

# Knowing His Will for Our Lives

by John Follette

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*The sermon emphasizes the importance of unconditional surrender to God and the ongoing journey of understanding His will for our lives.*

**Scripture:** Revelation 3:21

**Topics:** "Surrender To God", "Spiritual Growth"

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## Description

John Follette emphasizes the importance of daily walking with the Lord to discover His will for our lives. He illustrates surrendering to God as giving Him two bundles - one with what is known and the other with the unknown, emphasizing the need for ongoing surrender as we spiritually grow. The sermon highlights the struggle when God asks for something from the unknown level of commitment, showing that true surrender involves continual submission to God's will, even when it challenges our desires and plans.

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## Transcript

As we daily walk with the Lord, seeking to please Him in all things, His will for our lives will gradually unfold before us.

"For it is God who works in you both to will and to do of His good pleasure" Phil 2:13.

A man once said that he had totally submitted his life to the Lord. Then he likened this to giving the Lord two bundles.

In the first bundle, he placed all that he knew. This included all that he presently possessed or related to in any way. He considered these and said, "In so far as I know, Lord, I unconditionally surrender myself and all these things to you."

In the second bundle, he placed the unknown. This included all that the Lord might require of him, but of which he knew nothing. Again, he considered these possibilities and then unconditionally gave these to the Lord.

Thus, he had surrendered to the Lord the totality of His being, both present and future. Usually, we

feel satisfied concerning the first level of commitment - that which is known. But we may be caught unprepared when the Lord asks for something from the second level - the unknown. We then struggle as to how to respond, as we feel that we have already committed all to the Lord.

We must come to understand that our submission to the Lord is a progressive, ongoing experience. We make one grand surrender, and then many lesser but deeper surrenders as we spiritually develop and grow.

Once we have unconditionally surrendered the totality of our being to the Lord, He will accept it and then wonderfully bless us. While we are still under the inspiration of this lovely blessing, we may say to the Lord, "I will go where You want me to go, I will say what You want me to say, I will be what You want me to be."

However, in a few days, when the Lord asks of us the simplest thing, we are unable to respond to Him, according to all that we had promised. There must yet be a deeper work of preparation within us before we will be able to make the surrender the Lord desires.

Some years ago, a young man who had some experience in the ways of the Lord came to the Bible School where I taught. He had ministered in some very successful meetings and had prayed for those who were sick and they were healed. All this made him feel important. He came to school with the idea that he knew much about spiritual things. I heard him pray an extravagant prayer, in which he so desired to please the Lord that even martyrdom would be welcomed.

Each student was required to do a work duty. Whenever it came his turn to wash dishes, he declared that God had not called him to wash dishes, but to preach the Gospel. I thought, "You will not be fit to preach the Gospel until you can wash the dishes."

He went through an awful struggle. Once, as he loudly prayed about being a martyr, I wanted to tell him about the dish pan. In his spirit, something was twisted, but on the surface there was not a nicer person.

After being a pastor for a few years, he visited the school. He hugged me and said he had not known what ministry was really like, but now that he had pastoral responsibilities, he understood. The Lord had done a marvelous work within him.

Each of us should be careful of pledging, "I will be what you want me to be, I will go where You want me to go" just because it is easy to sing. The Lord might send us where we do want to go, or require of us something that we may not desire to do. He knows exactly what to ask of us, in order to expose our need.

If we recognize that the Lord has something far better for us, for which our present level of spiritual commitment and experience is inadequate, and we make the necessary surrender, He will bring the necessary corrections in order to lift our experience to the level of our new commitment.

This is the foundational step in our becoming the overcomers the Lord is preparing for His purposes.

"To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with Me in My Throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with My Father in His Throne" Rev 3:21.

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