Ivy Baptist Church
Bible Study
Dr. Kevin G. Swann, Pastor
September 2, 2015
“I Will” by Thom Rainer
Part One: The Introduction

Goals for this series:
• As we strive for spiritual EXCELLENCE we MUST:
• Identify the personal and corporate things that impact our ability to do God’s will.
• Find solutions to overcoming those barriers that reduce our kingdom impact.
• Offer support for one another to move from “I might” to “I WILL!”

“I Will” Introduction Story
• The introduction opens with a woman named Heather who was divorced with 3 young children.
• Heather after her divorce (with Dan) had not been to church in almost four years.
• Dan and his new wife stayed at the home church, so Heather left.
• Truthfully, she was happy to leave, because she no longer enjoyed the church. She went from joy to dread at going to church.
• After 3+ years, she was feeling the “tug” to go back to church for herself and more importantly for her children.
• Heather had visited several churches, but at first didn’t fully like ANY of them.
• She saw the flaws in all of them and finally settled for (in her mind) a church that was the “best of the worse.”

Nine Ways Churches Drive Away First time Guests:
• 1. Unfriendly Church members.
• 2. Unsafe/Unclean Children’s Area
• 3. No place to get information
• 4. Bad Website
• 5. Poor Signage
• 6. Insider Church Language
• 7. Boring or bad service
• 8. Members telling guests they are sitting in their seats
• 9. Dirty facilities

It was at this point that Heather was reminded of a VERY IMPORTANT church point.
• It’s NOT what you want that’s most important in a church. What’s most important is WHAT YOU ARE WILLING TO DO.
• True church fulfillment comes in what you are willing to do, not what you want or expect from it!

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Heather’s Transformation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>She left a church that catered to her needs.</th>
<th>She realized her greatest joy was in serving, not receiving.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>She was looking for her new church to do the same. She was SELFISH AND MISERABLE.</td>
<td>She prayed for others in the church that had a selfish spirit.</td>
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<td>She became “comfortable” with being an “insider.”</td>
<td>She didn’t get burned out or frustrated when things didn’t go her way.</td>
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<td>Her greater priorities were herself and her kids. She had become a “church consumer”</td>
<td>Her attitude (I AM) matched her actions (I WILL)</td>
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- Heather’s Story is OUR Story and it underscores why so many in the church are miserable….the root of the misery is linked to SELFISHNESS.

Discussion Question (Philippians 2:1-11): What do these verses say should be the attitude/mindset and focus a believer?

Important Qualities needed for a believer based on Philippians 2:1-11:

- Be like minded (vs. 2)
- Have the same love for each other (vs. 2)
- Be of ONE accord/unity (vs. 2)
- Don’t do ANYTHING selfishly (vs. 3)
- In humility esteem others better than yourselves (vs. 3)
- Look after your own interests AND that of others (vs. 4)
- Have the same mindset as Christ (vs. 5)
- Christ was equal to God but made no reputation for Himself. (vs. 6)
- Christ took the form of a slave (vs. 7)
- Christ humbled Himself and obeyed God the Father to the point of DEATH (vs. 8)
- Because of Christ’s obedience, God ELEVATED Him to the highest place! (vs. 9-11)

Closing Points:

- Joy and selfishness don’t go together!
- The 4 core Values of Ivy is what leads to TRUE fulfillment and blessings as a church member!
- Love, Service, Hospitality and Excellence

What are you WILLING to for God and His kingdom?????