

DOING GOD'S WILL

John 7:17

(Not entirely original with me)

Introduction: Who wants to do God's will? Who is willing to do God's will? Those are two different questions with two different answers. To "want" to do God's will is no doubt something that every person considers, especially Christians. Ask any Christian "Do you want to do God's will?" The answer, of course, is always "Oh yes." However to want to do God's will is totally different than being "willing" to do God's will. Not everyone is "willing" to do God's will. Consider what is necessary to be "willing" to do God's will:

1. One must have total, complete, implicit confidence in God's character:

- An unwavering confidence that God is always perfectly right.
- That God is absolutely all-knowing (omniscient) and knows perfectly what He ought to will, or what upon the whole is best to be done.
- That God's will is for ever and unchangeably just what it ought to be.

2. One must have supreme love to God:

- No one or no thing is to be loved more than God.
- One must desire to do the will of God more than anything else in his/her life.

3. One must have a supreme regard to God's authority:

- It is one thing to desire to do God's will and another thing to be willing to do it.
- One must be willing to do God's will instead of one's own or that of any other person.

4. One must have a supreme desire/willingness to do or to be totally conformed to God's will:

- It requires a desire, a willingness to do and feel exactly right toward one's self and all other persons.

5. One must have an intense desire and willingness to do his/her utmost to glorify God:

- It requires being used totally in God's service.
- It requires to have every power, every moment, every thing, in and about one, totally devoted to the glorifying of God.
- It is God's will that one should do so.

6. One must have an intense desire to avoid whatever is displeasing or contrary to the will of God:

- It is a willingness to submit to any sacrifice rather than to displease God.
- If a person would not sacrifice his/her own life rather than knowingly displease God, he/she is not willing to do God's will.

7. One must have an intense desire to know the truth about all things:

- It is a desire to know the whole circle of truth around one's life, one's duty, one's influences, and God's will.
- If there is a single thing upon which one would be unwilling to know the truth about, then he/she is not willing to do God's will.

8. One must have no lust or idol to defend:

- To do the will of God requires one to renounce idolatry under every form and to cast off lust and all other earthly, fleshly desires to be wholly devoted to the will of God.

9. One must renounce his/her own will and have only God's will done in his/her life:

- It is the constant yielding of one's will to God.
- "Thy will - thy will - THY WILL, O God, be done..."

10. One must have no selfish interest to promote:

- There can be no desire or setting up some personal interest as one's goal.
- "Whether we eat or drink, or whatsoever we do.....is ONLY to promote "the glory of God..."

11. One must not have any appetite or passion to turn to or defend:

- No personal gratification of any respect, no appetite or passion to be indulged in for the sake of indulging is to be pursued.
- One's appetite were created to bring one closer to almighty God - whether one eats, drinks, sleeps, wakes, labors, rests, lies down, rises up, studies, prays, or preaches, whatever one does is to be a desire to do the will of God.

12. One must have no personal reputation to keep or defend:

- One can have no personal reputation of any value except that which is connected the doing the will of God.
- One must give up his/her own name to the will of God.

13. One must have no prejudices to blind the mind or harden the heart:

- Prejudice is making up one's mind before all the facts are known and to condemn someone before examining that person completely is prejudice and one cannot do the will of God while being prejudiced.
- It is throwing open the mind to light and truth and following God's will, no matter which direction it leads.

14. One must allow the love of truth and of God to be the ruling principle in his/her entire life:

- Meat, drink, life is to do the whole will of God.
- Knowledge of God's will has the power to influence and sway one's mind as God's will is obeyed.

15. One must be willing to be searched thoroughly for errors and practice habits by God:

- It is being grateful and willing to be searched and any fault pointed out which might stand in the way of one not being perfectly conformed to the will of God.

16. One must have the greatest abhorrence of giving anything over to Satan:

- None of one's influence, time, talents, property or anything whatever should be given over to Satan thus preventing one to do the will of God.

CONCLUSION:

1. It is one thing to SAY that one wants to do God's will but an entirely different matter to actually do God's will.
2. Few actually are willing to do what is necessary in their lives to actually live and do as God wills.
3. What is YOUR relationship with God? Are YOU really willing to do God's will? Are YOU willing to give up, take up, start up, what would be required of YOU to actually do God's will?