

Doing the Will of God

By Rev F. A. Akinboye



It was the joy of our hearts to hear the rendition of the choristers which told us that *'God's own way is the best of all.'* It is God's own way that makes us live a life of joy, in which we fear no evil. It is the way of peace, the way of consolation, and the way of life eternal. If we want to know the will of God, He has not hidden it from us. He has revealed it clearly in the Holy Bible. When one does the will of God, he enjoys the blessings of God. In the Sunday School this morning, we learnt that God renewed His covenant with the Children of Israel. He asked Moses to come again to the top of the mountain with two tables of stone, on which God Himself rewrote His will, His commandments and His instructions, so that the Children of Israel might obey them. Doing so would give them joy, consolation, peace and a prosperous life. Most especially, obedience to the commandments of God, would make them prepare for Heaven.

Moses declared this law to the Children of Israel:

"Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD: "And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy Wright" (Deuteronomy 6:4, 5).

This is God's way. This is the best way. Moses summarised it all by letting them know that what the first to the fourth commandment meant, in brief, was that they should love the Lord their God with all their heart, with all their soul, and with all their might; just as God requires of us today, too. The second part starts from the fifth commandment to the tenth. It states briefly that they should love their neighbours as themselves. But this first commandment is the most important. If a person can surrender his body and soul to God to do the work of grace in his heart, to love God with all his heart and all his soul, it will be possible for him to keep the fifth commandment to the tenth, through the power of God which becomes his, when he embraces righteousness. We have many important points to note in this statement. God was speaking to the Jews in particular, and to the whole world in general. This same theme was what all the prophets had emphasised.

Doing the will of God was also very important in the lives of the overcomers. The heroes of faith prayed day and night, that God might fill them with power and might, so they would love God with all their heart, their mind, and their strength. As they continued in prayer, God answered them and they were successful. This same point was what Abraham clung to. At that time, the Law had not yet been given, it became known to him through the light of God that entered his heart. He obeyed all that God said with all his power and might, and he was victorious. Certainly, if we too believe today, if we hold on to the confession of our faith through the grace of God, we too will be victorious.

Let us read how Jesus answered the people during His lifetime.

'Master, which is the great commandment in the law?

**"Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.
"This is the first and great commandment" (Matthew 22:36-38).**

Before then, in Jesus' sermon on the mount, He had also told them this great commandment, but it seemed they did not understand. It is possible that we, too, do not know that this was what God was saying when we read Jesus' sermon on the mount.

"But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you" (Matthew 6:33).

It is very important for us to understand how to love God with all our heart. When we are seeking God, it is the Kingdom of God and His righteousness that we are seeking. It is when we seek the Kingdom of God, that all the blessings which God has promised will become ours. This is the will of God for us all.

"For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous" (1 John 5:3).

When we assemble together, we ought to place ourselves on the scale of God's Word, in order to know whether we truly love God or not. If it is true that we love God, we should keep His commandments. But if we are not able to keep His commandments, we should know that our love for God is not perfect. What is God's love? The text above tells us what it is: it is keeping His commandments. It takes the grace of God to keep His commandments; because we cannot keep them by ourselves. It is God Who gives us the power to keep them. It is the keeping of God's commandments that we emphasise as being the most important, in all our meetings, at all times.

Jesus was sacrificed on the Cross in order to give power to whoever wants to become a child of God. As God gave the people of old the enabling, likewise He does today. Our enabling today is greater by far than that of those of the old dispensation. In the dispensation of the Law, God ordained sacrifices through the shedding of the blood of lambs. The blood pointed to the Blood of Jesus

Christ, the Lamb of God. Who was to shed His Blood for our sins. As they offered the sacrifices in faith, God did the work of transformation in their hearts. The Blood of Jesus does the same today in our hearts. The Blood of Jesus has power over all things. The Word of God can cast down every high thing and every high imagination, and bring them into captivity to the obedience of God.

God declares to us that if we keep His commandments, there is great reward for us. Let us examine Psalm 19:7-11, to see some of the blessings that will accrue to us.

"The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple.

"The statutes of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes.

"The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring for ever: the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether.

"More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold: sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb.

"Moreover by them is thy servant warned: and in keeping of them there is great reward."

This Scripture tells us that the Law of the Lord is more desirable than much fine gold, and sweeter than honey, even the honey- comb. Marvelous are the things which the Word of God does for us, because we have the Law in our hearts. It gives us greater honour and riches than of the people who do not have God. That being so, when we have the privilege to pray, what every one of us should strive for, is to be at the centre of the will of God. What we should pray for mostly, is that God should make it possible for us to do what pleases Him everyday. If we do the will of God everyday, we shall be the most blessed in the whole world, because in keeping His Word there is great reward. When we do the will of God, we are blessed indeed.

"For the LORD God is a sun and shield: the LORD will give grace and glory: no good thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly" (Psalm 84:11).

