

# TO DO THE WILL OF THE FATHER



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## Foreword

*“Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.” (Mt 7:21)*

The verse above is quite astonishing to the writer since “doing the will of the Father” is actually a very important thing. This does not concern only with whether we will be blessed or not, but whether **we shall or shall not enter into the Kingdom of Heaven.**

From the writer's observation, there are today several opinions on what is meant by “doing the will of the Father”, and two of them are quite prominent:

**First**, that to do the will of the Father is similar with **to serve diligently.**

**Second**, that to do the will of the Father is **to do something big or great for the LORD God.**

Which of those two opinions is right? Or is there another opinion?

We need to study this issue together, because as it is mentioned above to do the will of the Father pertains to the Kingdom of Heaven.

Soli Deo Gloria,

The writer

## To Do the Will of the FATHER

One verse that clearly explains about doing the will of the Father is Matthew 7:21, in Jesus' sermon or teaching:

*“Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.”*

When we take notice of this verse, then *“doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven”* is very important as this pertains to whether **we shall or shall not enter into the Kingdom of Heaven**. Therefore we need to study closely what it means to do the will of the Father.

Today there are several opinions on what is meant by “to do the will of the Father”.

**First**, a lot of people think that to do the will of the Father is similar with **to serve diligently**.

When we read *The Purpose Driven Life*, such conception in the mind is discussed and backed up with arguments about why we exist in this world. God has a specific purpose for our lives, and one of its objectives is to serve Him. Therefore in this book we will discuss 25 ways how we can serve the Lord God.

**Second**, some people also say that to do the will of the Father is **to do something great for God**. Many Christians and even pastors who were inspired by several other ministers, such as William Booth, the founder of the Salvation Army, succeeded in establishing the organization. This institution has been phenomenal in its ministry and survives until today.

Max Lucado's book, *Cure for the Common Life* actually supports the second idea, which is to do something great for God.

Maybe a lot of people want to do something for God, either big or small. Anyway they want to do something for God, but they do not know what and how to do it. Max Lucado says, "Now find your sweet spot, which is your talent. Then use that talent to do some kind of God's work. Hence someday you'll be able to do something great for God."

That is why we see these days so many things done by the children of God. One of the striking phenomena is the increasing number of new Christian songs created. Why? Because some people say that they have the talent to create songs, so they want to compose outstanding hymns, great songs.

We also find many churches which have established theological schools or seminaries. Why? Because they think they own the funds, and have the resources, thus need to have theological schools too just like some other churches or Christian organizations.

Likewise, most of the churches today are competing or trying to put up a magnificent church building, a grand church building, a phenomenal one, and they also make great efforts to have a large congregation. And these attempts to do such great things are considered as doing the will of God, the Father, something that will please Him.

In order to do great things, they think that we should set high goals or targets in our lives, not just in business economics but also in spirituality.

Is that true?

Those are the occupations often devoted by man according to human presumption that such is the will of the Father. Let us review and compare the lives of some Bible characters.

### **Characters Who Served Diligently**

When we want to see Bible characters who served the Lord God diligently, we will find one of them was Moses. He had served God 40 years long to lead the people of Israel to the Land of Canaan. Moses was remarkably diligent and even bore a very heavy burden since the people of Israel was a stubborn people. Did Moses get some particular privilege from God? Yes, the LORD God spoke to Moses face to face, and Moses was given the opportunity to see the form of the LORD.

*Nu 12:8 “With him will I speak mouth to mouth, even apparently, and not in dark speeches; and the similitude of the LORD shall he behold: wherefore then were ye not afraid to speak against my servant Moses?”*

However, Moses was not allowed by God to enter into the Land of Canaan.

### **Characters Who Did Great Works**

When we talk about doing something great, something phenomenal, one of the Bible characters who had done this was Noah. For if Noah was not there to build the ark, today there would be no chickens in this world, let alone horses. However, if we observe deeper, did Noah ever aspire to make such a big ship? Not likely, because it was God's command to make the ark.

It was assumed that Noah did not live on the coast nor was he a fisherman, because after the water rose, then the ark rose. If his position was on the coast, when it rained the ark would immediately be lifted up.

*Ge 7:17 “And the flood was forty days upon the earth; **and the waters increased, and bare up the ark, and it was lift up above the earth.**”*

If he was a mountaineer, Noah might have never seen a boat, and if ever, it certainly was not an ark.

When we study the Bible, God blessed Noah and his family but there was no particular praise he received.

