Back in the 70s, local Baylor fraternity Kappa Omega Tau, won All-University Sing with an act called “Puppet Man,” which featured a popular 5th Dimension song by the same title. The hook line at the end of the chorus was, “If you wanna see me do my thing, pull my string.”

The 70s hit captured a very essential spiritual truth and that is that most human beings live like marionettes with strings attached to their culture and to their past and to certain authorities and to certain relationships. We’re controlled… this is our “state” and most of us on most days don’t even know it. We live habitually and mechanically. Occasionally we have an honest moment and can say with the Apostle Paul, “The things I want to do, I just can’t do and the things I don’t want to do, I just keep doing,” but more often than not, we don’t see the strings attached and that something or someone is pulling them.

And this will continue if we don’t wake up or “awaken” as Jesus said it. We’ll do life… we’ll do college… we’ll do the first weeks at Baylor on auto pilot going through the motions prescribed by who knows what (and typically we don’t know).

Or… we can awaken. We can learn to see the strings of culture and past and habit and emotion… and cut loose in order to be intentional. We can “mean to.” Mean to get organized… mean to study… mean to resist old habits. We can mean to... mean to.

God has created you with a yes and a no... with a will. And maturing as a human being involves awakening to this will. Who are you? What do you want? Whose are you? What might the longing of God be for you? These questions are central to human existence but have everything to do with what happens to you this very day. It’s about the whole of your life and it’s about what will happen tonight when you read your syllabus for tomorrow’s English class.

The interesting thing about will is that as you exercise this capacity in one area (say being disciplined to study Poly Sci), you’ll find that there is an impact on how you do other things. Intention in one part of life, seems to create it in another. Or as a teacher of mine says, “How you do anything is how you’ll do everything.” So studying well leads to eating well... eating well to sleeping well... sleeping to exercising... exercising to praying... praying to loving. How you do anything is how you’ll do everything. Intention, meaning to, creates a snowball effect in your life.

So... work with this during your first few weeks at Baylor. You have a will to discover and exercise. Try to feel it within you. Think of this (choosing to study well, for instance) as inner spiritual work, remembering your will is central to who you are as a Divine creation.

Experiment with this. Be intentional. Wake up. Mean to!!!