irritating, it can be injurious or even fatal. I had been called out to fall a large tree on the trail where some summer help had been working. Since the tree was large and leaning heavily towards the trail it needed to come down because of the safety hazard it posed. So I, full of self importance (after all I had been specifically called out for the job), went up the trail to fall the tree for the group whom I was sure would be duly impressed.

There are certain steps to falling a tree which you need to follow in order to increase your margin of personal safety and the safety of the others in your group. In my self inflated state of pride, I had eliminated at least three of the most important ones. Suffice it to say, when the tree came down, I was not hurt. However, when everything was settled down, and the tree was on the ground it was obvious to all that the job had been done less than professionally and that I was "lucky to be alive". I have never forgotten that lesson I was taught which cost me little but to gash a cavernous hole in an inflated pride....This in turn, probably saved my life in the long run.

The Bible talks of the tower of Babel wherein God changed the speech of the peoples on earth in order to force them to disperse throughout the lands and populate them. The people, in their prideful state, had chosen disobedience to God's command and were staying in one place, and were in fact erecting a monument (the tower itself) as a testimonial "slap in God's face" which said that they intended to do as they pleased[1]. They too, "got off lucky". The result of their disobedience was that they had to go out into the world to populate it as God had originally commanded.

In his prideful state, David sinned against God and this resulted in murder[2]. Though he was ultimately forgiven of his sin, the consequences plagued him for the rest of his life. Samson was also the victim of pride. Though he later saw the error of his ways, his prideful state was the eventual cause of his death[3]. Moses led the Jews as a race of people out of slavery in Egypt. Those same Jews were condemned to not seeing the Promised Land because of continued prideful rebellion. Even Moses himself was not allowed to enter the Promised Land because of his failure to obey at the waters of Meribah[4].

Paradoxically enough, it was Moses' humility which God initially saw fit to use. Numbers 12: 3 says that Moses was more humble than any man who was on the face of the earth. God apparently values those persons who can say that God's Will should come first. Lastly, what about Jesus, Who gave up His Heavenly Glory only to end up being crucified for the sins of those very persons who condemned Him. Remember His words before His crucifixion? "Not My Will but Thine be done"[5]. This should be our example....God's Will, not ours.

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[1] Genesis 11: 1-9

[2] 2 Samuel 11: 1-27

[3] Judges 13-16

[4] Numbers 20: 1-13

[5] Matthew 16: 39; Luke 22:42