



Catch The

FIRE

A NEWSLETTER OF THE WALL OF FIRE MINISTRY

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HOLIDAYS or "HOLY DAYS"

Minister N'fannie Kazouch

II Corinthians 9:6-15- *Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift.*

The period between Thanksgiving and New Year is generally known as the "holiday" season. The word "holiday" is derived from what the ancient people called the "Holy Days"

These are Holy days indeed. This is a time to give thanks to God for His wonderful blessings. It is a time to celebrate God for giving us the gift of His Son for our salvation.

Let us change tradition and give thanks (thanksgiving) as we celebrate Christmas. Paul reminds us in these verses of two actions of love – thanksgiving when he says "thanks be unto God;" and Christ's birth (Christmas) when he says "His unspeakable gift." Paul describes this Gift as being "unspeakable" because of God's immeasurable love. We are reminded of this love in John 3:16 - "*For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son...*"; and in Romans 5:8 - "*But God commendeth his love toward us in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.*"

When Paul writes of this unspeakable gift, he says "Jesus is a gift so good, so great, and so wonderful that He really can't be described." These are the great riches that have been given to us in Jesus, which are "indescribable." If you are saved today and you need a reason to praise God, look no farther than the Lord Jesus Christ. If you need a reason for giving thanks, for rejoicing, for praise, look no farther than the great riches God has given us in Jesus Christ.

When Paul says, "thanks be to God..." he is telling us that the One who deserves to be praised is God. The One who deserves to receive thanks is God. God is the One who devised the plan that brought Jesus to this world. God is the One who "chose us" in Christ "before the foundation of the world." God is the One who put us into His eternal plan. God is the One who loved us when we were unlovable. He is the One who came to us when we were "dead in trespasses and sins." God is the One who convicted us of our sins and saved us when we believed on Christ. We owe to God the Father everything we have, everything we are, and everything we ever hope to have. He deserves our thanksgiving for all that He has given us in Jesus. The hand of God has given us everything we possess in life, regardless of whether it is material or spiritual in nature. Our duty to God is to give back to Him and His work as He has blessed us.

You may be faced with many challenges right now. You might look around you and find little reason for rejoicing. But, if you will take the time to consider who you are and all you have in Jesus, you will soon find that you have many, many reasons for giving thanks. Take a moment to consider what you have in Jesus and then praise God for His "unspeakable gift".

These "Holy Days" and every day of our lives should revolve around our giving thanks to the One who has "given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness," when we praise the Lord for His "unspeakable gift"; a time of fresh and renewed commitment to honor the One who gave everything to redeem us!

In return for the blessings God gives us, we give back praise, worship and obedience. We give back when we tell others about Him. We give back in obedient love when we love Him and walk with Him as He desires. We give back by contributing to His work. We give back by helping those around us who have needs in their own lives. When we give back, we have the assurance that God will receive glory and that our faith will be vindicated. Nothing demonstrates genuine gratitude more than a heart that is willing to give back to the God who has given us all things!

Are you grateful for all that you have been given in Jesus? If you are, you will show it by giving back to the Lord and to the needs of His people.

Take heart. God is at work in your life.

May God bless and keep you. In His Service!



We owe to God the Father everything we have, everything we are, and everything we ever hope to have. Give HIM thanks during these Holy 0Days.

7 Days without prayer
make one weak.

Join us for
AN HOUR OF POWER
(567) 314-9382; (437) 515-#

Mondays – 3am & 9pm
Tuesdays – 3am
Wednesday 3am & 9pm
Thursdays – 3am
Fridays – 3am & 6pm



THINK ON THESE THINGS

When His Will Is Not Mine

By Rick Liggin

As published at <http://www.thinkonthesethings.com/>

There is no doubt that it was always Jesus' intention to do the will of His Father! At Sychar, after His visit with the Samaritan woman, Jesus made it clear that His "food" was to do His Father's will and accomplish His work (Jn. 4:34). After healing a lame man at the pool of Bethesda, Jesus affirmed that He didn't act on His own initiative or seek His own will, but the will of His Father (Jn. 5:30). And again, after feeding the five thousand, Jesus affirmed in His "Bread of Life" sermon that He had not come down out of heaven to do His own will, but the will of the One who sent Him (Jn. 6:38). Even at the last supper, as Jesus spoke to His disciples, He affirmed His absolute commitment to obeying the commands of His Father (Jn. 14:30-31).

