Letters on the Word

KEY TO BEING WITH GOD ETERNALLY

June 2012, Vol. 4, No. 1

Study Verses

I can of mine own self do nothing: as I hear, I judge: and my judgment is just; **because I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father** which hath sent me.
(John 5:30)

For I came down from heaven**, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me**.
(John 6:38)

Jesus answered and said unto him, **If a man love me, he will keep my words**: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him.
(John 14:23)
(Also John 14:21)

Our Heavenly Father is seeking to partner with the people He has created, and bring them into His family, **based on their choice of His will over their own** (John 14:23). The soul of a man (i.e., his will, emotions and thoughts) is admitted into eternity or receives eternal life with the Father when a man chooses to accept the will of God and give up his own; meaning he accepts the mind of Christ in exchange for his own – and begins to generate God-driven actions rather than man-driven actions. Each man's perfect, uncorrupted state is aligned with the will of the Father. God made man in his image and after his likeness (Genesis 1:26). The will of an image is identical to the will of the original, as you can prove to yourself in a mirror. However, when man starts to exercise his own will out of conformity with God's will, he moves away from being the exact image of God and thus from reflecting God's glory, and his soul begins to separate from the Father (Romans 3:23: For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God). He then needs to be saved to once again become the image of God, i.e., to come into alignment with God's will.

Jesus Christ came to give us the way to realign our wills with the will of the Father. The Father exists in eternity by exercise of His will. "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God" (John 1:1); i.e., in the beginning of time (as we know it) the Word already was in existence and after the end of time (as we know it) the Word will still be in existence and continue in existence (Matt 24:25; Mark 13:31; Luke 21:33 – Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away). The Word was God (John 1:1), and thus God or the Word does not pass away. God is a being who knows how to exist eternally – He does not pass away.

God does not pass away.
Mark 13:31

The will of God is done in heaven: "Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven" (Matthew 6:10). Giving up my will for His will grants me access to heaven – because in heaven, the will of God is done. As Jesus said: "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" (Matthew 7:21). **Access to heaven is based on doing the will of God** – it is not even based on doing wonderful works: "Many will say to me in that day Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? And in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity" (John 7:23) -- this means that doing works in His name outside of obedience to Him (i.e., out of His will) is considered as iniquity by Him.

Entering into heaven then, as wonderful as it is, must be understood in the context of eternity. Heaven itself will not last forever. Indeed, "heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass way." (Matthew 24:25; Mark 13:31; Luke 21:33). More than gaining me entry into heaven, exchanging my will for the will of God admits me into the family of God eternally. We enter into the eternal family (i.e., God's family) by doing His will. That is why Jesus said: "For whosoever shall do the will of my Father which is in heaven, the same is my **brother, and sister, and mother** (Matthew 15:20). Thus **the definition of a member of the family of God is someone who does the will of God.** Again, that is why Paul says that "as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God" (Romans 8:14). If one is led by the Spirit of God, that one is walking in the will of God, and is in obedience to God (i.e., he is the image of God).

Thus, if we are not led by the Spirit of God, we are walking in disobedience to God. "And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father" (Galatians 4:6). Note that based on Galatians 4:6 we get to call Him Father and be with him eternally as sons and daughters in His family by walking in obedience to His will – by the power of the Spirit of his Son (i.e., the Spirit he sends forth into our hearts when we believe in and receive his Son, Jesus Christ). That is why receiving Jesus Christ, i.e., believing in Him is the way we enter into eternal life. i.e., "For God so loved the world, that he gave His only begotten son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life" (John 3:16). "**But as many as received him, to them gave he <u>power</u> to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His name**" (John 1:12). From John 3:16 and John 1:12, we understand that when we believe in Jesus Christ or receive Jesus Christ as Lord of our lives, it is an expression of our desire to give up our wills for the Father's will (i.e., make Jesus, who only does the will of the Father, Lord of our lives); and God in turn gives us **power** (i.e., the Spirit of his Son) to become the sons of God, i.e., to walk in obedience to him, exchange our wills for his will on an ongoing basis, and thus become true sons of God (Matthew 15:20; Phil 2:12). In other words, we become born of the will of God: i.e., "Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God" (John 1:13). A spiritual rebirth.

Being born again is thus becoming born of (the will of) God, as John 1:13 tells us. Why is this so important? Because this is the key to entering into God's family; the key to being with God eternally**.** And even when heaven and earth pass away, we will still be with God in His family, because **God, the Word, will never pass away** (Mark 13:31). More than to go to heaven, my deepest desire is to be with God eternally: on earth now, in heaven, and beyond heaven -- eternally. Obedience to His will for me is therefore absolutely crucial, and it is all in following the leading of his Spirit (Romans 8:14).

PRAYER

Dear Heavenly Father, thank you for showing me that the key to being with you eternally is exchanging my will for yours and living in obedience to you. I come to you today through your Son Jesus Christ, who gave his life for me to have eternal life with you. I believe in your Son Jesus Christ. I receive Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior today, and in so doing, I receive the Spirit of your Son into my heart and thus the <u>power</u> to be your son: the <u>power to choose to do your will</u> on an ongoing basis. Today, I give up my will for your will. I am now born of the will of God. I am now in the family of God eternally. Thank you, Father, in Jesus name, Amen.