The wordings of a song which we sang this morning *say:-*

*Fear Him, ye saints; and you will then
Have nothing else to fear:
Make you his service your delight,
Your wants shall be His care.*

Great benefits abound in keeping God's commandments. Let us remember the Scripture Reading this morning from Deuteronomy chapter 28, Moses reminded the Children of Israel that if they kept the Word of God, they would be the most blessed among all the people of the earth. God's promise to them was that if the enemy rose up against them one way, He would cause the enemies to flee before them seven ways. It was the power of God that surrounded them that would chase their enemies away. That is exactly how it is for those who believe God today. This is what the ministers of God explain to us from His Word every time, telling us of the benefits that we have in Him. What we should strive for is that we remain in the will of God, with the assurance that He will take care of the rest.

If a whole nation should remain in the righteousness of God, He would exalt her.

"Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people" (Proverbs 14:34).

The Bible tells us in another place:

"But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you" (Matthew 6:33).

Solomon had learnt the Word of God from David, his father. It is not all of us that have godly parents who teach us the Word of God, but God has given us Sunday school teachers, as well as ministers of the Word. We may be older than some of them, yet, God has made them watchmen to explain His Word to us, so that our lives would be prosperous, and when Jesus comes we would have the privilege to go with Him. The Word of God tells us to first seek God and His righteousness. It is only in the time of great crisis that we know how well we have allowed the Word in our heart. A time came for Solomon when his father passed away, and God installed him as king. His father had taught him all the things that we, too, have known today from the Word of God. God is rich, and He blesses. He is gracious and merciful, and He protects. If we belong to Him, He will protect us. He will deliver us from our enemies, and He will give us rest and victory. You just give Him all your heart.

When Solomon ascended the throne, the first thing he did was to go to Gibeon, where there was the altar to offer sacrifices to God. He called the judges, the priests and the people who assisted in the government at that time. Solomon was a young man, not older than nineteen or twenty years, at the time he ascended the throne. He offered more sacrifices than what anybody before him had done. This pleased God, because such a heart was in this young man. God showed His love to Solomon. After all, God has told us that He will honour the person who honours Him. God told him at night in a dream, **"Ask what I shall give thee."** What Solomon asked was very surprising; and God was pleased. What was uppermost in Solomon's heart was how he would not disappoint God at the post God put him. He knew that it was absolutely necessary for him to remain in God's will if he would not disappoint Him, and if the whole nation would not perish under him. He asked from God what was precious to him.

"And Solomon said, Thou hast skewed unto thy servant David my father great mercy, according as he walked before thee in truth, and in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart with thee; and thou hast kept for him this great kindness, that thou hast given him a son to sit on his throne, as it is this day.

"And now, O LORD my God, thou hast made thy servant king instead of David my father: and I am but a little child: I know not how to go out or come in.

"And thy servant is in the midst of thy people which thou hast chosen, a great people, that cannot be numbered nor counted for multitude.

"Give therefore thy servant an understanding heart to judge thy people, that I may discern between good and bad: for who is able to judge this thy so great a people?

"And the speech pleased the Lord, that Solomon had asked this thing.

"And God said unto him, Because thou hast asked this thing, and hast not asked for thyself long life; neither has asked riches for thyself, nor hast asked the life of thine enemies; but hast asked for thyself understanding to discern judgment;

"Behold, I have done according to thy words: lo, I have given thee a wise and an understanding heart; so that there was none like thee before thee, neither after thee shall any arise like unto thee.

"And I have also given thee that which thou hast not asked, both riches, and honour: so that there shall not be any among the kings like unto thee all thy days.

"And if thou wilt walk in my ways, to keep my statutes and my commandments, as thy father David did walk, then I will lengthen thy days" (1 Kings 3:6-14).

This important thing was what this young king did: he hearkened to the instructions of his father, he remembered them, he obeyed the Word of God, and thereby he prospered.

"Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you."

Our nation is in trouble and distress today. If you were given the privilege to ask God for something, what would you ask for? Many souls have perished, and many are in anxiety wondering what would befall them. But God has given you and me confidence in the Gospel. You came as a sinner, but when you repented, God saved your soul. May be you have

pressed forward, and God has sanctified you. So also, with the consecration which you made, God has endued you with the baptism of the Holy Ghost and fire. This is a great privilege. With these spiritual graces, God has made you a 'Solomon' for this country. In short, Solomon asked for the grace of God to help the people find the grace and mercy of God in the time of his reign. God gave him the answer to his prayer; He also gave him riches and honour which he did not ask for. If God gives me the opportunity to ask what I want this morning, **I** will ask Him to give me power and might to serve Him, be a mouthpiece for Him, and be able to propagate His Gospel. It is the same privilege which God gave to Solomon that He gives you and me today. Is it the desire of your heart that many souls be delivered from the curse of sin, that they may have the peace of God as you have? You ought to know that it is for this reason that God has brought you into the Gospel.

What do you pray for? Honour, riches or the world's possessions? Many people lost their possessions in the crisis that befell our nation recently. Many homes became destitute. But God spared you in His mercy so that you may be able to help others. Let us examine the Gospel according to Matthew 7:7, 8:

"Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you:

"For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocked it shall be opened."

Also, consider God's promise for us in James 1:5:

"If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him."

Hold fast this promise in your mind. Be assured that God will answer your prayer today. God Who helped Solomon in those days in the great task which He placed before him, will equally help you, and give you the wisdom and understanding to propagate the Gospel in this nation.