

If I Must
by
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First Edition

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Publisher: [Adam Woeger](#)

This Christian writing deals with properly following God's instructions for our life.

All Scripture references in this writing are from the King James Version of the Holy Bible.

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If I Must

Lord, if I must... is a familiar cry we hear from Christians all over the world. It is a statement of desperation and defeat. Sometimes God tells us to do something, and we outright refuse, or delay so long that we likely forget about it.

God is a God of instructions. He sets conditions, He asks for us to behave and act in a certain way towards ourselves and others. He is seeking faithful servants who do things because they love Him, and not because they must do them, in fulfillment of Scripture at Matthew 25:21, "His lord said unto him, Well done, *thou* good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord."

Serving God should be joyful, and our load should be light (In Him). "For in him we live, and move, and have our being; as certain also of your own poets have said, For we are also his offspring." (Acts 17:28). If we are His offspring, and He is our Heavenly Father, why should we not rejoice in everything He has created, and surely follow our Father's instructions? He created us, He knows us, and it is His will for us to succeed in this life and for eternity.

May this blessing be upon all Believers in Christ: "Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth." (3 John 2). As Christ Himself stated in John 10:10-11, "The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have *it* more abundantly. I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep." He wants us to have life and more abundantly. Jesus paid a high price with His life, so that we (Believers in Christ) might live eternally with Him.

Let us not waste, or consider lightly, the price that has been paid for us to live.

Laziness

The whole "If I Must" attitude comes from laziness and slothfulness. A major problem our society faces now is that people don't seem to want to exert time or energy to help others. Many are lazy on their job, which they are getting paid for in return for doing good work. Most employers (and customers) don't want to deal with lazy employees. A laborer should do the proper work to earn his wages. He shouldn't whine, complain or be slothful in his duties.

If one is lazy, they are cheating both their employer and the customers of their employer! The Lord hates dishonest scales: "A false balance is abomination to the LORD: but a just weight *is* his delight." (Proverbs 11:1). Likewise, a lazy employee is cheating or stealing from his employer and mistreating the customers. A fair day's work for a fair wage. If you dislike the wage, get a new job or do better at your work to try and receive a promotion/raise.

Good work is rewarded, and bad work is ultimately punished. Many people may think they are "getting by" or "getting away with it" when showing lazy behavior towards others. The Bible is clear that God sees everything that you do. Do you really want God to see your slothfulness? Or would you rather be following Biblical principles and "do your work as unto the Lord?"

“And whatsoever ye do, do *it* heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men; Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ.” (Colossians 3:23-24).

Divided Loyalty

God says that “A double minded man *is* unstable in all his ways.” (James 1:8). Also it is recorded that a house divided against itself shall not stand: “And if a house be divided against itself, that house cannot stand.” (Mark 3:25).

Divided loyalty is a problem where you are torn between two masters. Two things desire to control you, but the problem is that loyalty divided gives neither of the masters your proper attention and focus.

Just like you can't do excellent work if you have two things tugging on you for your time and attention, divided loyalty works to compromise your ability to produce excellence in service to God. It won't be long before you have to prioritize your time, talents and energy, and you will likely fall into using the “If I Must” statement.

You may soon find yourself growing tired and weary of serving the multiple masters, and then you may grow lethargic, callous and uncaring. Everything will then seem to be a burden or chore for you to carry out. You won't be operating at your best level. Free yourself of all shackles. Don't let yourself be burdened down with confusion or multiple masters trying to control you.

“Come unto me, all *ye* that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke *is* easy, and my burden is light.” (Matthew 11:28-30).

“No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.” (Matthew 6:24).

“If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all *men* liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him. But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord. A double minded man *is* unstable in all his ways.” (James 1:5-8).

The Golden Rule

It has been said that the “Golden Rule” is “do unto others as you would have others do unto you.” Actually, that is not an exact quote from Scripture, but that phrase is derived from the following 2 verses: “Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets.” (Matthew 7:12) and “And as ye would that men should do to you, do ye also to them likewise.” (Luke 6:31).

