

# THE DISCIPLINES OF LIFE SERIES

DEVELOPING A LIFESTYLE THAT'S USABLE TO GOD

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THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

## THE DISCIPLINE OF DUTY

*A PRACTICAL SERIES ON CHRISTIAN DISCIPLINES  
AND HOW WE SHOULD BE LIVING IN THE WORLD AROUND US*

Week 31 of a 31 Week Series

SUBJECT TOPICALLY REFERENCED UNDER:

**Christianity 101, Faith, Discernment, Discipleship**

**Introduction to the Text;**

**Ephesians 6:6b**

**Matthew 28:18-20**

And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "**All authority** has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. **:19 Go therefore** and **make disciples** of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, **:20 teaching them to observe all things** that I have commanded you; and behold, I am with you always, even to the end of the world."

**Ephesians 6:6b**

"...doing the will of God from the heart,"

**DUTY**, n. - That which a person owes to another; that which a person is bound, by any natural, moral or legal obligation, to pay, do or perform acts of submission. The duty of every citizen or subject to his or her nation. The respect and kindness owed to parents. The fidelity of duty owed to a spouse. The reverence, obedience, prayer and lifestyle that is owed to God.

*"Duty, by its own definition*

*Is greater than situations and circumstances. Duty is to be done in the face of opposition, hardship, difficulties and troubles. Duty is devotion lived out."*

**What does it mean when we talk about the "Will of God?" and what do I mean by "Duty" when it comes to my Christianity?**

Duty is to Know

what's required of you and your responsibilities to do  
what you're called to do .

***“There cannot be a successful marriage, business, church or government unless the participants know what their role is in the concert of it all.”***

**1 Corinthians 10:31**

Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you **do, do** all to the glory of God.

**So Vital is the Will of God in Our Lives  
That Jesus Said...**

**Mark 3:33-35**

But He answered them, saying, **“Who is My mother, or My brothers?” :34** And He looked around in a circle at those who sat about Him, and said, **“Here are My mother and My brothers! :35 For whoever does the will of God is My brother and My sister and mother.”**

THE DISCIPLINE OF DUTY

**1.) Knowing the will of God**

**1a.) Causes us to recognize God's specific plan**

**ISRAEL WAS SPECIFICALLY CALLED BY GOD FOR HIS PURPOSES.**

**“ I h a v e t h i s p l a n f o r y o u r l i f e ”**

**Psalm 139:3**

You comprehend my path and my lying down,  
And are acquainted with all my ways.

**Romans 8:13-15**

For if you live according to the flesh you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. **:14** For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. **:15** For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, “Abba, Father.”

## DUTY – KNOWING THE WILL OF GOD

1b.) Causes us to **surrender** to God's Leadership

### Listen to His Style of Leadership

**Matthew 11:28-30**

**Come to Me**, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. :29 Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. :30 For My yoke *is* easy and My burden is light.”

**Psalm 32:8-10**

**I will instruct you** and teach you in the way you should go; I will guide you with My eye. :9 Do not be like the horse *or* like the mule, *Which* have no understanding, *Which* must be harnessed with bit and bridle, Else they will not come near you. :10 Many sorrows *shall be* to the wicked; But he who trusts in the LORD, mercy shall surround him.

Jesus Said to Others - -  
Come and Follow Me...

## DUTY – KNOWING THE WILL OF GOD

1c.) Causes us to **acknowledge** a more excellent way

### IMAGINE WITH ME

MOUNT SINAI QUAKING AND LIGHTNING FLASHING FROM HIS PEAK.

### IMAGINE WITH ME

WHEN JESUS RAISED LAZARUS FROM THE DEAD

### IMAGINE WITH ME

WHEN THE RAPTURE TAKES PLACE, WHAT WILL THAT BE LIKE

THIS IS NO CONTRADICTION HERE

**Ephesians 2:8-10**

For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; *it is* the gift of God, :9 not of **works**, lest anyone should boast. :10 For we are His **workmanship**, created in Christ Jesus for good **works**, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

### Psalm 1:1-3

Blessed *is* the man Who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, Nor stands in the path of sinners, Nor sits in the seat of the scornful; :2 But his delight *is* in the law of the LORD, And in His law he meditates day and night. :3 He shall be like a tree Planted by the rivers of water, That brings forth its fruit in its season, Whose leaf also shall not wither; And whatever he does shall prosper.

## THE DISCIPLINE OF DUTY

### 2.) **Desiring the will of God**

#### 2a.) **Is the evidence of our new life**

#### 1 Peter 2:1-2

Therefore, laying aside all malice, all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and all evil speaking, :2 as **newborn babes**, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby,

#### Colossians 3:1-4

If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. :2 Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. :3 For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. :4 When Christ *who is our life* appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.

