

Series: John

Title: Ye Shall Ask What Ye Will

Text: John 15: 7

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The Lord Jesus is speaking to each one of his apostles personally. This is a word to each one personally.

John 15: 7: If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.

He was speaking to them all but Christ spoke to each one personally when he said,

John 15: 3: Now are ye clean through the word which I have spoken to you.

Has he made *you* clean by his word that he has spoken to you? Has his word effectually quickened *you* to life? Has his word cleansed *your* conscience from dead works to believe and serve the living God? Has he made *you* have no confidence but Christ alone? Do *you* believe that “*apart from him you can do nothing?*”

Then this his promise of grace to his true branches, “*If ye abide in me and my words abide in you.*” If you abide, remain, in Christ and his gospel abides in you, if you continue in Christ and Christ’s words are your life, if you need Christ and his words more than daily bread, if you remain in Christ and keep his words by obeying him.

Only you know if you believe on Christ and have a new heart to obey him, and that, only by the Holy Spirit.

Some men we can discern do not believe on Christ. Their lives are very moral. But they do not believe the gospel of Christ and do not hear us. They hear that other gospel the world preaches. Other men hate the gospel and it is evident in their lives that they hate God. Then there are those who profess to believe Christ, who love the gospel and appear to keep his words and we receive them as brethren, do not doubt them. But we do not know any other man’s heart. Some we receive as brethren are not as fruitful and may appear to have more struggles. But we do not doubt them. We pray for one another and trust the Lord to make one another stand. Sometimes a brother may suffer a terrible fall but then the Lord makes them stand.

But Christ is not speaking to us about others. This word is to each of each of his people, personally, “*If YOU abide in me, and my words abide in YOU...*”

2 Corinthians 13:5: Examine YOURSELVES, whether ye be IN THE FAITH; prove YOUR OWN SELVES. Know ye not YOUR OWN SELVES, how that Jesus Christ is in YOU, except ye be reprobates?

1 John 3: 19: And hereby WE know [hereby we, personally know, of our own selves] that WE [personally] are of the truth, and shall assure OUR [own] hearts before him. 20: For if our heart condemn us, God is greater than our heart, and knoweth all things. 21: Beloved, if our heart condemn us not, *then* have we confidence toward God. 22: And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight. 23: And this is his commandment, That we should believe on the name of his Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, as he gave us commandment. 24: And he that keepeth his commandments dwelleth in him, and he in him. And hereby we know [personally] that he abideth in us, by the [the Holy] Spirit which he hath given us.

2 Timothy 2: 7: For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind. 8: Be not thou therefore ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me his prisoner: but be thou partaker of the afflictions of the gospel according to the power of God; 9: Who hath saved us, and called *us* with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began, 10: But is now made manifest by the appearing of our Saviour Jesus Christ, who hath abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality to light through the gospel: 11: Whereunto I am appointed a preacher, and an

apostle, and a teacher of the Gentiles. 12: For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day. 13: Hold fast the form of sound words, which thou hast heard of me, in faith and love which is in Christ Jesus. 14: That good thing which was committed unto thee keep by the Holy Ghost which dwelleth in us.

Here is God's sure promise of grace:

John 15: 7: If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.

HIS WORDS ARE THE WORDS OF ETERNAL LIFE

Before saying this, remember what Christ said.

John 14: 3: Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you. 4: Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me. 5: I am the vine, ye *are* the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.

If Christ has made us clean by his word then we know—personally—that he alone is our Life. The Righteousness of every born-again believer is Christ alone. Our Acceptance with God is Christ alone. He is our Sanctifier and our Sanctification. He alone produced this fruit of faith and love in us by his words. And Christ alone will produce more fruit in us by the Word speaking the words and thus making his words life unto us.

By him, we know we must abide in him and abide in his words, obeying Christ's commandments. It is the desire of our new heart. By God's power and grace working in our new man we desire and endeavor to continue abiding in him believing him alone. Our desire and our need, we know, is to grow in faith and love and every fruit of the Spirit. So we seek all in Christ and from Christ.

