

Strong-Willed or Self-Willed?

by Cleveland Reddinger

The Lord needs **strong willed people**. In the book of Ezekiel he promised “*As an adamant harder than flint have I made thy forehead*” (3:9). Read the whole context in verses 5-9. God promised to make Ezekiel just as hardheaded as they were going to be, but in service to Him. Other examples of this would be Elijah the Prophet, John the Baptist and the Apostle Peter. Strong-willed folks are not going to be turned away from accomplishing their purpose. They are going to be tenacious in pursuing any goal they deem worthy of their time and effort. But here is the difference maker for today’s article: *The goal may not even be their idea!* Think of the offensive lineman on a football team. That is one of the most under appreciated positions on the team but he gives his all to move the ball down the field though he doesn’t even get to call the plays, the quarterback or the coach does! **For the Christian God calls the plays.**

The **self-willed person** though has to be doing only what **HE** wants to do, when **HE** wants to do it. It doesn’t matter that someone else came up with a better idea, if it’s not **HIS** idea he won’t give his effort. Diotrephes in **3 John 9** was a man like this. He had to be running the show even if it put him into direct conflict with an inspired Apostle! “*I wrote to the church, but Diotrephes, who loves to have the preeminence among them, does not receive us.*”

Don’t let yourself be this way! You **CAN** overcome it!

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