

“Lord, What Wilt Thou Have Me to Do?”

I. Introduction

A. The question, “Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?”, which was asked by Saul of Tarsus when Jesus met him on the road to Damascus, demonstrates an attitude Saul had that not only led him to become a Christian, but was also present with him throughout his life *as* a Christian. Consider some implications this question had for the apostle Paul, and things it means for us if we, like him, genuinely determine to do whatever the Lord’s will is for us. **Acts 9:6 (22:10)**

II. ...Even If It’s Not What I Want

- A. Saul (Paul’s) attitude, as indicated by his life after asking the question, shows that he was determined to do what the Lord’s will was for him, even if it wasn’t what was most desirable for Paul from a selfish perspective. **2 Corinthians 5:9**
- B. Our Lord’s attitude in the Garden exemplifies the willingness we must have to truly surrender our will to the Father’s.
Luke 22:42; Hymns for Worship, Song 146

III. ...Even If I Have to Change Drastically

- A. The Lord’s will for Saul involved drastic changes that would have almost certainly been uncomfortable for him to make. He showed a willingness to leave his comfort zone, and pursue whatever changes were needed to please God. **Galatians 1:23**
- B. Anytime we see something in God’s Word that indicates a change needs to be made, we must be willing to do so. No matter how uncomfortable it is, when we see what the Lord would have us to do (or stop doing), we must heed.
2 Peter 1:5-7; 1 Corinthians 6:9-11

IV. ...Even If It’s Not Easy

- A. While many want the Lord’s will to be something easy, Paul’s life as a Christian demonstrates clearly that the answer to the question “Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?” is often anything but easy. **2 Corinthians 11:23ff**
- B. Jesus noted a number of things during His earthly ministry that show how difficult walking with God can be. The one who, like Paul, genuinely intends to submit when asking what the Lord’s will is, will face difficulties in obedience to His will. **Matthew 10:35-36**

V. ...Even If I Have to Give Something Up I Like

- A. Paul also understood well that to really submit to what the Lord wanted him to do, he would have to give up much. **Galatians 1:14; Philippians 3:8**
- B. The same is true for us. Part of having the frame of mind to do whatever the Lord’s will is for us is to be willing to give up things we like as needed to be what God wants us to be. **Luke 8:14**

VI. Conclusion

- A. Paul’s life after asking the question “Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?” shows that he genuinely intended to submit to whatever the answer was, not only in the immediate future, but throughout his Christian life. The same sincere desire to do the Lord’s will should be in each of us, no matter the difficulty of what God’s Word shows His will is for us. **Acts 9:6**