Another Bible character who also did great works was Solomon. He was the first one who constructed the Temple of God. And still another figure that did great works was Mary, for it was through Mary that Jesus was born into the world. The same question is: Did Mary ever aspire to be the mother of Jesus? Certainly not, because it was completely unthinkable. If we study the Bible, not much was told about Mary except the events concerning the birth of Jesus and the wedding feast at Cana.

### **David - Servant of God**

But when we talk about the characters whose lives pleased God, one of them was David. As we search the Bible there are a lot of expressions that say something like, “As My servant David.”

*1 Ki 14:8 “And rent the kingdom away from the house of David, and gave it thee: and yet thou hast not been **as my servant David**, who kept my commandments, and who followed me with all his heart, to do that only which was right in mine eyes.”*

When we consider the life of David, did he serve the LORD God so diligently? We do not clearly see it, and he had not done something great for God. David really wanted to build God’s temple, but God did not allow it. Did David aspire to become a king? This too was unlikely. However, he was one who’s life pleased God.

## **Abraham - Friend of God**

While David was called the “servant of God”, Abraham was called “the Friend of God”.

*Jas 2:23 “And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called ‘the Friend of God’”.*

Was there something great and prominent done by Abraham? Concerning Abraham, the Bible does not talk about his diligence, dexterity, the great thing he did, nor even any great aspiration which he seemed not to have.

## **Enoch - Taken by God**

Then there was also Enoch, the man who was taken by the LORD God. God translated Enoch without dying, though we do not see anything that stands out of his diligence, dexterity, some great works, nor of some great aspiration. Yet God took him away.

From the discussions above, we can say that "to do the will of the Father" is not linked to our diligence nor dexterity in our service, not even to the magnitude of our ministry. Hence, what is actually the will of the Father?



## The Will of the Father

*In 6:40 “And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day.”(KJV)*

*40 “And this is the will of Him who sent Me, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in Him may have everlasting life; and I will raise him up at the last day.” (NIV)*

So, what is the will of the Father? The will of the Father is **that everyone who sees the Son and believes in Him, may have everlasting (eternal) life**. The verse in both versions is very clear, *Who sees the Son and believes in Him*. This means that the will of the Father is for those who **keep** their eyes on the Son and **keep (continue)** believing in Him, may enter into the Kingdom of Heaven. That is the will of the Father!

God the Father which is in heaven wants everyone who knows the Lord Jesus His Son and believes in Him, receives eternal life.

So the will of the Father has nothing to do with serving diligently, dexterously, or performing some big things, or having great aspirations, except to reveal His purpose that those who **have received the Lord Jesus would be able to defend their faith, or stand firm in their faith until the end of their lives**, so that they may receive eternal life.

And if we connect this with Matthew 7:21, *“Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven,”*

then the verse could be explained like this:

*“Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that has received Jesus as Lord in his heart and keep on believing, and stand firm in his faith till the end, he shall enter into the kingdom of heaven.”*

Hence, are there people who have accepted the Lord Jesus, yet will not enter into heaven? Yes, there are. They are those who believe, even have received the Lord Jesus, but can not enter into the Kingdom of Heaven, as described in the parable of The Sower.

*Mt 13:3 “And he spake many things unto them in parables, saying, Behold, a sower went forth to sow;*

*4 And when he sowed, some seeds fell by the way side, and the fowls came and devoured them up:*

*5 Some fell upon stony places, where they had not much earth: and forthwith they sprung up, because they had no deepness of earth:*

*6 And when the sun was up, they were scorched; and because they had no root, they withered away.*

*7 And some fell among thorns; and the thorns sprung up, and choked them:*

*8 But other fell into good ground, and brought forth fruit, some an hundredfold, some sixtyfold, some thirtyfold.*

9 *Who hath ears to hear, let him hear.”*

18 *“Hear ye therefore the parable of the sower.*

19 *When any one heareth the word of the kingdom, and understandeth it not, then cometh the wicked one, and catcheth away that which was sown in his heart. This is he which received seed by the way side.*

20 *But he that received the seed into stony places, the same is he that heareth the word, and anon with joy receiveth it.*

21 *Yet hath he not root in himself, but dureth for a while: for when tribulation or persecution ariseth because of the word, by and by he is offended.*

22 *He also that received seed among the thorns is he that heareth the word; and the care of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, choke the word, and he becometh unfruitful.*

