

Jesus the Greatest Gift: The Father's Will

Hebrews 10:7

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Our dog is now twelve years old and his hips are starting to bother him. He struggles getting up and down steps. Watching him it's easy to see that he doesn't want to push off with his back legs. I built a ten foot ramp and covered it with indoor-outdoor carpet. The first time I took him out after I built the I tried to make him walk behind me down the ramp. He took the steps.

I let him go do his business. All that time he's watching me. So, I go to the ramp and walk up and down. "Look how easy this is. No more jumping from one step to the next. The carpet is soft." Then I take him to the ramp. I get him to put his front paws on the ramp. He's hesitant. I get on the ramp calling him to come to me. He gets off the ramp, goes up the steps and goes to the door.

My dog refused to let me help him. I wanted to save his hips some wear and tear. But he rejected my gift.

The next time he goes outside I take some treats with me. He goes and does his business watching me all the time. I walk up and down the ramp. "Look how easy this is. No more jumping from one step to the next. The carpet is soft." Then I put some treats on the ramp. I bring him to the ramp and he puts his front paws on it then stretches to get the treat. I'm in front of him. "Good boy, good dog, come here, come to me." He sits down. I put down another treat a little further away. He ignores it. I put the treats right in front of his mouth and turns his head the other way. He gets up, goes to the steps, climbs each step and goes to the door.

My dog has not only rejected my gift of treats, he has rejected my help again. He has turned His head away from me. He has walked away from me. He is unwilling to accept my gift to save him.

Hebrews 10:7 (NIV) Then I said, 'Here I am—it is written about me in the scroll— I have come to do your will, O God.'

Christmas is about God's will being accomplished. This passage is from the book of Psalms that is only fulfilled by Jesus. It is the continuation of the passage we looked at last week. God came in a body to His earth as our sacrifice. Jesus did God's will.

Now growing up in my era my dad's will was what I did. Our life stories are where we always return, right? I have lots of stories about my life, especially my childhood. I know that I grew up in a different era and many things have changed. I heard a lot of "wait until your father gets home." In our house that meant the punishment was delayed. The punishment, not discipline, was physical. There would be pain, it would hurt.

It wasn't that way for many people. Some people were made to stand in a corner, be denied privileges, or listen to a long explanation of their misbehavior. But it was still about conforming one person's will to another person's will.

I also heard “because I said so.” There weren’t many explanations. There was the truth, if you heard it answer once that was sufficient. There was no need to repeat instructions. Again, one person’s will conforming to another’s will.

Jesus, God’s Son, became a person to fulfill all of God’s plans, purposes, His will. The comparison between father and son ends there. I was forced, you were forced in other ways to conform to the will of your father. Jesus didn’t need to conform to God’s will. He is God. He is the God who became a person, to live as a person, to face temptation, and to die alike a person. Jesus is the person who never sinned. Jesus is the person who after He died, He rose again. Jesus is the person who lives forever.

Jesus is the person who is in complete agreement with God’s will. He is the complete representation of God on earth. He has the attitudes, the thoughts, and the beliefs of God on earth. His actions and desires, His plans, His purposes, His will is God’s will on earth.

In heaven God’s will is always done. His plans are carried out, or you’re out. In heaven the creation doesn’t talk back or question or doubt the Creator. All those in heaven know their purpose without a reservation. Everything created in heaven does the will of God.

On earth we have free will. We have been given the privilege of being able to do our own thing or do the will of God. We are each created with the capacity to do God’s will, but we refuse and go our own way. We are proud of our ability to choose. We flaunt our ability to make a decision in the face of our creator.

Jesus did everything God wanted. Jesus didn’t do anything that God didn’t want to do. He was not forced, coerced, manipulated or controlled. He was in absolute alignment with God.

Christmas is about God’s will being done. It happened according to the plan of God. Everyone fulfilled their purpose because they made the Godly choice.

Hebrews 10:7 (NIV) Then I said, ‘Here I am—it is written about me in the scroll— I have come to do your will, O God.’

Christians are like everyone else, we struggle with God’s will. Let me tell you about the will of God. It’s not really complicated. Our understanding is complicated. Our willingness to see it is confused. Our desire to follow it is difficult. It’s because we want to do our own thing. We make out our wish list. We fill our heads with sugar plum fairies. We crave what makes us feel good. We’re addicted to making ourselves happy. Being happy is God’s will when we do God’s will. Feeling good is God’s will when we do God’s will. You see where I’m going.

The way you and I are created is the will of God. You are not an accident, a mistake, a problem. But you can be bad. You and I do what is bad. We do, we say, we think things outside God’s will.

First, God’s will is to trust Him always. If you found yourself surrounded by trees, bushes, fields, and animals that worked with you to give you everything you need, wouldn’t you be thankful? Wouldn’t trust that whoever made this possible would continue day after day, year after year to provide all this for you? Even when you were tempted, deceived, lied to by others wouldn’t you trust the one who gave you everything? Everything you have came from the same source. Why would not trust the one who gave it to you? Therefore, we trust God.