How our society needs to follow God's instructions given in the above 2 verses! Adhering to the “Golden Rule” would keep us from tearing one another apart, attacking and belittling each other, and making life

unpleasant for others. Respecting one another would go a long way to improving the breakdown in our society.

Delayed Or Ignored Instructions From God Are Sin

God is a God of the “here and now.” The past is gone and tomorrow is promised to no man. Work while the day is still light. God is always speaking. It is up to each of us to be sensitive to hear His voice and act upon it in a timely manner. God desires obedience. The Scripture says that obedience is better than sacrifice:

“And Samuel said, Hath the LORD *as great* delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey *is* better than sacrifice, *and* to hearken than the fat of rams.” (1 Samuel 15:22).

The Bible is full of examples where God demanded obedience to His instructions from His followers. Many of God’s promises are conditional upon a person fulfilling an instruction in accordance with God’s laws and commands.

The quickest way to be separated from the Presence of God is to be disobedient or slothful in carrying out God’s instructions which He has given you to do. Oh, the many missed opportunities I have had! I have endured many hardships out of ignorance and disobedience of God’s laws and instructions.

When you delay or ignore carrying out instructions that God has given you, you set in motion a series of events as a result of your disobedience. You actually can bring a curse upon yourself. Sin is anything that separates you from God. Disobedience to God is a sin. It is also an example of poor stewardship and results in missed opportunities.

But there is good news! God wants us to repent of our sins, and ask forgiveness from Him through Jesus Christ:

“Therefore as by the offence of one *judgment came* upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one *the free gift came* upon all men unto justification of life. For as by one man’s disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous.” (Romans 5:18-19).

Therefore be ready to obey God whenever He gives instructions to you. You will never regret being obedient to God! May God bless you as you strive to serve Him by carrying out His commands and instructions.

The World Is Waiting For You

Every human being has an assignment from God to fulfill here in the world. We are endowed with gifts and talents from our Creator, and are expected to perform our part in helping one another advance God’s Kingdom.

We must not delay, for time is of the essence! Souls are dying every day and going to Hell! We may be the only example of Jesus that people see. We must use our influence in a manner pleasing to God to help others

find Christ. We must always be entirely led by the Holy Spirit, who directs us in what we should say and do. His timing is usually not our timing, so we should never be too early or too late, but rather right on time. That is why we must work on hearing His voice and acting immediately on His instructions.

Whether you are to support missionaries home or overseas, help to feed starving children, or function in some other capacity, you have something you can contribute to advancing the Kingdom of God. It might be a gift of hospitality toward others, or you might write or perform beautiful Christian music that helps people to enter into God's Presence. You might be a preacher or evangelist, or perhaps a mother raising children to know and serve the Lord.

Whatever noble profession you feel inclined to function in, do it with all the ability you have to muster. Strive for excellence in everything you do. Be a good and positive witness to everyone. Use your gifts and talents to please God.

Ask God for His direction and wisdom, and He will give them to you. You were created to solve problems and encourage people. Discover your assignment from God and excel in it. Don't try to solve all the world's problems, but rather listen to hear God's voice, and do whatever He instructs you to do. For joy and peace will overtake you when you successfully complete the instructions God gives you to do.

“And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not. As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all *men*, especially unto them who are of the household of faith.” (Galatians 6:9-10).

Be a shining example of God's love here in the world, and inform others, as He leads you, about God's ministry of reconciliation. You are an ambassador of Christ. Do all things, say all things, to bring honor to Christ. Glorify Him with your life!

“Therefore if any man *be* in Christ, *he is* a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. And all things *are* of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation; To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation. Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech *you* by us: we pray *you* in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God. For he hath made him *to be* sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.” (2 Corinthians 5:17-21).

“I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.” (Galatians 2:20).