23 *But he that received seed into the good ground is he that heareth the word, and understandeth it; which also beareth fruit, and bringeth forth, some an hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.”*

**The parable above depicts 4 types of Christians:**

**First Type Christians:**

*Mt 13:4 And when he sowed, some seeds fell by the way side, and the fowls came and devoured them up.*

19 *When any one heareth the word of the kingdom, and understandeth it not, then cometh the wicked one, catcheth away that which was sown in his heart. This is he which received seed by the way side.*

The first type Christians are those **already evangelized, but they do not understand**. They may still go to church diligently and "assume themselves to be Christians", but actually they "**have not yet become Christians/children of God**". Some of them may be registered as Christians in their identity cards or even own a membership card in a particular church.

Some of them may have Christian parents, so automatically they will consider themselves Christians as well. People alike them have not been saved, since basically they have not yet made the decision to believe or put their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ as their personal Lord and Savior, according to what is written in Romans 10:9,

*“That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.”*

For how can one truly confess that Jesus is Lord if he does not understand who the Lord is and why Jesus is the Lord? Likewise, how can one believe that God has raised Jesus from the dead, if he does not understand the meaning of the resurrection of the dead?

### **Second Type Christians:**

*Mt. 13:5 Some fell upon stony places, where they had not much earth: and forthwith they sprung up, because they had no deepness of earth. 6*

*And when the sun was up, they were scorched; and because they had no root, they withered away.*

*20 But he that received the seed into stony places, the same is he that heareth the word, and anon with joy receiveth it.*

*21 Yet hath he not root in himself, but dureth for a while: for when tribulation or persecution ariseth because of the word, by and by he is offended.*

The second type Christians are those who after **being evangelized accept Jesus as their Lord and Savior**; yet **the foundation of their belief is very thin**, so their faith is not deeply rooted and grows for just a little while. Now when sufferings come their faith withers and dies. They do not nourish their faith in the right way!

Some of them may never or rarely go to church, read the Bible, pray, and seek the Lord who is the Living Water for their life of faith. Eventually their faith will soon wither and die for lack of living water.

*Jer 17:13 “O LORD, the hope of Israel, all that forsake thee shall be ashamed, and they that depart from me shall be written in the earth, because they have forsaken **the LORD, the fountain of living waters.**”*

*Lk 8:6 “And some fell upon a rock; and as soon as it was sprung up, **it withered away, because it lacked moisture.**”*

### **Third Type Christians**

*Mt 13:7 “And some fell among thorns; and the thorns sprung up, and choked them.”*

22 *“He also that received seed among the thorns is he that heareth the word; and the care of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, choke the word, and he becometh unfruitful.”*

*Lk 8:14 “And that which fell among thorns are they, which, when they have heard, go forth, and are choked with cares and riches and pleasures of this life, and bring no fruit to perfection.”*

The third type Christians are those who have received the Gospel and become children of God, but in their life they are disturbed by their feelings and various situations, such as:

**Worry:**

They worry because they do not believe in God’s power and provision.

*Mt 6:31 “Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed?”*

*32 For after all these things do the Gentiles seek: for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things.”*

*1 Pe 5:7 “Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.”*

They do not believe in God’s power and put more confidence in their own abilities and colleagues’ support. They rely more on their human mind or strength rather than God’s.

## **Wealth:**

Since they do not believe in God's power and provision, so they rely more upon their wealth. That is why they are very diligent in seeking and heaping up wealth, because they are convinced that wealth will maintain and secure their future. God's Children unlike them usually never pay their tithes. Whenever they do, they pay only some part, or for certain purposes, either to gain a good name or position and for a specific plan. They generally are also unwilling to help their relatives. The way they earn money still conforms to the world at large.

*Mt 6:24 "No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon."*

## **Living in the flesh:**

They are also children of God who indulge more in their debauchery and take pleasure in the flesh rather than obey God, deny themselves and take up the cross.

*Lk 9:23 And he said to them all, "if any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me."*

*Mt 13:7* quoted above explains that eventually this type of Christians will have their faith die out and turn away - "*and the thorns sprung up, and choked them.*"

Many Christians who in the end do not enter into heaven are indeed in accordance with what the Lord Jesus said, Mt 22:14 *“For many are called, but few are chosen.”*

### **Fourth Type Christians**

*Mt 13:8 “But other fell into good ground, and brought forth fruit, some an hundredfold, some sixtyfold, some thirtyfold.”*

*23 “But he that received seed into the good ground is he that heareth the word, and understandeth it; which also beareth fruit, and bringeth forth, some an hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.”*

*Lk 8:15 “But that on the good ground are they, which in an honest and good heart, having heard the word, keep it, and bring forth fruit with patience.”*

The fourth type Christians are those who not only receive the gospel, but also understand!

