

American Decency Association

PO Box 202, Fremont, MI 49412 231-924-4050 www.americandecency.org

Encouraging Christians to guard their hearts

February 2008

What is God's Will?



God wants you to be a holy man. The very root, then, of His wish for you must include that you become a "separated" individual: *"Come out from among them and be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, and I will receive you. I will be Father to you, and you shall be My sons and daughters, says the LORD Almighty."* (2 Corinthians 6:17-18)

So, my friend, the Lord is calling you to come out and be separate and then to remain separate from that which is "unclean" and enjoy the wonderful Fatherhood of the Lord God Almighty in a depth you may never have experienced before.

Present yourself to God today

Sometimes when I disciple a man, I ask him to sketch out his entire life on a piece of paper and put in the highs and lows, the dead ends and the major achievements.

The lines always have a number of sharp turns that reflect the beginning of something entirely different in the man's life. For instance, marriage changes a man. So do children - especially that first one. A severe failure also changes a man, often plummeting him into a deep valley. The day a man meets Jesus marks him forever.

As you could imagine, each man's lifeline looks entirely different, except for one thing. Many men's lifelines have what I call a "defining moment." Men describe it differently, but

they all basically say the same thing. See if you can identify with this man's rambling words:

You know, after I became a Christian, I grew for a while but then, uh, well, I just kind of, uh, strayed away, you know, from the from the Lord. Years went by when I kind of, you know, left the church, or just rebelled against what I knew God wanted. But then right there (he points to a major upturn on his lifeline), I rededicated my life to God. That was a true turnaround for me. Not that I'm perfect, but I really started growing after I did that. That's when I really sold out to God and stopped playing church and started serving God with my whole heart.

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Count the Cost



Jesus knew that the secret to a man's ultimate victory in his spiritual life has a lot to do with that "defining moment." In fact, Jesus said that if a man does not choose Christ above everyone and everything, then that man would not become a full-grown disciple of His. Jesus said that not only would that man never become a disciple if he didn't make a decision for Christ, but that he actually *could not!*

You see, after you are saved you must face the Lord's call on your heart. He doesn't seek part of it or most of it; rather, Christ seeks to be the very Master of your heart. If you don't choose to present yourself, you'll never become a truly holy man.

Holiness always starts with the heart. Holiness starts not with the externals, but with the internals. Not with a set of rules and regulations, but with a relationship of trust and complete dedication. Read the words of Jesus about what

He's calling you to do: *"If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me"* (Matt. 16:24).

Challenging words, right from the lips of the Lord. Do you see what Jesus says must be true of those who desire to come after Him? You must deny yourself and take up your cross and then follow Him. The first key to pursuing holiness is found in those very first words: *"If anyone desires to come after Me."* Why? Because without a desire to come after Jesus, you will never pay the price He asks.

It's Up To You

Now, let me ask you a rather sobering question: Have you made a decision to pursue personal holiness? No matter how unholy you may have been, or how unholy you may be at this present moment, you can make today a day of new beginnings. A new start. A putting off the old and putting on the new. Perhaps the best way to launch such a new beginning with the Lord is to pray and tell Him about your honest desire to become a holy man and then ask Him to enable you by His grace and His Holy

If for one whole day, quietly and determinedly, we were to give ourselves up to the ownership of Jesus and to obeying His orders, we should be amazed at its close to realize all He had packed into that one day. (Oswald Chambers)

On October 4, 1997, over one million men gathered in Washington, D.C., to do just that. It was the Promise Keepers "Stand in the Gap" rally, and men came from all over the country to be part of it. At one point during the rally, these hundreds of thousands of men all knelt down and prayed silently for forgiveness for their sins. The scene was awesome! Over one million men on their faces before God! ... For many of those men, that rally was a "defining moment."

But you don't have to go anywhere to have a defining moment. You can do it right where you're sitting. If you've never experienced a defining moment, I pray that today will be that day. ... If you have already experienced a defining moment, praise God! You've already begun the magnificent journey of discipleship and are growing in Christ.

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