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Go and make disciples!

E-votional 94

Hungry for God's Will

John 4:31-34 (ESV),

Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, saying, "Rabbi, eat." But he said to them, "I have food to eat that you do not know about." So the disciples said to one another, "Has anyone brought him something to eat?" Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to accomplish his work.

While reading this passage of Scripture an amazing thought occurred to me and one that caused me to look deeper within concerning my own spiritual walk. This thought is that of being satisfied to do God's will more than any food, treasure, activity, or thing that this world or anyone else could provide might satisfy.

Let me explain. When the disciples were urging the Lord to eat, Jesus responds by saying, "I have food to eat that you do not know about." Now, Jesus wasn't reprimanding the disciples for urging Him to eat. However, Jesus was teaching them with His walk and life. He did this by showing the disciples and us that there is food to eat that we may not know of. Jesus further explains this food as very simply doing the will of Him who sent Him. This is, of course, God the Father who sent Him. This is really important so track with me here.

O I hope the reader will catch what is being thrown into our spirits. God is so good!

We know that food satisfies the stomach and fills our hunger. But what we are reading here is that Jesus was more satisfied to do the Father's will. I wonder, are you more satisfied to do the Father's will than you are with natural food. I used the term natural food here because there is something so much more satisfying in doing the will of the Father. However, even though intellectually we can know that doing the Father's will is more satisfying than our natural hunger, it is even more imperative due to the sinfulness of our natural body, that is the flesh to be awakened to this spiritual satisfaction that only comes from doing the

Father's will.

I have to admit, there have been times when all I craved was doing God's will and there have also been times where I let worldly and natural cravings become my delight. I have to be honest, that although I have experienced both, I will rather turn to the satisfaction that only comes from doing the Father's will. In our pursuit of holiness and Christ-likeness, I have to say that we must endeavor to make the Lord's will the delight of our soul.

Many things can take our hearts off of the will of God in this life. There surely is no shortage of distractions. However, we are in a battle between the Spirit and the flesh. We must be diligent in making the will of God the delight of our soul and our prize possession, nothing else will suffice. We must seek it as treasures or precious jewels.

While worldly cravings can give satisfaction, doing the will of God is much greater and more stable. When we do the will of God it becomes to us a spiritual wellspring of Living Water that bubbles up on the inside and leaves an everlasting satisfaction. Since then I have tasted this satisfaction from doing the will of God, I also immediately notice a difference in my inner man when my focus averts to worldly cravings instead. I have to say, that it is a sickly feeling from the inside out when I make worldly desires the object for my satisfaction.

Nevertheless, the choice is left up to us as followers of Christ, for God leaves that up to us. The choice is about choosing what we get satisfaction from in this life as we await our Lord and Savior or pass from here to meet Him there. The answer is given to us as to which one satisfies but the choice is still left to us.

My hope and prayer for you and also for myself is that the Lord would stir up our hearts and fill us with a hunger for His will above all else. While saying this, we must not get wrapped up in mere formality and activity, but in truly seeking the face of God and awaiting His will to be revealed for our lives. God desires to reveal His will if only we will first seek it like precious jewels and then be satisfied with doing it above all else.

Where do you derive your satisfaction from? Is it the things of this world? Or is it in obedience to the will of God?

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Chris and Jeanne
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