Why can they understand?

Because they have a genuine desire to know more about the word of God. So whenever they read it or hear it delivered, they absorb and digest it and store it in their hearts.

In addition, they are children of God who diligently do or practice God’s word in their life so as to bring forth or bear the fruit of the Spirit during their life.



*Gal 5:22 “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, 23 meekness, temperance.”*

Therefore, in the remaining time, we need to increase our understanding about the word of God so that we will not be shaken easily. And besides, we also have to undertake the Word seriously to bear fruit and experience living with God that will strengthen our faith. (Please read the book "*Fruit of the Spirit*".)

This condition was also confirmed by the Lord Jesus, that children of God who do not bear fruit will be cut off.

*Jn 15:2 Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit.*

### **It Is No Ministry**

Today many organizations, ministry institutions, and churches explain that doing the will of the Father is identical with ministry or servanthood. Ministry or servanthood is clearly described in Luke 10:38-42, the passage about Mary and Martha.

*Lk 10:38 “Now it came to pass, as they went, that he entered into a certain village: and a certain woman named Martha received him into her house.*

*39 And she had a sister called **Mary**, which also sat at Jesus' feet, and heard his word.,*

*40 but **Martha** was cumbered about much serving, and came to him, and said, 'Lord, dost thou not care that my sister hath left me to serve alone? Bid her therefore that she help me'."*

*41 And Jesus answered and said unto her, 'Martha, Martha, thou art careful and troubled about many things':*

*42 but one thing is needful: and **Mary** hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her."*

It is told that Marta was more focused on serving, while Mary had chosen the best part, and verses 39 and 42 describes what that best part is. **That best part is sitting at Jesus' feet and listen to His word.** So it is clear that the best thing is not the ministry but to be close to the Lord Jesus and listen to His word.

However, it does not mean we are not allowed to serve or should avoid ministering, because there were certain individuals who since the beginning were chosen by the Lord to serve or carry out tasks He had entrusted them:

*Jdg 13:7 "But he said unto me, Behold, thou shalt conceive, and bear a son; and now drink no wine nor strong drink, neither eat any unclean thing: for the child shall be a Nazarite to God from the womb to the day of his death."*

Likewise, the Bible commissions us to serve:

*Ro 12:11 "Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord."*

(Please read the book "*The Major Ministry*").

## The Fear of God

If we study the Bible characters like Abraham, Joseph, David, and some others, they all had one main characteristic, namely **they feared God**.

*Ge 22:12 "And he said, Lay not thine hand upon the lad, neither do thou any thing unto him: for now I know that **thou fearest God**, seeing thou hast not withheld thy son, thine only son from me."*

*Ge 42:18 "And Joseph said unto them the third day, This do, and live; **for I fear God**.*

*Ps 34:11 "Come, ye children, hearken unto me: I will teach you **the fear of the LORD!**"*

Even Job, whom the LORD God was most proud of, was thus described, "*the LORD said unto Satan, Hast thou considered my servant Job, that there is none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, **one that feareth God**, and escheweth evil?*" (Job 1:8).

Before Moses died, he gave his last counsels concerning the fear of the LORD God in Deuteronomy 10:12 "*And now, Israel, what doth the LORD thy God require of thee, **but to fear the LORD thy God**, to walk in all his ways, and to love him, and to serve the LORD thy God with all thy heart and with all thy soul.*"

If we use just the simplest language, then this was what Moses said, “And now, Israel, you should know that the LORD God wants only one thing, namely to fear the LORD your God.”

### **Even in the Early Churches**

Likewise was the lifestyle of the congregation in the early churches. They were built in the fear of God.