But just because Jesus always wanted to do the Father's will doesn't mean that His will was always consistent with His Father's. If you think differently, take another look at the Garden of Gethsemane on the night Jesus was betrayed (Matt. 26:36-46).

When Jesus arrived in the garden that night, the atmosphere suddenly became even more serious. Almost instantly there was a sense of stress, dread, and trepidation in Jesus' mood that was visibly apparent to His disciples. The text actually says, "He began to be grieved and distressed" (26:37); and Jesus even verbally admitted that this was so (26:38). Jesus knew what time it was: He knew that the time was very near for His arrest, trial, and excruciating execution. He knew that before this day was over He would be dead, having endured the agonizing torment of Roman crucifixion. And although He had known all along, even before He left heaven, that this was where His path would ultimately lead, when Jesus actually came face to face with the reality of the cross, its horror exceeded even His expectation. He began to be deeply grieved and distressed almost "to the point of death" (26:37-38).

And that's when Jesus prayed: "My Father, if it is possible let this cup pass from Me; yet not as I will, but as You will" (26:39). Three times He similarly prayed in this agonizing way (26:42-44); and these prayers reinforce the fact that actually

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CALENDAR

December 16-31st
WOFM Mission Trip to Liberia

BIRTHDAYS

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER

Jayden Johnson	November 8
Autumn Lawrence	November 13
Tonia Cephas	November 19
Teresa Cephas	November 28
Charleston Russell	November 30
Charlesetta Johnson	December 15

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...after feeding the five thousand, Jesus affirmed in His "Bread of Life" sermon that He had not come down out of heaven to do His own will, but the will of the One who sent Him (Jn. 6:38).

PRAYER FOCUS

GIVE THANKS DURING THESE "HOLY DAYS"

Following is a brief list of what we possess in Him. Let them be our prayer focus during these "Holy Days" and give God the glory He deserves. Give Him the thanks or His unspeakable gift! When we understand what is ours in Jesus, it becomes clear why we are told to always be thankful, 1 Thes. 5:18; Eph. 5:20; Phil. 4:6.

1. Forgiveness Of Sin – Psa. 103:12 (Ill. Follow the chain)
2. Redemption From Sin – Eph. 1:7
3. Everlasting Life – John 10:28; 6:47
4. A Home In Heaven – John 14:1-3
5. His Abiding Presence – Heb. 13:5; Matt. 28:20
6. His Perfect Promises – 2 Pet. 1:4; 2 Cor. 1:20
7. His Everlasting Love – Jer. 31:3
8. His Amazing Grace – 2 Cor. 12:9
9. His Boundless Provisions – Phil. 4:19; Matt. 6:25-34
10. His Holy Spirit – 1 Cor. 12:13
11. His Precious Word – Psa. 119:105
12. His Glorious Church – Eph. 5:25-27

Thank God for your blessings!

Thank God for answered prayers.



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When His Will Is Not Mine

coming face to face with the reality of the cross moved our Lord to admit His own fleshly will: He really wanted a way out. The human part of Him really didn't want to go to the cross! In this moment, Jesus' will was not His Father's! And that's when the real test came! It is in that moment that our eternal salvation in a way almost hung in the balance! Would Jesus do His own will in that moment or would He surrender His will to the will of the Father? Would He resist or would He yield?

Well, you know the answer to that! Our salvation wasn't ever really in any jeopardy! We know this, because: even though Jesus admitted that this "cup" was not what He wanted, He was still willing to surrender His will to the Father's! Jesus was willing to yield...to obey His Father's will, even when His own flesh, in deep distress, was crying out, "No!"

And folks, that's when Jesus "learned obedience" in a very practical way...in a way that truly "perfected" (or completed) His character (Heb. 5:7-9). As obedient as Jesus had been before this event, He was yet imperfect: His obedience was yet incomplete! But in obeying the Father when His own will was different, that is when He was perfected; and "having been made perfect, He became to all those who obey Him the source of eternal salvation" (5:9).

