

What is a Spiritual Will?

A "Spiritual Will" may be one of the most meaningful gifts you can leave to your family and friends. Designed to pass along your Christian values, life lessons, and blessing from one generation to the next, a Spiritual Will (sometimes referred to as an Ethical Will) is a document that traces its origins to Genesis 49:1-33, when a dying Jacob gathered his sons to offer them his blessing.

How do I write a Spiritual Will?

Writing a Spiritual Will may seem challenging at first; but if you view it as a "love letter" to your family, the process can be spiritually rich and deeply satisfying. Because a Spiritual Will is not a legal document, and is not made for the purpose of distributing assets, the content and form of the Spiritual Will is up to you. Having said that, there are three elements that most Spiritual Wills have in common. They are listed below for you, with suggested reflection questions to guide you through the process:

1. Beliefs and Values.

What do you believe about God? What is your view of marriage? What is your philosophy when it comes to raising and educating children? What are your convictions about church, discipleship, and outreach? What are your guiding principles for handling money? Are there other values you want to pass on to the next generation?

2. Life Lessons

What did you learn from your Grandparents? Parents? Siblings? Spouse? Children? Employer(s)? What were some of the defining moments of your life, and what did you learn from them? What experiences and people are you most grateful for? What were some of your greatest disappointments or regrets? What are the keys to developing Christ-like character?

3. Message of Hope

What are some of the most meaningful passages of Scripture to you? What do those verses mean to you, and how did they play out in your life? What principles do you hope will guide your family in the future? What message of hope and encouragement do you wish to leave to your family and friends? What did you most appreciate about your family and friends, and how did you grow closer to God because of them? What spiritual blessing do you want to give to your loved ones?

Although not a legal document, you may choose to include a Spiritual Will as part of your Estate Plan.

I am interested in developing or updating my Will and/or Estate Plan.

Name _____

Daytime Phone _____ Evening Phone _____

E-mail _____

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