*Chapter 6*

**The Four Easy Steps To Living In The Divine Will**

To prepare oneself for the approaching, breathtaking era of peace and the New Heavens and New Earth, it is fitting that we should explore the steps leading up to possession of the gift that admits us to these celestial realities. The gift of Living in the Divine Will not only prepares us for the bright future that awaits us, it enables us to partake of the future in the eternal now. Earlier I gave evidence to support the reception of this gift through the eternal mode that brings the past, present and future to a single point. Now, for all practical purposes, I show that it is quite simple to receive this gift through four easy steps. These steps are as follows: 1) desire; 2) knowledge; 3) growth in virtue; 4) life.

**Step 1: Desire**

In the approved writings of the Church’s mystics Jesus makes it abundantly clear that desire is the most important ingredient to enter into and to live in God’s Divine Will. Since it is ultimately the Holy Spirit that enables the human creature to desire and to correspond to God’s will, knowledge of his will occupies an ancillary role. Let us take for example the particular knowledge of Luisa Piccarreta’s writings on the Divine Will. While the knowledge of Luisa’s writings is valuable, it does not per se actualize the Divine Will in the soul of the human creature. One can glean from the magisterial documents that the Spirit of God actualizes his gifts in the soul of human creature. Certainly knowledge of the inspired writings of Luisa and other recent mystics occupies an important role in the penetration and development of God’s gifts, but without desire, such knowledge is of little or no value. It is only when the soul, literate or illiterate, learned or unlearned desires to live in God’s will that the entrance to the new mystical way has taken place. And as the soul more earnestly desires to live in God’s will, the more his will unfolds, where time and eternity unify in the sanctification of mankind and the entire cosmos. Living in the Divine Will is a mystical phenomenon that sometimes surpasses human sensory experience and eternally unifies the creature with the Creator. Jesus tells Luisa all that is required to obtain the gift of Living in the Divine Will is that the human creature offer its will entirely to God with a firm desire:

While I was thinking about the Holy Divine Will, my sweet Jesus said to me: “My daughter, to enter into My Will there are neither paths, nor doors, nor keys, because My Will is found everywhere. It runs beneath the feet, to the right and to the left, over the head, everywhere. The creature does nothing other than remove the pebble of her will… This is because the pebble of her will impedes My Will from flowing in her… If the soul removes the pebble of her will, in that same instant she flows in Me, and I in her. She finds all of My goods at her disposition: light, strength, help, and all that she wants. That is why there are neither paths, nor doors, nor keys. It is enough that she desires it, and everything is done!”537

**Step 2: Knowledge**

The particular knowledge we encounter in the writings of recent mystics on Living in the Divine Will attracts and disposes the human creature to a continuous, transforming union with God. Yet what directly motivates, actualizes, and perpetuates the human will in God’s will is the Holy Spirit, the sanctifier, who, attracted by our desire, “helps us in our weakness” by pleading in us “with sighs too deep for words.” I here recall St. Augustine’s teaching:

There is then within us a kind of instructed ignorance, instructed, that is, by the Spirit of God who helps our weakness… the Apostle said: “the Spirit helps us in our weakness; we do not know what it is right to pray for, but the Spirit himself pleads with sighs too deep for words. He who searches hearts knows what the Spirit means, for he pleads for the saints according to God’s will… he does it to enable you to know.538

Undoubtedly particular knowledge is an effective means to attract and dispose us to Live in the Divine Will, but the absence of such knowledge does keep us from experiencing this magnificent gift. And this is good news! By the power of the Holy Spirit who prays, sighs and pleads in the souls of the faithful, we can immediately receive the desire to obtain whatever gifts God wishes to grant us, in particular, the gift of the Divine Will. Now, the more we grow in the knowledge of God’s gifts, the more we can appreciate them, correspond to them and live them. In this sense, knowledge is an integral means and ingredient to Living in the Divine Will.

**Step 3: Virtue**

In order for the creature to “Live” in God’s Divine Will, that is to remain in it without ever leaving, the creature must perfect its desire continuously. To do this, it sets out to inform its mind with sound spiritual teaching that will foster a greater awareness of God’s will, which will, in turn, set its will ablaze with love for him and for all creation. As the creature draws continuous enlightenment from God’s revealed word, it seeks to prove its love in exchange for all that God has bestowed on it by continuous confirmations of desire. The creature confirms its desire through the development of the Christian virtues. Here we encounter the words of St. Hannibal di Francia, who captures the essential human ingredient for remaining in the Divine Will:

In order to form, with this new science, saints who may surpass those of the past, the new Saints must also have all the virtues, and in heroic degree, of ancient Saints – of the Confessors, of the Penitents, of the Martyrs, of the Anachorists, of the Virgins, etc.539

Jesus confirms this teaching to Venerable Conchita:

Once transformation into Jesus is brought about, the Holy Spirit also becomes the spirit of the creature raised to a more or less higher degree according to the intensity and amplitude of transformation, which strictly depends on the growth of the soul in virtue.540

Hence the more one develops the Christian virtues the more the Divine Will expands in that individual. Needless to say, this stability in virtue is grounded in a lifestyle of prayer and work, like that of the saints of old. A life of prayer may include a varied form of pious practices such as meditation, spiritual reading, discursive the entire cosmos. Living in the Divine Will is a mystical phenomenon that sometimes surpasses human sensory experience and eternally unifies the creature with the Creator. Jesus tells Luisa all that is required to obtain the gift of Living in the Divine Will is that the human creature offer its will entirely to God with a firm desire:

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As the creature exchanges love with its Creator, no sooner does it realize its awfully finite character of love, than it turns to its Creator to take from him his infinite love that embraces heaven and earth and every act of every creature in time and in eternity, in order to fuse itself within his divine and eternal being. In this way the creature and the Creator form one synergetic action in two distinct but inseparable wills. And if the human creature’s will remains free to break from God’s eternal will to commit sin, its stability in God’s divine virtue disposes it to refrain from doing so. The creature’s virtues, under the influence of the Holy Spirit, have faithfully reared and trained it to Live in the Divine Will with a continuous respect and with a holy fear.

**Step 4: Life**

The more the union of wills increases between Creator and creature, the more graces and wonders the creature discovers while advancing in unending degrees of holiness. The advancement in one single degree of holiness is a new life of grace that only eternity can fathom – so incredible is its achievement. It is the life of the blessed internalized on earth ordered to exponential growth. To Live in the Divine Will is to live eternity on earth, it is to mystically traverse the present laws of time and space, it is the human soul’s ability to simultaneously trilocate into the past, the present and the future, while influencing every act of every creature and fusing them in God’s eternal embrace! Initially most souls will often enter and exit the Divine Will until they arrive at stability in virtue. Yet it is this stability in divine virtue that will help them to participate continuously in the Divine Will, which defines Living in the Divine Will.

As for the date of our permanent entry in the Divine Will, though God seldom reveals this date to his creatures, he reassures us that at the moment when we possess a continuously ‘upright intention’ and ‘firm desire’ to live in his will, that is by all standards the most fitting day when we Live in the Divine Will. May we strive to live the greatest gift God has given humankind in these days preceding the universal era of peace. May we immerse ourselves in God’s eternal life in order to become Living Tabernacles of the Eucharistic Jesus. It is a gift that is ours for the asking, and all we have to do is desire it, know it, grow in its virtue, and live it.

537 Piccarreta, *Manuscripts,* February 16, 1921.

538 St. Augustine, From a letter to bishop Proba; *Liturgy of the Hours*, Vol. IV, p.430.

539 Letters of St. Hannibal to Luisa Piccarreta, letter n. 2.

540 Ibid., p. 230.