Second, God's will is for all of His creation to glorify God. Glorify is a weird word. We too often think of glorify as God in bright shining robes. But we're confused, because glory is the thanks, the adoration, the praise, the trust we have in God. Glorifying God is honoring God by doing what He created you to do. Think about glory this way. The coconut tree glorifies God by producing coconuts and not acorns, buckeyes, or peanuts. Sheep glorify God by growing wool not by running over cliffs and dying. You get it, right? When you and I do what we were created to do we glorify God. What were we created to do? See number one, trust God.

Third, God's will is to love our neighbors. Talking behind their back is not God's will. Plotting schemes to take advantage of them is not God's will. Killing others is not God's will. Loving our neighbors is being in contact with them. It is sharing their burdens. It is praying for one another. It is being compassionate in thought, word and action. Christmas is about God's will being done.

Hebrews 10:7 (NIV) Then I said, 'Here I am—it is written about me in the scroll—I have come to do your will, O God.'

When Christmas is about Jesus there is a new desire to follow Jesus all the time. The love of Jesus is so great that He willingly died and rose again to save us. This is Christmas. Jesus willingly coming to earth as a person, setting aside His desires and doing God's will. Jesus knew His purpose as a person before He was born here on earth. The timing of His birth happened because He waited for the perfect time to fulfill God's plan. God's will for Jesus was to trust God. God's will for Jesus was to glorify God. God's will for Jesus was loving His neighbor, that is every person past, present and future. The purpose of Jesus was very unique. No one else is called to die for the sins of the world and rise again.

From the time He was born until He died, arose, and ascended into heaven Jesus lived out His purpose by putting God first and His own desires second. No one has the desire to live like Jesus unless you are God inspired and filled with the Holy Spirit.

Jesus loved every one of His neighbors. Wherever He traveled He loved people. He loved the common people, the hard working folks. He loved the aristocrats in society. He loved the religious, the unreligious. He loved the sick, the grieving, the tormented. He loved the immoral and the self-righteous. Jesus demonstrated His love through actions. He took bread and fish and feed thousands. He cast out demons and healed the sick. He welcomed the sinners, the unlovable, and the forgotten. He spoke the truth to those who didn't want to hear it.

Christmas is about discovering in your spirit the willingness of Jesus to do God's will. When you gave your life to Jesus, He forgave your sins. You received a new life: new thinking, new desires, new actions. The willingness of Jesus to do God's will entered into your spirit. You were like a little Jesus in your attitudes, words, and actions.

Then life kept happening and soon you were drawn back into some of your hesitation. Some old fears and habits crept back into your life. Some temptations got too much to handle. The willingness to be like Jesus in your spirit and do God's will became obscured. You just weren't fired up. You were still smoking, but the flame wasn't burning as bright. You had wind in your sails, but it just barely keeping you moving forward. God's will was important, but it wasn't always at the top of your list.

Christmas, the birth of your Savior and Lord, the celebration of God coming to the world He created as the creation, is the time for you to restore your place a new creation, a person who is born again. Christmas becomes for you the season for being ready to follow Jesus. Energized by your re-birth.

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This Christmas you need to dedicate yourself to doing the will of God. Christmas can be another day or it can be the renewing of soul and spirit. It comes down to this question. Are you ready to do God’s will?

Jesus the Son answered this question before Adam and Eve were created. Before they were tempted and failed Jesus was ready to do the will of the Father. While the people in Noah’s day ignored all the signs that God had created them, Jesus was ready to do the will of Father. When King David was sinning against God and Bathsheba, Jesus was ready to do the will of Father. For centuries of God’s people worshiped idols, Jesus was ready to do the will of Father. Are you ready to do God’s will?

If God the Father says go to Hawaii and tell people that their Savior was born on Christmas day, are you ready? When Jesus says let’s go to Ukraine and tell people that their Savior was born on Christmas day, are you ready? This could be the will of God for your life.

As Jesus calls you to sit on the Court Square in a tent and tell people that their Savior was born on Christmas day, are you ready? This could be the will of God for your life. While your neighbors sit in their homes, doing whatever your neighbors do, are you willing to go to them and tell them that their Savior was born on Christmas day, are you ready? This is the will of God for your life.

Are you ready to pray for the salvation of your neighbors? This is the will of God for your life. God’s desire is that no person should die and go to hell. Jesus has the desire for every person to live for eternity in heaven.

Christmas is the celebration that the Savior of the world has been born. Jesus was born with the purpose of living as a person, dying on the cross as a person, raising from the dead in a new spiritual body, and ascending to heaven to the right hand of the Father. This is God’s will. Jesus fulfilled God’s will perfectly, completely, and forever.

Are you ready to God’s will? Are you ready to pray for the salvation of your neighbors? Are you ready to go to them and tell them that their Savior was born on Christmas day?

No one can trust themselves and trust in Jesus. Doing God’s will, carrying out God’s plans, fulfilling God’s purposes requires trusting Jesus. If you believe that Jesus loves you more than you love your sins, then call out to Jesus. If you believe that Jesus has taken away the punishment of your sins forever, then call out to Jesus. If you believe that Jesus will enter your life and give you a new life of faith, hope, peace, love, and power, then call out to Jesus. If you are ready to call out to Jesus, He will transform your thinking, your feelings, your words, your actions. If you are ready, Jesus will begin to conform you to the will of God.

The greatest Christmas gift you can give to yourself this Christmas is to trust Jesus. The greatest gift of all time, the greatest gift of God is Jesus.