John 6: 68: Simon Peter answered him, Lord, to whom shall we go? thou hast the words of eternal life. 69: And we believe and are sure that thou art that Christ, the Son of the living God.

Jeremiah 15: 16: Thy words were found, and I did eat them; and thy word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of mine heart: for I am called by thy name, O LORD God of hosts.

THE WORD OF PROMISE

John 15: 7 If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.

This is our Lord's sure word of promise. But this has been greatly abused. You know that this is not speaking of carnal things. This promise is concerning spiritual blessings.

Also, by the experience of God's grace, we know there is a great difference between *bearing* fruit and *producing* fruit. The branch cannot bear fruit of itself except it abide in the vine. Without Christ we can do nothing. So Christ teaches us to ask of him! "*If ye abide in me, and my words abide I you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.*"

Child of God, what do you will? Our Lord taught us what to ask. This is every believer's will.

Matthew 6:9: After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. 10: Thy kingdom come. **THY WILL BE DONE**, as *it is* in heaven. 11: Give us this day our daily bread. 12: And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. 13: And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

If we abide in Christ and his words abide in us then our will is "thy will be done."

1 John 5: 13: These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God. 14: And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us: 15: And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him.

The same Spirit of our Savior is in each one in whom Christ abides. And what did our Savior will when he walked this earth?. What did he ask the Father? In the garden of Gethsemane under great soul trouble,

Matthew 26: 39: And he went a little further, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou *wilt*...42: He went away again the second time, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if this cup may not pass away from me, except I drink it, thy will be done.

God the Father sent an angel strengthening him. Then our Redeemer went to the cross and perfected his people by his one offering. But we see that Christ's will was for the Father's will to be done.

We can ask for specific things. But faith's confidence is Christ. Our confidence is that Christ knows what is best for us. So our heart is "*not my will but thine be done.*" Anything else is from mixed motives. As James put it concerning wisdom so it is with petitions for any other blessing.

James 1: 5: If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him. 6: But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering.

Without Christ being our only confidence—without our hearts being resigned to his will—then we “ask amiss that we may consume it upon our lusts” (Ja 4: 3).

The confidence of true faith is Christ alone. He is our Wisdom and he is our Strength. We believe that what he will's is best. The grace of God has made us to be resigned to his will being done. When that is our petition then we can be sure he hears us and we have the petitions we desire of him, whatsoever we ask.

Therefore, we also ask that the Lord give us the grace to persevere, to endure, to bear up patiently, whatever his will is. Then by his sustaining grace, when he brings his will to pass, even if it be trying and painful, we say from our heart,

1 Samuel 3:18...*It is the LORD: let him do what seemeth him good.*

WHAT DOES GOD OUR SAVIOR WILL?

Christ says, “Ask what ye will and it shall be done unto you.” What does our Savior will?

His will is that we abide in him. So by his Spirit within us we cry, “Abba, Father.” We ask, “Father, keep me abiding in you. Keep my brethren continuing in you. Please, do not let us depart from you.”

His will is that his words abide in us. So by his Spirit we ask, “Father, keep your words abiding in me. Keep your words abiding your people. Give us power to keep your commandments.”

His will is that we bear much fruit. So by his Spirit we ask, “Father, produce fruit in me. Produce fruit in each of your people, my brethren. Grow us in the grace and knowledge of Christ.”

Our prayer is that our Lord will make us give all diligence. That he might add and make us desire to find all addition in and from Christ. Our prayer is that he add to our faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, to knowledge temperance, to temperance patience, to patience godliness, to godliness brotherly kindness, to brotherly kindness charity. If we are diligent to add these things it will be by Christ drawing us to him alone and by Christ adding these things by the Spirit that he might make us abound that we be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ (2 Pet 1: 5-11).

Have you asked of the Lord and it seemed he did not hear? Have you asked this of the Lord but instead of these blessings dropping down from heaven into your heart trials came that caused you much sorrow? The Lord's ways are not our ways. His ways are far above our ways; far wiser. He does things as they should be done. The best way, the best time and his way is always best for his child. John Newton's hymn is so true.

VERSE 1

I asked the Lord that I might grow
In faith and love and ev'ry grace,
Might more of His salvation know,
And seek more earnestly His face.

