

If I Really Wanted To

If I wanted to, I could help make this church the most wide-awake and working church in all the world.

If I wanted to, I could visit members who are sick or homebound and find ways to help them.

If I wanted to, I could attend Bible classes and encourage others to do the same.

If I wanted to, I could show more devotion in worship and receive much more good from the service myself.

If I wanted to, I could profit more from the sermon by paying attention, and by not resenting the truth when it reveals some of my weaknesses.

If I wanted to, I could tell others about Christ and His church and lead them to Him.

Of course, this all depends on what I want to do. I have the ability. All I need is to really want to.

—author unknown

The Will of God

The will of God will never take you

Where the grace of God cannot keep you

Where the arms of God cannot support you

Where the riches of God cannot supply you

Where the power of God cannot provide for you.

The will of God will never take you
Where the Spirit of God cannot work through you
Where the wisdom of God cannot teach you
Where the army of God cannot protect you
Where the hands of God cannot mold you.

The will of God will never take you
Where the love of God cannot enfold you
Where the mercies of God cannot sustain you
Where the peace of God cannot calm your fears
Where the authority of God cannot rule you.

The will of God will never take you
Where the comfort of God cannot dry your tears
Where the word of God cannot feed you
Where the power of God cannot be done for you
Where the omnipresence of God cannot find you.

—author unknown

Just a Lot of Croaking

A local restaurant offered a contract to any supplier who could provide 10,000 frog legs every

month. A farmer from the next township eagerly accepted. When questioned as to whether or not he could really supply such a large number of frog legs, the farmer replied, "I have a pond on my property, and at night the frogs make so much noise that there must be at least a million of them."

A week later the farmer returned, looking rather sheepish, with only four legs. The farmer apologized, "Turns out there were only two frogs. But with all that croaking, I thought for sure there would be a lot more!"

Next time you hear someone criticizing the elders, the preacher, some members, or the church in general, remember this story. Now, it's true that gossip and grumbling are sinful things that can tear apart a church if they go unchecked. It's also true that people have to speak out against and work to fix real problems. But, at the same time, a lot of the loudest discord is probably being produced by not more than a few chronic grouches. Focus on the good, and get involved in the work, and you'll discover that you have no time left for complaining.

"Do all things without grumbling or disputing" (Phil. 2:14).

"Do not complain, brethren, against one another, so that you yourselves may not be judged" (James 5:19).

"Nor grumble, as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer" (1 Cor. 10:10).

"Be hospitable to one another without complaint" (1 Peter 4:9).

—John Guzzetta