

## Lesson 64

### 10.15. God's Will for the Church

- What does God want from you as a member of the Body of Christ and the Church? God's will touches every area of our lives, not in the form of a list of rules, but rather, in the form of principles.

⇒ **Galatians 5:16;**     *'Walk in the Spirit...'*

⇒ **Galatians 5:25;**     *'If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.'*

- From an early age, we learn and adopt a mentality within the Church that we should only worship God on Sundays. *'Oh, I go to all every Sunday morning, afternoon, and evening services. I make a few visits. Monday is when my life begins.'* Sunday is my life with God, and Monday through Saturday is my life with myself. Is that what God expects of us? Is that why God created humans? No, it is not. After his resurrection, Jesus left the Church as *'witnesses'* when he went to heaven.

⇒ **Acts 1:8;**             *'And you shall be witnesses...'*

- The world must see God's people witnessing to the things of God 24 hours a day. At all times and in all places – at home, at work, and in our leisure time – we can (*and must*) bear witness to God. We are free people, and we must accept Jesus as the one true Lord of our lives. Anything that prevents us from having full communion with God and being witnesses of Jesus becomes our *'lord'* and brings *'burden and yoke'* to our lives. Jesus said:

⇒ **Matthew 11:28–30**

- *'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. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.'* Do you know what a yoke is? Have you ever seen the yoke placed on two oxen to pull something? Where one goes, the other follows. The yoke of the world – the things the world imposes on us – is hard and weighs us down. However, Jesus' yoke is easy. Walking with Jesus wherever he goes does not weigh us down; rather, it is easy and light. Where does walking with Jesus take me?

⇒ **Psalms 23;**             *'He makes me lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside the still waters. He restores my soul.'*

⇒ **John 10:9;**             *'I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture.'*

*'My yoke is easy, and My burden is light.'* How good it is to take off the heavy burden of the world and take up the yoke of Jesus! We need to learn to carry the yoke of Jesus.

- Do you remember the Law? It had 613 commandments governing all areas of the Israelites' lives. It manifested God's will for that time. How is God's will brought to us today? Through His Word. How do we walk in that will? Do we check the Bible every time to see how to act? We study God's Word, but His will must come in the form of principles.

It's like comparing a child to an adult. You have to tell a child to do everything: brush their teeth before bedtime, change their clothes, and so on. When that same child grows up, everything becomes automatic. If they were well guided and educated, they won't even have to think about it; the action will be automatic.

- The law given to the Israelites still applies to us today, except we now follow it based on principles rather than ordinances. We do this because the Holy Spirit dwells in us. If the Holy Spirit is present in your life, God's law will become second nature to you. What was once *'boring and hard'* will become a joyful practice, and you will begin to dislike and abandon everything that does not please God *'and is not good for your life'*. It will feel good and become natural to you. Then, you will begin to walk in the ways of God. If you tell a lie, it bothers you. Then, you repent and return to God's principles. The more you allow God's Word to lead you, the easier it will be to follow God's principles.
- When you used to look at God's people, you would think, *'What an old-fashioned, boring bunch. How dull.'* Then, once you're inside, you begin to realize that it's a wonderful life and a *'wonderful adventure.'* Working for Jesus and being under his yoke is not tiring.
- Where can you learn about God's will for our time in an objective and practical way? *'Because in order to walk in God's will, we must know it'*. For the Church, God's will is clearly written in the New Testament epistles, from Romans to Jude. In these letters, mainly through the Apostle Paul and the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, we learn how the Church, as individuals and as an organization, should conduct itself in this world. However, Romans also says:

⇒ **Romans 15:4;**      *'For whatever things were written before were written for our learning.'*

When you read about how God dealt with the nation of Israel in its history, you will see that it is the same way God deals with each individual in the Church. Generally speaking, what happened to that nation serves as an example of how God deals with each person He saves – it is our example. This is why *'everything that was written in the past was written to teach us.'*

- God always reveals himself to his people in three areas: Government, the Word, and Worship. In other words, when God reveals His will for a particular time period, He tells His people how to Govern their (*material*) possessions, how to Transmit His Word, and how to Worship Him.
- So, you start studying Romans and begin to understand God's will in three areas. However, when you look at your life and my life, you see that we both want to do God's will and have learned how to do so. We are unable to fulfill it. Do you remember the law? Were people able to keep the law? As we have studied, the law is the portrait of God. No one could fulfill the law except Jesus, and it is still the same today. However, we have a resource that the Israelites did not: God Himself dwells in us. Everyone who is born again has the Holy Spirit dwelling in their spirit. Therefore, only God's supernatural action in us enables us to fulfill His will, and this is possible only by His grace.

## 10.16. Grace, the only way to fulfill God's will.

- God's grace is power. It is not a blessing or influence from God. Rather, God's grace is an attribute of God that covers us. Why is it called 'God's grace'? It is the attribute by which God relates to a sinful race. It is this attribute that allows God to come to us and empower us. Without God's grace, I cannot live the Christian life God intends for me.

