

It Takes More than a Willingness of Mind

2 Corinthians 8:10-12a

10 And herein I give my advice: for this is expedient for you, who have begun before, not only to do, but also to be forward a year ago.

11 Now therefore perform the doing of it; that as there was a readiness to will, so there may be a performance also out of that which ye have.

12 For if there be first a willing mind

It Takes More than a Willingness of Mind to accomplish for the kingdom of God. There must first be a willingness but then there must also be a performance of what you have set your mind to do. If God has laid it on your heart it is going to take more than a willingness of mind to see it accomplished. You are going to have to put forth works with your faith to see the performance and accomplishment of what it is that you have either committed yourself to or whatever God has laid upon your heart to do. There are many cases that God will lay upon your heart things that you have prayed about and are answered but you must have more than a willingness of mind to perform these tasks as in many cases these tasks are ongoing. There isn't a stopping point until God either changes it or you die. Your prayers for what you sought may be answered completely different than what you had anticipated but nevertheless the call has been answered according to God's will and know there must be a performing of the work that you have prayed for. Whether it is an ongoing work or something that has an ending It Takes More than a Willingness of Mind.

When God calls you to Pastor a work this is an ongoing performance. When God calls you to preach the gospel, this is an ongoing performance. All Christians have been called to be soul winners. This too is an ongoing performance. Now when you pray and God answers with a work you can do to win souls whether it is what you expected or not you must put forth the works with faith to see the performance of it to completion if it is that type of work or you must put forth the works with faith to see the performance of it if it is an ongoing work of which are many works that the Lord answers your prayers with.

Exodus 35:4-10

4 And Moses spake unto all the congregation of the children of Israel, saying, This is the thing which the LORD commanded, saying,

5 Take ye from among you an offering unto the LORD: whosoever is of a willing heart, let him bring it, an offering of the LORD;

6 gold, and silver, and brass,

7 And blue, and purple, and scarlet, and fine linen, and goats' hair,

8 And rams' skins dyed red, and badgers' skins, and shittim wood,

9 And oil for the light, and spices for anointing oil, and for the sweet incense,

10 And every wise hearted among you shall come, and make all that the LORD hath

commanded;

A willing heart and a willing mind is what the Lord is seeking. However, God will answer your prayers in his own way and in his own time and it will be according to your several ability. “**For the kingdom of heaven is as a man travelling into a far country, who called his own servants, and delivered unto them his goods. And unto one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one; to every man according to his several ability; and straightway took his journey.**” (Mt 25:14-15) However, you must have more than a willing heart and a willing mind to see the performance of what God has called forth for you to do. Whether it is cleaning the Church, lawn maintenance, fund raisers, or various soul winning outreach efforts that you can become part of there must be a performance of what you had a willingness of heart or mind to accomplish for the Lord.

Nehemiah 2:1-6

1 And it came to pass in the month Nisan, in the twentieth year of Artaxerxes the king, that wine was before him: and I took up the wine, and gave it unto the king. Now I had not been beforetime sad in his presence.

2 Wherefore the king said unto me, Why is thy countenance sad, seeing thou art not sick? this is nothing else but sorrow of heart. Then I was very sore afraid,

3 And said unto the king, Let the king live for ever: **why should not my countenance be sad, when the city, the place of my fathers' sepulchres, lieth waste, and the gates thereof are consumed with fire?**

4 Then the king said unto me, **For what dost thou make request?** So I prayed to the God of heaven.

5 And I said unto the king, **If it please the king, and if thy servant have found favour in thy sight, that thou wouldest send me unto Judah, unto the city of my fathers' sepulchres, that I may build it.**

6 And the king said unto me, (the queen also sitting by him,) **For how long shall thy journey be? and when wilt thou return?** So it pleased the king to send me; **and I set him a time.**

Nehemiah 2:16-18

16 And the rulers knew not whither I went, or what I did; neither had I as yet told it to the Jews, nor to the priests, nor to the nobles, nor to the rulers, nor to the rest that did the work.

17 Then said I unto them, **Ye see the distress that we are in, how Jerusalem lieth waste, and the gates thereof are burned with fire: come, and let us build up the wall of Jerusalem, that we be no more a reproach.**

18 Then I told them of the hand of my God which was good upon me; as also the king's words that he had spoken unto me. And they said, Let us rise up and build. So they strengthened their hands for this good work.

It wasn't enough that Nehemiah had a willingness of heart and of mind for the work, but he had to put forth works with his faith to see a performance of the rebuilding of the work to restore Jerusalem.

Acts 17:10-12

10 And the brethren immediately sent away Paul and Silas by night unto Berea: who coming thither went into the synagogue of the Jews.

11 These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.

12 Therefore many of them believed; also of honourable women which were Greeks, and of men, not a few.

Notice carefully that those of Berea “**that they received the word with all readiness of mind**”. However, they didn’t stop there as it isn’t enough to have a readiness of mind even as it is not enough to “**a readiness to will**” as we read above concerning the performance of the work of gathering together of the Churches for the poor saints at Jerusalem. “For it hath pleased them of Macedonia and Achaia to make a **certain contribution for the poor saints which are at Jerusalem.**” (Rm 15:26) Those of Berea acted upon their faith with works of searching “**the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.**” Because of this “**many of them believed**”.

It Takes More than a Willingness of Mind, a Willingness of Heart, a Readiness of mind, and a readiness to will! It takes the putting forth of works with faith to see the performance of what God has called forth for you to do.

Do you have a Willingness of Mind, a Willingness of Heart, a Readiness of mind, and a readiness to will? If not, then you are not going to accomplish much for the kingdom of God. You also must have buried your talents as well if there isn’t even a Willingness of Mind, a Willingness of Heart, a Readiness of mind, and a readiness to will.

However, if you do have a Willingness of Mind then you must be ready to put forth the works of faith to see the performance. You must be willing to serve others! You must be willing to submit to the divine order of God! You must keep your body, mind, soul, and spirit under subjection to God! You must give up your life for the service of the kingdom of God!

It Takes More than a Willingness of Mind, a Willingness of Heart, a Readiness of mind, and a readiness to will! It takes a Willingness to put forth the works of faith necessary to see the performance of the work thereof to either completion or to the ongoing process that God has given to you to accomplish.