



## Not My Will, But Yours, Lord

*“He restores my soul; He leads me in the paths of righteousness for His name’s sake.”*

*Psalm 23:3 (NKJV)*

### Number 11 in the series “The Lord is My Shepherd”

I see from this verse that the Lord’s purpose in restoring our souls and leading us in paths of righteousness is for His name’s sake. An evidence of being a true believer is when the most important thing in one’s life is God’s reputation. Not obedience out of fear or trying to earn God’s love or His approval, but obedience because we love Him and are grateful for our salvation and desire to daily live lives that glorify Him.

A true believer sees his desperate need to have the Lord restore his soul. Any of you who have ever restored anything know that it is hard, messy work. It also takes time. True believers trust their lives in the Lord’s hands. Who better to trust than the One who died for us while we were sinners? They are willing to allow the Lord to change their priorities, dreams, and goals and replace them with His.

A true believer has a love for the Bible. He is quick to apply its truths in every situation of his life, and he enjoys fellowship with Jesus. A true believer is quick to repent whenever the Holy Spirit convicts him of sin. Sin in his life grieves him. He has no peace until he stops it.

A true believer wants to be a disciple of Jesus. So even though it will be painful and a battle with his flesh, his love for Jesus compels him to accept His conditions of discipleship. Luke 9:23 (KJV) reads, *“And He said to them all, If any man will come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me.”* A lot of people were following Jesus, claiming to be His disciples. However, those words caused many to turn away, and they still do.

Pride, independence, self-will, and indulgence are in all of our hearts. We do not want to deny ourselves, to give up our right to make our own decisions and follow Jesus. We want to lead our own lives and have Jesus bless us. We definitely do not want anything to do with a painful daily cross. However, a true believer is one who says daily, “Not my will, but Yours, Lord.” He is one who puts his heart, time and energy into following Christ. He is one who constantly cries out to Jesus, “Help me, Lord! I no longer want to live a life that shames Your name. Please lead me in paths of righteousness.”

Beloved, I have battled with my fleshly desires many times. However, because I love Jesus, I have chosen to say, “Not my will, but Yours, Lord.” And I have never regretted it. God’s amazing grace has transformed my life. The life that Christ has given me is far greater than anything that I could have chosen. How about you? Are you living the life of a true believer? Are you daily saying, “Not my will, but Yours, Lord”? I can assure you that you will never regret it. We are daily making choices: the way of the flesh or the way of the Spirit. Beloved, say, “Not my will, but Yours, Lord.”

— Janice McBride

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