*Ac 9:31 “Then had **the churches** rest throughout all Judaea and Galilee and Samaria, and **were edified; and walking in the fear of the Lord, and in the comfort of the Holy Ghost, were multiplied.**”*

### **Cornelius and Paul**

Look at Cornelius, a centurion who pleased God and received God's revelation even though he was not a Jew:

*Ac 10:22 “And they said, ‘Cornelius the centurion, a just man, and one that **feareth God**, and of good report among all the nation of the Jews, was warned from God by an holy angel to send for thee into his house, and to hear words of thee.’”*

*35 “But in every nation he that **feareth him**, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him.”*

As we seek further, they who will receive God's grace and be blessed by Him are those who fear the LORD God :

*Lk 1:50 “And his mercy is on **them that fear him** from generation to generation.”*

*Ps 115:12 “The LORD hath been mindful of us: he will bless us; he will bless the house of Israel; he will bless the house of Aaron, 13 He will **bless them that fear the LORD**, both small and great.”*

In 2 Corinthians 5:11, Paul said, *“Since, then, we know what it is **to fear the Lord**, we try to persuade others. What we are is plain to God, and I hope it is also plain to your conscience”*. (NIV)

This means that Paul was among those who fear the LORD God, and taught or convinced people about these things. And in 2 Corinthians 7:1 he said, *“Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness **in the fear of God.**”*

### **People who enter into the Kingdom of Heaven**

Even as we search the book of Revelation, they who enter into the Kingdom of Heaven are those who fear the Lord.

*Rev 19:1 "And after these things I heard a great voice of much people in heaven, saying, Alleluia; Salvation, and glory, and honour, and power, unto the Lord our God,*

*5 And a voice came out of the throne, saying, Praise our God, all ye his servants, and ye **that fear him**, both small and great!"*

## **The Fear of God**

If we make this analogy, that to fear God is similar with to fear the police, what conditions can make us fear the police?

We can fear the police, if:

**First:** if we know for sure what the police is like, then we can fear the police, because not all clad in uniform are police. The army are in uniforms too, even some public organizations wear uniforms to be recognized, and so do security guards.

**Second:** people say we fear the police not only the personage but also all the signs and the rules made by the police. When there is a *police line*, for example, we will not pass through that line whether the police is or is not there. Therefore we need to learn and understand all the regulations concerning the police.

**Third:** obey. It is improbable for us to obey the police if we do not know what the police is like, moreover to obey if we do not understand the laws of the police.

Likewise, we can fear the LORD God only if we know Him, know His laws, and obey. So what should we do? We must diligently and earnestly listen to the Word of God and read (explore) the Bible more often, because about God and all His laws are in God's word, the Bible. Our opportunity to listen to sermons in the church may only be once or twice a week, that is why we need to increase our understanding of God and His laws by reading the Bible regularly.

Dante said something interesting like this, *“Reading the Bible through is indeed not the most significant indicator, however in accomplishing it shows our deep love for the Lord to get to know Him closer.”*

Indeed, reading the Bible does not guarantee that we would surely get to know God, but reading the Bible is the concrete manifestation of our love for God and our desire to know Him closer. Therefore, if we do not really like to read the Bible or have never read the Bible through from Genesis to Revelation, then we need to examine ourselves whether we truly love God. In fact, we need to check further: whether we are truly God's children.

### **To walk with God**

We know that Enoch was taken by God, as it is written in Ge 5:24,

*“And Enoch walked with God: and he was not; for God took him.”*

If we study the verse above, it would be obvious that the reason Enoch was taken away by God was that Enoch **walked with God**. What does it mean to walk with God? To walk with God is a level of conversant relationship between man and God based on the fear of God. It is unlikely for us to walk with someone if we do not know the person well or closely. To be able to walk with someone, we must know his/her habits, characters, and understand his/her personality. Thereby we would then be able to walk with that person. Likewise, it is impossible for us to walk with God if we do not know Him and His laws well. God really wants us to become His children who fear Him, nevertheless love to walk with Him as is stated in Psalms 25:14 *“The secret of the LORD is with them that fear him; and he will shew them his covenant.”* (KJV)

*“The Lord confides in those who fear him; he makes his covenant known to them.”* (NIV)

## **The Greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven**

Once the disciples asked the Lord Jesus, *“Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?”*

*Mt 18:1 “At the same time came the disciples unto Jesus, saying, Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?”*



*4 Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven.”*

Jesus answer shows that the greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven is not he who is most diligent, or owns the grandest work and ideals, but who is willing to humble himself and become as a little child, which means he who is ready to give up all his knowledge and ego, and just listen and study the Word, then obey it while fully believing and trusting in the Lord Jesus. They are the greatest. (Please read: “***Be Converted and Become As Little Children***”)

Just as Abraham was called "the Friend of God" and even became "the Father of All Who Believe" because of his faith and not because of any works or successes he achieved, so it is clear that only our faith that pleases God, as is written in Heb 11:6 “*But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.*”