

Following The Lord Fully

Every Christian is challenged to follow the Lord fully. What is involved in this following? To be following Jesus, we must be moving in His direction. We are either moving towards Him or away from Him. We are either going forward or we are sliding and going backward. We are either for Jesus or we are against Him (**Matthew 12:30**).

Sometimes we simply want a list of what we must “Do” vs our “Giving” to God from the heart. We want to consider the “external” vs what should be “internal.” Are we like Israel who said that they would serve the Lord (**Joshua 24:16, 21**)? Joshua would tell them what that involved (**Joshua 24:19-27**).

Remember Solomon has been described as the wisest man on earth (**Matthew 12:42**). God was with him and had exalted him exceedingly (**2 Chronicles 1:1-12**). God had granted him wisdom and wealth (**1 Kings 4:29, 34; 2 Chronicles 1:2-13**). The Queen of Sheba said that the half of his wisdom had not been told to her (**2 Chronicles 9:1-6**). However, at end of his life, Solomon did not fully follow the Lord (**1 Kings 11:6**).

Some will say that they have kept all the commandments of God from their youth up. They want to learn what they must do to inherit eternal life. However, they find it hard to give up everything to have treasure in Heaven (**Matthew 19:16-22**). What would it profit to gain the world and lose the soul (**Mark 8:34-38**)?

There are those who will say that they are doing God’s will but they are doing it without their heart (**Matthew 23**). But then again, are they actually doing what the Lord said (**Matthew 15:8-9**)? We are to follow the way of God in truth (**Matthew 22:16**). His word is a light to guide our feet into the way of peace (**Luke 1:79**).

Whose voice are we going to hear/obey? We are to love Him with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength (**Matthew 22:37; Luke 10:27**). We are to fully follow the Lord. That means that we are not to follow God partially or sporadically or with hesitation.

To follow Jesus, we must deny ourselves (**Matthew 16:24**). We must fix our eyes on Jesus (**Hebrews 12:2**). Jesus is the only way to the Father in Heaven (**John 14:6**). There is no salvation in any other name except Jesus (**Acts 4:12**). Jesus left us an example to follow in His steps (**1 Peter 2:21**).

Jesus said that if we do not love Him more than anyone else, we cannot be His disciple (**Luke 14:26-33**). We are to love God with the whole heart (**Psalms 119:2**). We are to love God with a pure heart (**Psalms 24:4; 1 Timothy 1:5; 2 Timothy 2:22; 1 Peter 1:22**). We are to love God with all our heart (**Matthew 22:37; Proverbs 3:5**). We are to love God with a single heart (**2 Chronicles 30:12**).

We are to follow/obey The Lord (**Luke 6:46**). He is The Son of God (**John 1:34**). He is the Christ (**Matthew 16:16**). He is the Messiah (**John 4:25-26**). He is the Savior (**John 4:42**). He is the Master (**Luke 17:13**). No one can serve two Masters (**Matthew 6:24**).

We must die to self and be raised to a new life through baptism (**Romans 6:3-4**). It is to be no longer we who live, but Christ living in us (**Galatians 2:20**). Old things are to have passed away and all things have become new (**2 Corinthians 5:17**). Therefore, we are to set our mind on the

things above and not on the things on the earth (**Colossians 3:2**).

Jesus came from Heaven to the earth (**John 5:24**). He knows the way back to Heaven (**Philippians 2:5-11**). He now sits at the right hand of God (**Colossians 3:1**). One day, He will return for His saints (**1 Thessalonians 4:13-18**). Will we be of that number?

Something to think about!

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