

## Obeying God

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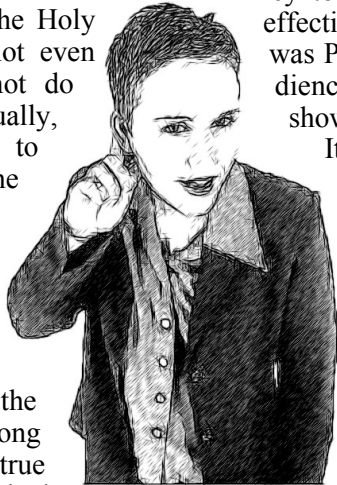
desire to change. Some do heed God's encouragement to get them to do His will. Unfortunately, too many ignore it.

The encouraging of the Holy Spirit of God is soon not even listened to. They did not do God's will, and eventually, because they chose not to obey it, the "voice" of the Holy Spirit no longer "speaks" to them. They never get used of God, because they have chosen not to obey Him.

Paul, ignored the "pricks" (Acts 9:5) of the Holy Spirit for a long time. He ignored God's true calling for him as he watched his acquaintances kill the first martyr for Christ. Paul closed his ears to the cries and pleas of the Christians he had killed and persecuted. One day, however, God's will was clear to Paul. He clearly heard the voice of the Son of God on the Damascus road, and he obeyed what Jesus told him to do. His life was different after that decision; and the world has never been the same, because of his obedience.

God's will for each and every one of us is to do something for Him. This sadly, does not happen in too many cases. Many get

saved. Some obey for awhile. God has great plans to use them; but because of some act of disobedience, they never get used in the way God intended. The whole key to ever being used effectively by God, as was Paul, is one's obedience to what we are shown to do.



It is God's will that all that are saved serve Him. It is not His will that we disobey Him by putting off or ignoring what He has placed in our hearts to do. We can also have effective

lives for the cause of Christ; if we, too, will obey what is God's will for our lives!

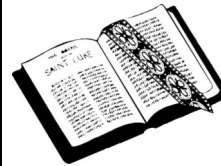
***"Ye shall walk after the LORD your God, and fear him, and keep his commandments, and obey his voice, and ye shall serve him, and cleave unto him."***

*Deut. 13:4*

*Would you like to read a little of the New Testament everyday and learn something from it? Sign-up for the Daily View. A link will be e-mailed to you each day, so you can read a portion of the New Testament, and learn a principle taught in the days reading. Sign-up at:*

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# The Bible View



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Vol.: 442

## Is It My Life?

*Bill Brinkworth*

***"Is it not lawful for me to do what I will with mine own? Is thine eye evil, because I am good?" Matthew 20:15***

Does a Christian have the right to do whatever he wants with his life? According, to God's Word, no!



The context in Matthew 20 is the millennial reign when Christ rules this earth for 1,000 years. It is giving one another idea of what will happen during that time, and how some will be rewarded. In Jesus' illustration, he told of how workers starting at different times of the day got paid what the master thought was fair. They got paid the same, no matter if they worked 10 hours or one hour. The "boss" was doing the hiring, and all agreed to work for what he offered them. The whole point of the illustration

was to teach that the master was the one in charge, and it was by his rules they had to abide.

Although Matthew 20:15 was the reply of the landowner that was doing the hiring, it holds a great truth in describing a Christian's relationship with the Lord. A Christian is not his own. We are purchased with Christ's blood. We have a promise of Heaven. Everything after getting saved is a bonus! Let us surrender our lives and do with our lives what God would have us do!

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## Gifts for Today's Christians

*Bill Brinkworth*

God has plans for each and every Christian. To better equip each child of God, each is given a gift to better serve the Saviour. Some may have more than one gift. These gifts are not the gifts the early church had before they were given the entire Word of God. These seven gifts (Romans

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## Is It My Life?

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When adults are asked what they want to do in their future, they usually tell you what they have figured out they would like to have happen with their lives. When a child is asked the same thing, you similarly get a battle plan that he would like to see happen. Seldom does one answer, “Whatever the Lord wants me to do, I’ll do!”

