

THE IMMERSION OF OUR WILLS INTO THE WILL OF THE LORD

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"Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the WILL of my Father which is in heaven." - ## Matthew 7:21 "My son, give me thine heart, and let thine eyes observe my ways." - # Proverbs 23:26 "Hearken, O daughter, and consider, and incline thine ear; forget also thine own people, and thy father's house; So shall the king greatly desire thy beauty: for he is thy Lord; and worship thou him." - Psalm 45:10, 11

Prior to the Gospel age there were many men and women who exercised faith in God and desired to do his will. These, however, were not invited to become the bride of Christ. Not even John the Baptist was invited to the heavenly calling because he died before our Lord who is the Head of the church his body. These faithful ones of ancient times (the ancient worthies) are promised a better resurrection than that of the world in general; they will be raised as perfect human beings. (Hebrews 11) The angels were also passed by. They were not invited to become the bride of Christ.

The acceptable time for the selection of the bride of Christ is the Gospel age. The high calling was first offered exclusively to the Jews; three and one-half years later the opportunity to become the bride of Christ was extended to the Gentiles. - # John 1:11- 13; # Acts 15:14; # Romans 11:20, 23, 25.

During the Gospel age a "little flock" of both Jews and Gentiles have given their hearts (their wills) to the heavenly Father in full consecration. (# Proverbs 23:26) The general call to the high calling has now ceased. The full number of the 144,000 members, however, has not yet been fully tested. As one is proved unfit to become the bride of Christ, another is invited to take that one's place. The work of testing will continue until all the bride hath made herself ready. Then the door to the high calling will close. There will then never be another opportunity to become the bride of Christ.

Shortly after the narrow way closes, the highway of holiness will open. It will still be necessary to do God's will in order to gain life, but God's will then for mankind will not be the same as it is now for the "little flock". Everlasting life here upon the earth will be the reward of those who repent of sin, retrace their steps, accept their

Saviour, obey the laws and regulations of the kingdom, and thus do God's will.

Let us now go back to this transition period. During the early dawning of the Messianic Age it is still God's will to finish the selection and testing of the bride of Christ. The narrow way is still open. When one at the present time repents of sin, accepts Jesus as his Saviour, and consecrates to righteousness, this new minded old creature may be called to the high calling as one previously called and accepted becomes careless and overcharged or denies the Lord and sins against the holy Spirit. Such an one is called or invited in the one hope of his calling. He is called to present his body a living sacrifice. - # Romans 12:1

The invitation to present your bodies a living sacrifice still goes forth to one here and one there. If one is to inherit the kingdom he must sacrifice his human hopes and ambitions. (I Cor. 15:50) Now, when one fully consecrates, he gives up his future hope of living here on the earth.

At consecration the human will dies. "Ye are dead and your Life is hid with Christ in God." (Col. 3:3) If it came to life again and overpowered the new creature, it would mean the death of the new creature. We must keep the fleshly will dead if we are to reign with Christ. We must deny ourselves and take up our cross if we are to be the disciples of Christ. See # Colossians 3:1,2. Day by day we are given opportunities to demonstrate our love and loyalty to God.

The suggestion, "I am not worthy", often presents itself. # Romans 12:1 reminds us that we are made holy and acceptable to God when we present our bodies a living sacrifice. The merit of Christ is imputed to one who fully consecrates. The robe of Christ's righteousness covers our imperfections. See # Romans 8:1. The new creature needs this robe for the imperfections of the old creature reckoned dead.

How are we baptized into Christ? Read # Romans 6:3- 5. We are baptized into Christ when we bury our wills into his will and into the will of the Father. Just as our Master died to human hopes, aims, and ambitions So do we. This death baptism is a daily matter- from consecration to the death of the human body. Jesus said long after his water baptism, "I have a baptism to be baptized with; and how am I straitened till it be accomplished!" - # Luke 12:50.

As soon as we fully consecrate, we by faith may instantly arise to "walk in newness of life." (verse 4) If this death baptism is carried out day by day- if we are actually planted in the likeness of his death- we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection. (verse 5) "I shall be satisfied, when I awake with thy likeness." (Psalm 17:15) Water baptism (being planted in water) is the beautiful symbol of the real baptism- the death baptism.

