**Doing it My Way**

**(Patience)**

"In those days, there was no king in Israel, but every man did what was right in his own eyes." **Judges 17:6**

“Trying to get through life on your own limited strength, knowledge, and resources leads to futility and a loss of hope. But in God’s economy, getting to the end of yourself is the beginning of hope.” **Henry Cloud**

In 1969, Frank Sinatra wrote a song where the lyrics began this way: “And now the end is near, and as I face the final curtain. My friend, I will say it. Clearly, I’ll state my case, of which I am certain. I’ve lived a full life. I’ve traveled on every highway. But more, much more than this. I did it my way….”

You know, I have always been transparent about myself. And I am going to be even more obvious. Although I didn’t hear the song until much later in life, I LOVED that song! I still long for the song. But I am older now and much more mature.

If there is any song that was ever written and a song that pointed people away from Christ, it is this one. The words I, I'll, I'm, I've, and I were mentioned at least 30 times or more in the song.

And then another set of lyrics says: “For what is a man what has he got. If not himself, then he is naught. To say what he feels and not the words of one who kneels.” This certainly blows me away, also.

I am not here to accuse anyone who may listen to secular music. I will not even judge secular music. But if the circular song points me away from Christ and causes me to look more at myself, I must reevaluate that song.

I can do nothing on my own outside of Christ. Any achievements, accomplishments, attainments, promotions, successes, or wins come by the hand of God. And if the songs I listen to point me from praising God to praising myself, I have seriously derailed.

I must be careful of the millions of songs like these. They make me think less of God and more of myself. They are friendly and beautiful, yet they can be deceitful and cause me to become self-centered.

As a believer, I should follow the rules that do not cause me to reject God. It's not always about my rights but about God’s righteousness.

As part of any ministry and running any programs, I must always endeavor and ensure that whatever I do, in my creativity, I do not violate the policies of God’s command and man’s law. Though we have many members, we are still one body. And the body does not operate against itself. So, I don’t do it my way; we do it together, in unison, with unity, and with uniformity for the glory of God!

**Prayer:** Father God, sometimes we have leaders appointed over us, but we do not feel appropriately led. So, we sometimes follow the established rules and do what is right with our own eyes. A lack of leadership sometimes affects the wisdom you have bestowed upon us. Please help us represent You in the holiest ways, regardless of who is in charge. It is in Your name we pray, amen!