VERSE 2

'Twas He who taught me thus to pray,
And He, I trust, has answered prayer,
But it has been in such a way
As almost drove me to despair.

VERSE 3

I hoped that in some favored hour
At once He'd answer my request
And, by His love's constraining pow'r,
Subdue my sins and give me rest.

VERSE 4

Instead of this, He made me feel
The hidden evils of my heart
And let the angry pow'rs of hell
Assault my soul in ev'ry part.

VERSE 5

Yea, more with His own hand He seemed
Intent to aggravate my woe,
Crossed all the fair designs I schemed,
Humbled my heart and laid me low.

VERSE 6

"Lord, why is this," I trembling cried;
"Wilt Thou pursue Thy worm to death?"
"Tis in this way," the Lord replied,
"I answer prayer for grace and faith."

VERSE 7

"These inward trials I employ
From self and pride to set thee free
And break thy schemes of earthly joy
That thou may'st find thy all in Me."

Our Lord will keep his child knowing that he is the Vine. We receive all from his fulness and nowhere else. "It pleased the Father that in him should all fullness dwell" (Col 1: 19). We are given all from Christ. We receive out of his fulness, grace for grace (Jn 1: 16). He is the Head of the church "which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all" (Eph 1:23).

One faithful brother from the past said it this way: "Do you desire the grace of the Spirit? Go to your Lord's anointing. Do you seek holiness? Go to his example. Do you desire pardon of sin? Look to his blood. Do you need mortification of sin? Look to his crucifixion. Do you need to be buried to the world? Go to his tomb. Do you want to feel the fullness of a heavenly life? Behold his resurrection. Would you

rise above the world? Mark his ascension. Would you contemplate heavenly things? Remember his session at the right hand of God, and know that he” hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places” (Eph 2: 6).

Everything given by God our Father is from Christ the Vine. And the purpose of prayer is not to change God’s will but to draw us to our great High Priest to his “throne of grace that we might find grace to help in time of need” (Heb 4: 16).

God has given us this privilege of having access to his throne of grace to grow us in beholding our need of Christ. It is to grow us in the knowledge his full provision. Prayer is to keep us calling on Christ that we might believe him and follow more closely to him and trust one another to him as we pray for God’s will to be done in our brethren. And even our prayer to him is of the Vine and of the Spirit.

Romans 8: 26: Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. 27: And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God.

Here is the prayer of our Lord Jesus and it is the prayer he puts in the heart of his people.

Psalm 27: 7: Hear, O LORD, *when* I cry with my voice: have mercy also upon me, and answer me. 8: *When thou saidst*, Seek ye my face; my heart said unto thee, Thy face, LORD, will I seek.

What did our Lord pray upon the cross? Christ puts the same petition in our heart.

Psalm 27: 9: Hide not thy face *far* from me; put not thy servant away in anger: thou hast been my help; leave me not, neither forsake me, O God of my salvation.

And this is the fruit of faith he produces in our heart.

Psalm 27: 10: When my father and my mother forsake me, then the LORD will take me up. 11: Teach me thy way, O LORD, and lead me in a plain path, because of mine enemies. 12: Deliver me not over unto the will of mine enemies: for false witnesses are risen up against me, and such as breathe out cruelty.

Now, listen to what David learned through his suffering and casting all his care on Christ in petitions as his throne of grace. He said,

Psalm 27: 13: *I had fainted*, unless I had believed to see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living. 14: Wait on the LORD: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the LORD.

Much of waiting on the Lord involves praying to him and waiting on him to make good on this sure promise of grace. Whether he answer our prayer in a pleasant way or he prunes us, it is that we might bear more fruit and he shall make us fruitful.

Hebrews 12:11: Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby.

So we go to his throne of grace and thank him with this fruit of our lips, giving him all glory, saying,

Psalm 119: 67: Before I was afflicted I went astray: but now have I kept thy word. 68: Thou *art* good, and doest good...71: *It is* good for me that I have been afflicted; that I might learn thy statutes. 72: The law of thy mouth *is* better unto me than thousands of gold and silver.

Amen!