

The song 'Have thine own way, Lord' has a truly meaningful message to us when we sing it. The first verse reads, 'Have thine own way, Lord; Have thine own way! Thou art the Potter, I am the clay. Mold me and make me, after thy will; while I am waiting, Yielded and still.' That last phrase, 'yielded and still' sort of haunts me sometimes. Can it be applied to our lives?

I remember not too many years ago, when I lived with my folks, I had to undergo periodic 'earchecks', in which one or the other of my parents tried to clean out the dirt from my ears. But I resisted strongly because it was painful, and because I did not really mind having dirt in my ears at that time. In the end I found that it was better to be 'yielded and still' so that they could finish the job. Similarly, the only way a doctor can perform surgery properly is if the patient is 'yielded and still'; this is why he is put to sleep. And, of course, the surgery is necessary to make the patient whole again.

God needs to perform radical surgery in man, for the heart of man is filled with sin and corruption which must be removed. Once again, this can't be done unless we are 'yielded and still'; unless we pause in the middle of the stream of life and as him to 'create in us a new heart' (Psalms 51:10). This surgery is referred to as a 'crucifixion' (Galatians 2:10, Romans 6:6). It is actually a continual process, for in 1 John 1:7 we read that 'If we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His son cleanses us from all sin!' Another couple of interesting scriptures are 2 Chronicles 30:8, 'Do not now be stiff-necked... but yield yourselves to the Lord', and Psalms 37:7, 'Be still before the Lord'.

Each one of us has something in our lives that God needs to change. Are we able to sit still while God performs the necessary operation? Or are we afraid of yielding or submitting to God in this way? The stillness can be terrifying if we have only ourselves to think about. But God can fill our lives and dwell in us if we just let Him.