Experiences as well as the scriptures show us that before a full consecration is made, one is in a consecrated attitude. It is quite proper during this time for one to study the truth. However, if one desires to understand the deep things of God, he must make a full consecration and thus be spirit- begotten. All the studying that one would do would not enable him to understand the deep things of God until he consecrated and received the holy Spirit.

Through the experiences of life one is drawn of the Father to Jesus. (# John 6:44) If this drawn one repents of sin, accepts the Saviour, and consecrates to righteousness, right- doing to the best of his ability, he is in the right way. It is from this class that the Father calls one here and one there to the high calling. Not many well-born ones are called. It is chiefly the low- born ones who recognize their need of a Saviour who are called. - I Cor. 1:26- 28

No doubt there are many today in this consecrated condition of heart. Upon hearing the call- having a crown offered to them- it is up to each one called to count the cost. This is a narrow way; but it leads to life (to immortality). This is a narrow way; but there is room for the Master to walk beside us as our yoke- fellow. This is a narrow way; but the promises and providences of the Lord far outweigh the difficulties of the way. See # Matthew 10:37- 39. "He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. And he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after me, is not worthy of me. He that findeth his life shall lose it: and he that loseth his life for my sake shall find it."

When one fully immerses his will into the will of God, he is begotten of the spirit. (# James 1:18) We receive the Spirit by measure since we have the new mind in an earthen vessel; our Lord received it without measure. Day by day as we study his word, endeavor to put into practice the things learned, and share the truth with others, we receive more of the holy Spirit.

At the time one makes a full consecration he comes under the one baptism or anointing of the holy Spirit which came upon our Lord

at the time of his consecration. The holy Spirit reached the Jewish members of the body of Christ on the day of Pentecost and the Gentiles 3 1/2 years later. When one fully consecrates, individually he is begotten of the spirit.

In I Corinthians 15:29, Paul reminds us that the consecrated are baptized for the "dead" world of mankind. It is our privilege to fill up that which is behind of the afflictions of Christ. If we suffer with him, we shall also reign with him. We shall if faithful have the privilege of helping to bless the dead world of mankind.

The resurrection of the church is first. It is now in progress. Afterwards the church will bless all mankind. Those of the world who come into Christ and are fully obedient to the kingdom regulations are promised eternal life. These will experience their resurrection gradually.

Is there still time to enter the narrow way? The fullness of the Gentiles has not yet come in. Israel is still blind in part. The four winds (anarchy) are still being held back. The dark night will not FULLY set in until the "little flock" is complete. God will not offer a single one immortality unless he could fulfill his offer. When the bride is complete the door to the high calling will be closed.

If anyone newly interested is able to understand these Bible truths, then it is an indication that God is dealing with you. If you see that a crown of life has been offered to you, then it is your privilege to either accept or reject it. Study # Ecclesiasties 5:4, 5 concerning a vow. If you accept the opportunity of walking the narrow way, be assured you will have enough time to make your calling and election sure. You will have the grace and strength of the heavenly Father and our Lord and their exceeding great and precious promises to sustain you in the narrow way.

Remember your P's and your Q's. "In quietness and in confidence shall be your strength." (# Isaiah 30:15) "Quench not the Spirit." (I Thes. 5:19) Claim the PRECIOUS PROMISES. (# Luke 12:32; # 2 Timothy 2:12) Accept the PROVIDENCES of the Lord. (# Romans 8:28) Rejoice in the PROTECTION of the Lord. (# He 1:13, 14) Give thanks for the PRIVILEGE OF PRAYER. (# He 4:16; II Cor. 12:7- 10) Remember that these are possible because of the RANSOM PRICE.

If you have told the heavenly Father that you wish to do his will FULLY, then you should symbolize your consecration. If you have been baptized in water in the past but had not fully consecrated

previous to So doing, then that water baptism was meaningless in the sight of God. If since that time you have seen your privilege of walking in the narrow way and have fully consecrated, then you should come to the immerser and have him baptize you in water thus symbolizing your consecration. Any holding back from performing the symbol will show that his will is not fully dead.

"Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run that ye may obtain." - I Cor. 9:24

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