



For Further Study



Read and meditate on the passage below:

³⁸ For I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me. ³⁹ And this is the will of him who sent me, that I shall lose none of all those he has given me, but raise them up at the last day. ⁴⁰ For my Father's will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life, and I will raise them up at the last day.” (John 6:38-40)

The above passage comes from the gospel message of John. Earlier in the chapter, Jesus fed the multitude, later speaking about how he is the “bread” that gives us life. He recognizes how the disciples continue to struggle to embrace him as the Messiah because he doesn’t fit their expectations. Yet, Jesus is trying to meet them at their very basic spiritual needs and point them to a deeper understanding of who God is and how God works in the world.

In the verses above, Jesus speaks about coming from the heavens to do God’s will. He does not have a selfish ambition to do what he wants, but he realizes that God has a better plan and surrenders to that will (which is what he is encouraging the disciples to do). Jesus’ desire is to not lose anyone but to raise everyone up. This is probably metaphorical about the inward change he is bringing about in the disciples (and us), as well as a futuristic, anticipated raising of our spirit in the last days. God’s will is that everyone find eternal life both in this world, as we live by the principles of the heavens, and in what comes our way after death. “Eternal life” is both substantive and timeless; it changes how we live now and what our future looks like.



REFLECTION:

What do you think happens when you die?

What do you hope happens when you die?

PRACTICE:

Create two columns. In one describe your will and the other describe God’s will for your life.