Now please listen to this: it is in Gethsemane that Jesus teaches us about real obedience...because the same thing is true for us! The real test of our obedience to the Father comes not when it's easy or when we agree with Him or when His will is ours. Doing His will when we agree with Him or when we want what He wants is easy. That's not the real test of obedience! The real test comes when His will is not ours; when we don't want to do what He wants!


I imagine most of us would probably say that we want to do the will of the Father! Like Jesus, it is our desire and our intent to do His will! But what happens to that intent when His will is not my will...when it's uncomfortable to obey or when it's really hard? Do I go ahead and do His will anyway, even though His will is not mine? Or do I resist? Obedience is

Continued in next column

learned when we don't want to do what God wants us to, but we do it anyway! When it's tough to do or uncomfortable to do, but we do it anyway; when my flesh screams, "no!" and even my desire screams, "no", but I do it anyway: that's real obedience! And when I successfully obey His will, even though it's hard and even though I don't want to, that's when I begin to see how much I really want to serve God and do His will.

My biggest fear for myself and for some of us is that we obey God up to a point...as long as we agree with Him, as long as His will is the same as ours, or as long as our "flesh" doesn't want to violently rebel. But when doing His will makes us uncomfortable or goes opposite to what our bodies want, or to what our intellect agrees with, then we find a way to avoid obedience. Oh, we may not outright rebel! But what we often do in such cases is we find "a better way," a way to intellectually avoid doing His will or to justify not doing His will.

Jesus obeyed His Father's will despite the difficulty, despite the pain, and even despite the fact that in that moment He would really have rather found another way! And it is only because He went on and did (not His, but) the Father's will that He learned real obedience, and was exalted to be the author of our salvation.

Jesus is the source of salvation to those who obey Him...to those who "obey Him," only when it is easy or convenient, or when we agree, or when our flesh agrees? No. That's not real obedience. It's only when we obey like He obeyed: when we would really rather do something else, but we do His will anyway, that's when we really obey! And only that is when we will enjoy eternal salvation! 

Jesus is the source of Salvation to those who obey Him... when we obey like He obeyed: when we would really rather do something else, but we do His will anyway, that's when we really obey!

THANK YOU!!!

Thank you for all the feedback. We pray that you will continue to enjoy upcoming issues.. We also look forward to publishing your articles, accomplishments, meditations, etc. in future issues.

Please send them in to info@walloffireministry.org.

MEDITATE ON THESE SCRIPTURES

2 Corinthians 9:7 (KJV): Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver.

Romans 14:2-4 (KJV): For one believeth that he may eat all things: another, who is weak, eateth herbs. Let not him that eateth despise him that eateth not; and let not him which eateth not judge him that eateth: for God hath received him. Who art thou that judgest another man's servant? to his own master he standeth or falleth. Yea, he shall be holden up: for God is able to make him stand.

Romans 14:5-9 (KJV): One man esteemeth one day above another: another esteemeth every day alike. Let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind. He that regardeth the day, regardeth it unto the Lord; and he that regardeth not the day, to the Lord he doth not regard it. He that eateth, eateth to the Lord, for he giveth God thanks; and he that eateth not, to the Lord he eateth not, and giveth God thanks. For none of us liveth to himself, and no man dieth to himself. For whether we live, we live unto the Lord; and whether we die, we die unto the Lord: whether we live therefore, or die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ both died, and rose, and revived, that he might be Lord both of the dead and living.

1 Corinthians 6:1-8 (KJV): Dare any of you, having a matter against another, go to law before the unjust, and not before the saints? Do ye not know that the saints shall judge the world? and if the world shall be judged by you, are ye unworthy to judge the smallest matters? Know ye not that we shall judge angels? how much more things that pertain to this life? If then ye have judgments of things pertaining to this life, set them to judge who are least esteemed in the church. I speak to your shame. Is it so, that there is not a wise man among you? no, not one that shall be able to judge between his brethren? But brother goeth to law with brother, and that before the unbelievers. Now therefore there is utterly a fault among you, because ye go to law one with another. Why do ye not rather take wrong? why do ye not rather suffer yourselves to be defrauded? Nay, ye do wrong, and defraud, and that your brethren. 