#### Colossians 1:9-10

For this reason we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; :10 that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing *Him*, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God;

## DUTY: - DESIRING THE WILL OF GOD

#### 2b.) **Is the proof of the Holy Spirit's work**

**ASK YOURSELF IF THIS DOES IN FACT DEFINE YOU.**

### WHEN YOU 1<sup>ST</sup> GAVE YOUR HEART TO JESUS CHRIST

YOU SAT AND LISTENED AND GREW AND COULD NOT GET ENOUGH. THEN AS TIME WENT ON YOU BEGAN TO GET A BIT "MOTIVATED" AND THE CHOICE WAS YOURS TO BEGIN SERVING IN SOME WAY AND YOU EITHER OBEYED THE LORD OR DID NOT – HERE IS WHERE MOST CHRISTIANS FAIL. THEY GROW FAT AND CRITICAL – THEY BECOME UGLY BELIEVERS

### Acts 6:1-4

Now in those days, when *the number of* the disciples was multiplying, there arose a complaint against the Hebrews by the Hellenists, because their widows were neglected in the daily distribution. :2 Then the twelve summoned the multitude of the disciples and said, "It is not desirable that we should leave the word of God and serve tables. :3 Therefore, brethren, seek out from among you seven men of *good* reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business; :4 but we will give ourselves continually to prayer and to the ministry of the word."

### Acts 13:2-4

As they ministered to the Lord and fasted, the Holy Spirit said, "Now separate to Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." :3 Then, having fasted and prayed, and laid hands on them, they sent *them* away. :4 So, being sent out by the Holy Spirit,

**This is the proof of the Holy Spirit's work**

**DUTY: - DESIRING THE WILL OF GOD**

**2c.) Is the birthmark of every true believer**

### John 10:4-5

And when he brings out his own sheep, he goes before them; and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. :5 Yet they will by no means follow a stranger, but will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers."

**Ya Wanna See a Man in the Act of an Awakening?**

### John 3:1-8

There was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. :2 This man came to Jesus by night and said to Him, "Rabbi, we know that You are a teacher come from God; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him." :3 Jesus answered and said to him, "**Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.**" :4 Nicodemus said to Him, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?" :5 Jesus answered, "**Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. :6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. :7 Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.'** :8 The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit."

### 1 Peter 1:22-23

Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart, :23 having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever,

## THE DISCIPLINE OF DUTY

### 3.) Doing the will of God

#### 3a.) Means that I am now willing to follow Him

##### Psalm 23:1-6

The LORD *is* my shepherd; I shall not want. :2 He makes me to lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside the still waters. :3 He restores my soul; He leads me in the paths of righteousness For His name's sake. :4 Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; For You *are* with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me. :5 You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You anoint my head with oil; My cup runs over. :6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me All the days of my life; And I will dwell in the house of the LORD Forever.

##### John 12:25-26

He who loves his life will lose it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. :26 If anyone serves Me, let him follow Me; and where I am, there My servant will be also. If anyone serves Me, him My Father will honor.

#### 3b.) Means that I am now obedient to His word

##### The Positive

##### Psalm 119:105

Your word *is* a lamp to my feet And a light to my path.

##### The Negative

##### 1 Samuel 15:22

But Samuel replied: "Does the LORD delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as much as in obeying the voice of the LORD? To obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed is better than the fat of rams. :23 For rebellion is like the sin of divination, and arrogance like the evil of idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the LORD, he has rejected you

# DUTY: - DOING THE WILL OF GOD

**3c.) Means that I am now expecting great things**

**We Have “Divine Support” from Heaven to Help us Do God’s Will**

**Romans 8:26**

Likewise the Holy Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. :27 Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit *is*, because He makes intercession for the saints according to *the will of God*.

**Christian, Listen to Me;**

**Nestled In and Around God’s Perfect Will for Your Life  
is a Life-Time of Challenges.**

## **A Question for us All**

How Many of You Would Like to See **Jerusalem?** – what  
about **Rome** ?

(of course and why not? Sounds great)

**Here’s a Text - Acts 23:11**

But the following night the Lord stood by him and said, “**Be of good cheer, Paul; for as you have testified for Me in Jerusalem, so you must also bear witness at Rome.**”

**Here’s The Context - Acts 23:10-12**

Now when there arose a great dissension, the commander, fearing lest Paul might be pulled to pieces by them, commanded the soldiers to go down and take him by force from among them, and bring *him* into the barracks. :11 But the following night the Lord stood by him and said, “**Be of good cheer, Paul; for as you have testified for Me in Jerusalem, so you must also bear witness at Rome.**” :12 And when it was day, some of the Jews banded together and bound themselves under an oath, saying that they would neither eat nor drink till they had killed Paul.

**The Discipline of Duty Says**

**“I’m staying true to my walk with God above all other things.  
there is no woman, man, job, education, place or thing that will be  
greater than my relationship to God.**

### Philippians 3:8-10

Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ :9 and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which *is* from the law, but that which *is* through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith; :10 that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death,

**Here, we must end (or begin) this series  
and it ends with the Will of God **for** Our lives.**

### 1 Corinthians 1:1

(1) Paul, (2) called to be (3) an **apostle** of Jesus Christ  
(4) **through the will of God,**

### 1 Chino Hills 1:1

(1) Jack, (2) called to be (3) a **pastor** of Jesus Christ  
(4) **through the will of God,**

### 1 Anaheim 1:1

(1) Mike, (2) called to be (3) an **engineer** of Jesus Christ  
(4) **through the will of God,**

### 1 Diamond Bar 1:1

(1) Cathy (2) called to be (3) a **school teacher** of Jesus Christ  
(4) **through the will of God,**

**It means this; that you go forth tonight  
To live, say and do what causes God to be happy.**

**To live in a God-honoring way, every day, all day, day to day,  
until the day**

### Daniel 11:32

Those who do wickedly against the covenant he shall corrupt with flattery; but the people who know their God shall be strong, and carry out *great exploits*.

————— *End of Study* —————