

It is important to ensure fellowship with God before the study of the Word.

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness (1 John 1:9).

Isaiah 55:11 So will My word be which goes forth from My mouth; it will not return to Me empty, without accomplishing what I desire, and without succeeding in the matter for which I sent it.

Matthew 10:38 “And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me.”

- This perplexed the disciples – but they understood the severity of it.
 - They had witnessed many crucifixions.
 - As children they would watch the criminal bear his cross to the place of crucifixion.
 - When the criminal took up his cross, it was His recognition that the judgment was just.
A sign of submission to the will of another

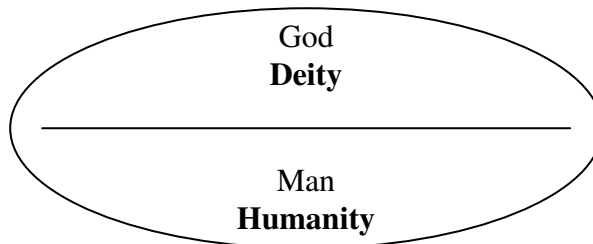
What did the Lord mean?

Place - Garden of Gethsemane

Time - Moments prior to His arrest and crucifixion

Matthew 26:39 And He went a little beyond *them*, and fell on His face and prayed, saying, “My Father, if it is possible, let this **cup** pass from Me;”

- **Cup** – ποτήριον – **POTERION** - a vessel that contains something to drink
 - When my children ask for a drink - they say, “Daddy, may I please have something to drink?”
 - Before bedtime I pour them water or milk, even though they might desire juice.
 - Then I set the cup before them.
 - It’s at that point they have a choice to drink what is set before them that I prepared .
 - What I prepared for them is my will for them.
 - If they drink it, they submit to their father’s will.



Jesus Christ expressed His desire to not drink that which was set before Him.

Jesus Christ is the God-Man.

- Undiminished deity and true humanity united in one Person for all eternity
- He had two natures - -
 - Divine nature.
 - Human nature.
- The divine nature of Christ desired to avoid contact with sin through imputation and judgment on the cross.
- The human nature of Christ desired to avoid death on a cross and everything leading up to the cross.

Jesus Christ was expressing His desire to avoid what the Father prepared for Him - but He submitted to it.

... yet not as I will, but as You will.”

- In effect, He was submitting His desire to the will of the Father.
- The Son always chose the Father’s will.

Matthew 26:42 He went away again a second time and prayed, saying, “My Father, if this cannot pass away unless I drink it, Your will be done.”

Drinking is tantamount to fulfilling that which was set before Him - - the cross, which was the Father’s will.

Matthew 10:38 “And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me.”

- Submission to the will of God, whatever that will may be!
- Cross - - God’s will for our lives
- God has a specific will for each of us.
- The specific will for your life must be revealed to you.

POD: Before God reveals His specific will to the believer, the believer must submit to that will before any detail of that will is revealed.

- This is the discernable will of God.
- His discernable will is specific.

“Here it is well to observe that yieldedness to the will of God is not demonstrated by some one particular issue alone; it is rather a matter of having taken the will of God as the rule or dominating principle of one’s whole life.

To be in the will of God is simply to be willing to do His will without reference to any single distinctive feature of that will.

It is electing God’s will to be final before any specific problem may have arisen for decision. It is not a willingness to do some one thing; it is the willingness to do anything, when, where, and how it may seem best to the wisdom and love of God. It is taking the normal position of childlike trust which freely consents to the wish of the Father before any detail thereof is discovered.”

Systematic Theology, Vol. 6, L.S. Chafer, p. 258-259

Hebrews 10:5-7 Therefore, when He comes into the world, He says, “SACRIFICE AND OFFERING YOU HAVE NOT DESIRED, BUT A BODY YOU HAVE PREPARED FOR ME; ⁶ IN WHOLE BURNT OFFERINGS AND *sacrifices* FOR SIN YOU HAVE TAKEN NO PLEASURE. ⁷ THEN I SAID, ‘BEHOLD, I HAVE COME (IN THE SCROLL OF THE BOOK IT IS WRITTEN OF ME) **TO DO YOUR WILL, O GOD.**’ ”

- There’s the Son’s presentation of Himself as a living and holy sacrifice acceptable to God which was His spiritual service of worship.
- The humanity of Christ needed to have the specific will of God revealed to Him.

That’s why He spent so much time in prayer!

Matthew 4:1 Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.

The humanity of Christ submitted to the Spirit’s lead.

He allowed Himself to be led, because He presented Himself as a living sacrifice.

POD: God does not reveal His specific will to believers who have conditionally presented themselves to the Lord.

POD: Unconditional surrender to the Lord does not mean that the Christian will never struggle with God’s will for his life.

All Scriptures quoted are from New American Standard unless otherwise noted.