

Desiring the will of God

Under the Old Covenant, salvation was only available for the Jews by the work of the Highest Priest. Under the New Covenant salvation is available for all people by the work of the Highest Priest—Jesus. Today, *nobody* should look to the Old Covenant for salvation.

The flesh and blood of Jesus *IS* the only door to the Spirit, and His spirit/will of man as the Word is the doorway of eternal life. Jesus said: **I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture.** *John 10:9*. There is no other way to heaven, but through Him. **Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that entereth not by the door into the sheepfold, but climbeth up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber.** *John 10:1*. However, only the Father determines who He will draw (“call”) to Jesus. **No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day.** *John 6:44*. Please note, the Father’s “choice” of whom He will draw to Jesus is *not* an exclusionary selection process. **...Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons:** *Acts 10:34*.

We are drawn to Jesus if and only if we desire to live by the will of God including His Word. The Word of God is the spirit/will of Jesus the man, AND the Spirit/will of God for all mankind. In fact, nobody will enter the kingdom of God as part of the royal family of God without *doing* His will from the heart. **For whosoever shall do the will of my Father which is in heaven, the same is my brother, and sister, and mother.** *Matthew 12:50 (Emphasis added)*; see also *Mark 3:35*. By desiring the will of God out of a sincere heart, we are drawn to Jesus and “hear” the Word—by doing it we come to know the Father! **My mother and my brethren are these which hear the word of God, and do it.** *Luke 8:21*. His terms for understanding the doctrine of the Father are clear, do *His will*. **Jesus answered them, and said, My doctrine is not mine, but his that sent me. If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself.** *John 7:17*. Moreover, if anyone chooses not to humble themselves and receive the kingdom of God as a little child, they exclude *themselves* from His kingdom. **Verily I say unto you, Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child, he shall not enter therein.** *Mark 10:15*.

Man may live (or die) by the Word/will of God.

His will begins with believing His son—the Word as God! *John 1:1*. Everything Paul wrote is also the Word. As to Paul, formerly named Saul, Jesus said he was a “chosen vessel”. **...But the Lord said unto him, Go thy way: for he is a chosen vessel unto me, to bear my name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel: For I will shew him how great things he must suffer for my name’s sake.** *Acts 9:15-16. (Emphasis added)*. Jesus specifically chose Paul (Saul) to help pen the Word. **If any man think himself to be a prophet, or spiritual,**

let him acknowledge that the things that I write unto you are the commandments of the Lord. 1 Corinthians 14:37.

Paul said we are “saved” by grace *through faith* and *not of works*. **For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast. Ephesians 2:8-9.** “Not of works” means we cannot do anything to earn salvation, and yet the phrase does not mean there is nothing to do. **For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also. James 2:26.**

As to faith, there can be no faith in something that has already happened and becomes a fact. For example, the death of Christ on the cross is a fact of human history. There can be no faith in the fact He died on the cross AND was raised from the dead by the Holy Ghost three (3) days later as witnessed by more than five hundred (500) people *1 Corinthians 15:3-8*, because there is nothing “undone.” We then must believe that His death was a sufficient sacrifice for sins, *according to the Word of God*, as explained in detail previously. This belief is also not faith because the truth (force) of God’s Word does not depend on our belief in it. By comparison, faith is living according to the Word in hope for the “undone” including our own salvation. **For we are saved by hope: but hope that is seen is not hope: for what a man seeth, why doth he yet hope for? Romans 8:24.**

Faith manifests as belief *put into action*. Stated another way, the actions we do in belief are the workings of faith needed for salvation. **Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works. James 2:18.** Therefore, faith itself *is* the evidence of things we have not seen. **Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. Hebrews 11:1.** Faith for salvation works by love from our heart. **For in Jesus Christ neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision; but faith which worketh by love. Galatians 5:6 (Emphasis added).** Our heart is the place we desire the will of God by His Son—the pure Word in Spirit as God’s will for all mankind. (In *Hebrews 11:1* above, the term “circumcision” is a fleshly term referring to the Jews, and “uncircumcision” refers to non-Jews.)

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