⇒ **John 10:10;**      *'I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.'*

- Walk as Jesus walked on earth. Jesus needed grace, and if he needed it, how much more do we? We are following in Jesus' footsteps. Jesus needed the anointing of the Holy Spirit, and so do we. Jesus received God's grace, and so do we. How did Jesus receive God's grace? He spent one-third of his life in prayer before the Father. When Jesus appeared before the crowds, miracles happened.
- A life of prayer before the Father involves spending hours in God's presence, which replenishes grace. Grace is God's power within us, enabling us to do His will. How can I perform the works that Jesus did? Through God's grace. How can I receive this grace from God? Through a life of prayer and communion with God.

⇒ **Hebrews 4:16**

- It is literally like electricity; receiving God's grace is like '*charging a battery*.' We don't need to spend hours praying; five minutes is enough, as long as it is sincere and intentional: '*Lord, I am here because I understand and want to receive this grace. I want your empowerment because I have nothing to offer.*' Those who humble themselves before God are the greatest candidates to receive His grace.

⇒ **James 4:4~8**

- God's grace only fills the humble. Do you know what it means to be humble before God? It's not walking around in rags with a sad face—that's just '*theater*.' Being humble before God means practicing the greatest truth on earth and recognizing that you cannot do God's works or follow God's will on your own. You may be great at your job – a great actor or painter, for example – but we do not have the ability within us to carry out God's will, which is to walk as Jesus walked.

⇒ **Acts 3:6;**      Which college or university empowers us to accomplish what God did through Peter?

⇒ **John 14:12;**      *'Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do'...*

- Jesus lived by grace and needed God's grace. If we want to perform the same works, we must be filled with that same grace. In order to receive that grace, however, we must arrive at the '*throne of grace*,' and the path that leads us there is a life of sincere prayer.

⇒ **2 Corinthians 3:18;**      *'Beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord'.*

- Here, the Bible shows us the path we are walking. We cannot stop because we are being transformed from glory to glory, reflecting that glory like a mirror. This can only come from God. Do you know what that means? The world should see Jesus reflected through those who belong to the Church, rather than seeing the person themselves. After a while, I will see the same person and see Jesus more clearly in their life.
- That is why we are here: so that the world can witness this transformation from glory to glory. It is a process. People say, 'Look how he or she is changing!' This is God's goal for us as the Church today. We must be transformed into the image of Jesus Christ every day. This is a practice; it cannot simply be a speech. My life tomorrow must be better than yesterday; it must be more like Jesus. In order for God to reflect the character of Jesus in us, we must be with him.
- Do you understand the practical truth of this passage? We are born again to regain this image. Jesus Christ is the model of the perfect man, and we should strive to be like him.

⇒ **Proverbs 4:18**

I don't have the ability to change my life on my own. It's the Holy Spirit that enables me to do so.

⇒ **1 John 2:6;**      *'He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked.'*

⇒ **Luke 22:42;**      *'Father ... nevertheless not My will, but Yours, be done.'*

- God's ultimate will for the Church is revealed in this passage. We must study the Gospels and follow Jesus' example. Jesus walked on earth in the fullness of God's will and was moved by God's grace.
- This is how the Church must walk: each individual must use their gifts in their private lives. From the moment we wake up, we must expose ourselves to God's grace. Get up singing for victory – victory in everything – this must be the goal of our lives. Walk as Jesus walked and live on earth as he did. Jesus came to destroy the works of the devil, and we are here to undo what the devil has done. The Church is God's channel on earth today. The Church is me, so I must live with the awareness that I am God's channel here on earth. This is God's will for our time.
- How am I living? What is my life's purpose? Where am I spending all my energy? It's true that we have to work to support ourselves, but what is my heart's desire? What is the primary objective of my life?

⇒ **Matthew 6:19–21 and 33**

- I want to walk as Jesus walked, but I don't have the ability to do so. We must be aware of this and recognize that we need God's grace. When we open ourselves up to God, he fills us with his grace.

⇒ **2 Corinthians 12:9–10**; *'My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness... For when I am weak, then I am strong.'*

Recognizing my weakness means acknowledging that I don't have the capacity to be what God wants me to be. Isn't that a relief? All God wants to do in us is say, *'Look, Father, I have nothing in me. Fill me with your grace.'* He knows the areas in which we need empowerment, and he will pour out his grace. God would not send anyone to walk as Jesus walked without providing the necessary empowerment. What's missing is our belief in this and our willingness to embrace it. Only then will we begin to walk as spiritual adults under God's principles.

⇒ **1 Corinthians 15:48**

- Before accepting Jesus into my life, I was purely natural in body, soul, and spirit. Now that I have the heavenly man as my model and his spirit dwelling in me, God's will is for me to become like him. The Church exists on earth for this very reason: to show the world people transformed into the image of Jesus Christ.

⇒ **Romans 6:11–23**

- It is only possible to walk this path when we have an intimate relationship with God. Every day, kneel in your room, read the Bible, and pray. If this is difficult at first, ask God to pour out his grace upon you. Start putting this into practice, and you will see a change in your life.