

**God Willing and the Creek Don't Rise**

Hebrews 6:1-3

“*God willing and the Creek don't rise*” means that you will achieve your goal as long as there are no outside forces over which you have no control preventing you from reaching your goal. Benjamin Hawkins was a politician and Indian diplomat in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century. The President of the United States called on Hawkins to return to Washington. Hawkins wrote, “I will God willing and the Creek don't rise,” meaning the Creek Indians who lived in North Carolina. The concept of “God willing” is something that ought to be ingrained in the thought patterns of life.

**I. The fulfillment of moral obligations rests on God's will and power, not your own.**

The nature of sin is such that there is no possibility of your “turning over a new leaf,” unless God's grace reaches down and transforms you by His power. The example in our text is the moving away from the “milk” of basic principles of truth to the great doctrines about God. *This we will do, if God permits* (KJV). *And God permitting, we will do so* (NIV).

Why must God permit these Hebrews to do something that is morally good and beneficial?

**A. We are, at the core of our beings, incapable of moral good.**

The drunk cannot change his drinking. The homosexual cannot change his nature. The thief cannot change his greed. The adulterer cannot change his lust. We are sinful.

**B. It is no excuse to blame God for His unwillingness to change us.**

You are the way you are by Adam's free choice and your resounding “Yes!” to sin.

The sinfulness of all men and the love of personal sin is our work and not God's.

The change of nature and the progression toward morality and good is all God's work.

“*Can the Ethiopian change the color of his skin? Can the leopard change his spots?*”

*How can you who are accustomed to doing evil change your ways?*” (Jeremiah 13:23).

“*Every good gift and every perfect gift comes from the Father above*” (James 1:17).

**C. God changes His people through the influence of His Spirit.**

The ancient hymn *Breathe on Me - Breathe on me, breath of God, Fill me with life anew, That I may love what Thou dost love, And do what Thou wouldst do* (Hatch).

The Holy Spirit is called “*the quickening Spirit*” (I Corinthians 15:45). He gives Life.

**II. The foundation of believing that “God must permit” good in you humbles you.**

You can't avoid the teaching of this text. It is a good thing to understand and know God. It is a good thing to desire and love what God calls good and abhor what God calls evil. It is a good thing ... Now ask yourself the question, “How will this good thing come to pass?”

**A. You take decisive action** ... you don't back away and do nothing. If you struggle, you figure out a plan, you take steps to implement the plan, but you know God must will it.

**B. You breathe your dependence on His grace** ... knowing that if you ever lose sight of the fact that every good and perfect thing comes from God, then God may not permit.

This is the principle behind the proverb “*Pride comes before a fall.*” All are always falling. God resists the proud and they fall, but He gives grace to the humble to stand.

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**C. You never get angry with those in moral failure** ... you show them their need.

This is how you can love your enemies and be kind to those who abuse you. You see that were it not for God permitting you to change, you would be worse than others.