

Opening Prayer

Holy God, bless us in our time together
so that we will be doing your will
in everything we do.

Help us to put aside our pride and ego
that seeks only what we want,
so that we can be filled with your Spirit
that leads us to want what you want.

Hear us in silence
as we center ourselves in you,
and ask you to guide us this evening...



will. Under no
circumstances will
God ever violate this
central citadel of
man's being.

The picture in the
book of Revelation
of Christ standing,

knocking, outside the closed door of the
human heart, I believe to be a literal
picture....

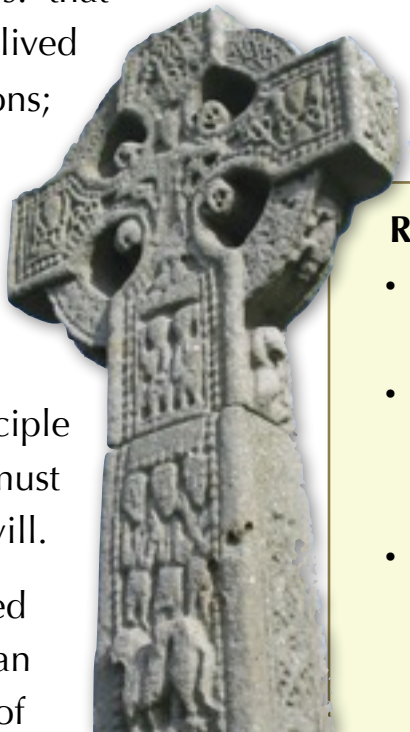
But the latch of the door is on the inside.
It is our voice that must invite Christ in.

Catherine Marshall, *Beyond Ourselves*

The secret is simply this: that
the Christian life must be lived
in the will, not the emotions;
that God regards the
decisions and choices of
the man himself--no
matter how contrary his
emotions may be.

Moreover, when this principle
is applied, the emotions must
always capitulate to the will.

At birth, as I have pointed
out, God gives each human
being the gift of freedom of



Reflection Questions:

- What thoughts stand out the most to you, and why?
- In what circumstances do we sense a conflict between our will and emotions in our lives?
- How does this passage speak to us about the issues facing us as leaders of the church?