

Voluntarily Against My Will

I. Introduction and Definition

A. Voluntary words and expressions.

1. ^{#1635}: *unforced, voluntary, willing; of one's own will; of one's accord* (Rom. 8:20; 1st Cor. 9:17).
2. ^{#1595}: *voluntary* (Philem. 14).
3. ^{#1596}: *willingly* (Heb. 10:26; 1st Pet. 5:2).
4. ^{#4255} (in the heart) (2nd Cor. 9:7).
5. ^{#2431}_{Hapax}: *cheerful* (2nd Cor. 9:7). Latin *hilarus*. English *hilarious*.
6. μ ^{#4290}: of a ready mind; *willingly, with alacrity* (1st Pet. 5:2). μ ^{#4289} (Matt. 26:41; Mk. 14:38).

B. Involuntary words and expressions.

1. ^{#210}: *not of one's own will; unwillingly* (1st Cor. 9:17).
2. ^{#3077}: *sorrow, pain, grief* (2nd Cor. 9:7). [ALGNT](#)
3. ^{#318}: *necessity, calamity, distress* (1st Cor. 9:16; 2nd Cor. 9:7; Philem. 14). [Louw-Nida](#)
4. ^{#317}_{Hapax}: *by force, under compulsion* (1st Pet. 5:2).
5. ^{#315}: *to compel, force, constrain* (Matt. 14:22; Mk. 6:45; Lk. 14:23; Acts 26:11; 28:19; 2nd Cor. 12:11; Gal. 2:3,14; 6:12).
6. ^{#1163}: *to be under a necessity; must, ought, need* (Used 106x incl. Lk. 2:49).

C. Involuntary \neq Inviolable

1. Involuntary means "against someone's will."
2. Inviolable means "unable to be disobeyed" (unable to violate).

II. Development and Application

A. Either/Or versus Both/And

1. Grace Giving must be EITHER voluntary OR involuntary (2nd Cor. 9:7).
Giving voluntarily is rewardable.
2. Goodness must be EITHER voluntary OR involuntary (Philem. 14).
Voluntary goodness is rewardable.
3. Shepherding must be EITHER voluntary OR involuntary (1st Pet. 5:2).
Shepherding voluntarily is rewardable.
4. Evangelism is BOTH voluntary AND involuntary (1st Cor. 9:16,17).
 - a. The voluntary aspect is rewardable.
 - b. The involuntary aspect is the stewardship entrustment.

B. Involuntary service is developed as the "Have to-s" of the Christian Way of Life.

1. Jesus Christ "had to" go to the cross (Matt. 16:21; Mk. 8:31; Lk. 9:22).
2. Believers bearing witness under martyrdom "have to" communicate the Holy Spirit's message (Lk. 12:11-12).
 - a. Believers may not "want to" suffer martyrdom (Demas? 2nd Tim. 4:10).
 - b. Voluntarily submitting to involuntary martyrdom is rewardable (Rev. 2:13).
 - c. The involuntary martyrdom may be voluntarily disobeyed (Rev. 2:10b).
3. Believers "have to" celebrate and rejoice for a returned prodigal (Lk. 15:32).
 - a. Believers may not "want to" celebrate a returned prodigal (Lk. 15:28).
 - b. The involuntary celebration may be voluntarily disobeyed (Jon. 4:10,11).
4. Believer priests "have" to pray without ceasing (Lk. 18:1).
 - a. Believers may not "want to" pray.
 - b. The involuntary prayer obligation may be voluntarily disobeyed (1st Thess. 5:17).
5. The increases and decreases of ministries are "have to-s" in God the Father's sovereign plan (Jn. 3:30).
6. Experiential tribulations are "have to-s" in the Christian Way of Life (Acts 14:22).
7. Pleasing God the Father is a "have to" in the Christian Way of Life (1st Thess. 4:1).
 - a. Believers might "want to" please themselves instead of pleasing God.
 - b. Believers might voluntarily disobey the involuntary obligation to please God.

C. Voluntary service is developed as the “Want to-s” of the Christian Way of Life.

1. Jesus Christ “wanted to” go to the cross (Jn. 4:34; 8:29 cf. 8:44; 14:31).
2. Jesus Christ “wanted to” feed the multitudes (Matt. 15:32).
3. Sometimes a “want to” gives way to a “have to” (Matt. 23:37; Lk. 13:34).
4. Sometimes a “want to” gives way to circumstances beyond our control (Mk. 7:24; 1st Thess. 2:18).
5. Believers may experience a difference of opinion in the “want to-s” (Acts 15:37-38).
6. Sometimes a “want to” loses out to our carnality (Rom. 7:16,19,20,21).
7. Acceptable Christian service (grace giving) is according to what a believers “wants to” do (give) (2nd Cor. 9:7).
8. Acceptable Christian sacrifices include “doing good” and “sharing” (Heb. 13:16).
 - a. Doing what good? What do I have to do? What do I want to do?
 - b. Sharing what? What do I have to share? What do I want to share?

D. Biblical illustrations of the “Have to-s” and the “Want to-s.”

1. Moses (Ex. 3:10).
 - a. Come now, and I will send you (Ex. 3:10). Who am I? (Ex. 3:11)
 - b. I will be with you (Ex. 3:12). Who are you? (Ex. 3:13)
 - c. Go (Ex. 3:16ff.). What if they will not believe me? (Ex. 4:1). Here are some miracles (Ex. 4:2-9).
 - d. Please, Lord, I am not eloquent (Ex. 4:10). You are as I made you (Ex. 4:11-12).
 - e. Please, Lord, send somebody else (Ex. 4:13). (With anger) Aaron will go with you (Ex. 4:14-17).
 - f. Aaron’s encounter with the Lord was much shorter (Ex. 4:27).
2. Jonah.
3. Jeremiah (Jer. 20).
4. Jesus Christ “had to” be in His Father’s house (Lk. 2:49), and yet He returned to His father’s house (Lk. 2:50-52).

III. Summary and Conclusion

- A. “Want to-s” (Voluntary service) are rewardable and boastable.
- B. “Have to-s” (Involuntary service) are neither rewardable nor boastable.
- C. Voluntary service is still God’s work and not man’s (Phil. 2:13).
- D. Involuntary service still maintains expectations of obedience and consequences for disobedience (1st Cor. 9:16).