

“How Do I DO the Will of God?”

4. PERSEVERE!

Matt. 7:13-29; Rom. 12:1-2; Psalm 34C and 119A

Jesus does not lead on his disciples with rosy, simplistic views about the Path of Life. But he does speak clearly that he is the only Way (John 14:6), and that those who complete the journey will attain unto eternal life (John 6:37-38). The goal of the Christian faith is not to give you some emotional high, but to train you in godly living such that you take your last breath with the name of Jesus on your lips! So grab a reliable map, the things you need for your backpack, and join up with fellow travelers who are also Pilgrims on the highway to the Celestial City!

1. What _____ are you on – and what is its _____? (v 13-14)
2. What _____ will you listen to in your life? (v 15-16)
3. What are you at your _____, and what _____ is in your life? (v 17-20)
4. What do you _____ and what do you _____? (v 21-23; compare Matt 12:50)
5. Build your house on the solid and unshaking _____ of _____ _____! (v 24-29)

Suggested Applications:

1. *Memorize and meditate phrase by phrase through Romans 12:1-2. Place the Covenant of Communicant Membership (the best summary of practical Christianity!) in the back page of your Bible. Make an appointment with your shepherding elder to ask for accountability and prayer.*
2. *Obtain The Bond of Love: God’s Covenantal Relationship With His Church by RP minister David McKay to explore how God has defined his relationship with the Church. This is a good read that will help you understand the big picture of your place within your local church!*

1. Westminster Confession of Faith 17.2 – The Grounds of Endurance

This perseverance of the saints depends not upon their own free will, but upon the immutability of the decree of election, flowing from the free and unchangeable love of God the Father, upon the efficacy of the merit and intercession of Jesus Christ; the abiding of the Spirit, and of the seed of God in them; and the nature of the covenant of grace; from which ariseth also the certainty and infallibility thereof.

2. Westminster Confession of Faith 17.3 – Difficulties Along the Way

Nevertheless, true believers may, through the temptations of Satan and of the world, the prevalency of corruption remaining in them, and the neglect of the means of their preservation, fall into grievous sins and, for a time, continue therein; whereby they incur God's displeasure and grieve His Holy Spirit and come to be deprived of some measure of their graces and comforts ...

3. Perseverance of the Saints

The elect are not only redeemed by Christ and renewed by the Spirit, but also kept in faith by the almighty power of God. All those who are spiritually united to Christ through regeneration are eternally secure in Him. Nothing can separate them from the eternal and unchangeable love of God. They have been predestined to eternal glory and are therefore assured of heaven. The doctrine of the perseverance of the saints does not maintain that all who profess the Christian faith are certain of heaven. It is saints – those who are set apart by the Holy Spirit – who persevere to the end. It is believers – those who are given true living faith in Christ – who are secure and safe in Him. Many who profess to believe fall away, but they do not fall from grace, for they were never in grace. True believers do fall into temptations, and they do commit grievous sins, but these sins do not cause them to lose their salvation or separate them from Christ. (The Five Points of Calvinism: Defined, Defended, and Documented by Steele, Thomas, and Quinn, 64).

4. Preservation and Perseverance of the Saints

The believer does not persevere through the power of his unaided will. God's preserving grace makes our perseverance both possible and actual. Even the regenerated person with a liberated will is still vulnerable to sin and temptation, and the residual power of sin is so strong that without the aid of grace the believer would, in all probability, fall away. But God's decree is immutable. His sovereign purpose to save his elect from the foundation of the world is not frustrated by our weakness ... God's preservation of the saints is not based on a mere abstract deduction from his decree of election. It rests also on his immutable and free love, a love that is abiding, and love of complacency that nothing can sever. Dues pro nobis ... God is for us! (What Is Reformed Theology: Understanding the Basics, by R.C. Sproul, 209-212).