Sadly, that open-invitation to do God’s will is rarely even thought of by Christians. Unfortunately, when you do hear of people handing their lives over to God without any reservations, it is often only after they have tried it their way, and that way had failed.

It would save much heartache and much of a “wasted” life if one would immediately, after he is saved, hand one’s life over to God as a signed blank check to God. “Fill it in with what you want me to do God, and I will gladly, happily, and faithfully do it until you tell me otherwise!” Boy, would that attitude

**“Take my life, and let it be  
Consecrated, Lord to  
Thee;  
Take my hands, and let  
them move  
At the impulse of Thy love  
At the impulse of Thy  
love.”**

— Excerpt from Frances  
Havergal’s hymn, “Take My Life,  
and Let It Be”

change lives and Christendom as we know it!

*“Nay but, O man, who art thou that repliest against God? Shall the thing formed say to him that formed it, Why hast thou made me thus? Hath not the potter power over the clay, of the same lump to make one vessel unto honour, and another unto dishonour?” Romans 9:20-21*

## Gifts for Today’s Christians

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(6-8) are necessary to get the work of God done in today’s world. They include the gifts of:

**Prophecy.** This is not the same ability Old and New Testament prophets and Christians had. We have the entire plan of God in His written, preserved Word of God. We do not need to foretell the future as they did in those earlier days. Today’s gift of prophecy is taking the Word of God and helping others understand it better. Noah Webster in his 1828 dictionary defines the gift as the ability, “to preach; to instruct in religious doctrines; to interpret or explain Scripture or religious subjects ...”

**Ministry.** This God-given gift gives a great burden to a Christian to meet the needs of others.

**Teaching.** This is a gift that allows one to help others understand better the things of God.

**“THEY THAT BURY  
THEIR GIFTS MAKE A  
GRAVE MISTAKE.”**

**Exhorting.** This important gift helps one be an encourager to others — a most needed gift, especially among God’s people.

**Giving.** This gift gives one the burden to meet others’ needs by their giving — giving of things and of themselves.

**Ruling.** This gift allows one to be a leader. Too many think they have it, but few have the God-given ability to lead God’s people.

**Mercy.** This gift gives one a heart to have understanding, patience, and kindness with others.

If you are a child of God, God does not plan for you just to sit. He desires that you serve Him and help others. He has given you at least one of the above gifts given in this church age. What are your gifts and are you using them to help others, honor God, and bring others to know and serve the Lord better?

*Additional Reading on this subject:  
[http://www.openyourmineeyes.com/  
lessons/toolbox.html](http://www.openyourmineeyes.com/lessons/toolbox.html)*

## Obeying God

*Bill Brinkworth*

In the introduction to his second letter to the Corinthian church (II Corinthians 1), Paul tells part of the secret to his success. The preacher was used of God, because it was the “will of God” (vs. 1).

I say “part of his secret”, because there was another factor that was not mentioned here; although Paul’s testimony throughout the New Testament makes it very clear what it was. It was God’s will that Paul, the one-time enemy of God and His people get saved, become an apostle, and be used of God. It was also critical that the preacher allowed himself to be used of God and did what God showed him to do.

This distinction between “God’s will” and obeying God’s commandments is very important. Most, after they are saved by trusting in Jesus’ work for them on the cross, have a purpose in God’s mind. None of us are saved to sit and soak up God’s goodness. There is a spiritual war raging in this world (Ephesians 6:12), and it is always God’s will that each and every soldier of God participate in the battle.

I believe everyone is convinced and convicted of God’s will for them, at least once in his life. The tugging spirit of God makes all feel guilty sometime in their lives of their involvement in sin. Many hear this “voice” encourage them to be saved. At times they feel uncomfortable in their life-style, and have a great

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**“THE WILL OF GOD WILL  
NOT TAKE YOU WHERE  
THE POWER OF GOD  
CANNOT KEEP YOU.”**